



Katie Hobbs  
Governor

# ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid  
Executive Director



June 17, 2024

## To Whom It May Concern:

Arizona State Parks and Trails supports the designation of the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River. We are an active partner within the community of the Sedona-Verde Valley with nearby parks such as Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Rockin' River Ranch State Park, Red Rock State Park, Fort Verde Historic State Park, and several others (including our newest acquisition, Del Rio Springs Ranch/Headwaters of the Verde River in Chino Valley). We want the Upper Verde River to continue to flow for the community, future generations, and Arizona wildlife.

The Upper Verde River is one of the most ecologically healthy and economically important free-flowing rivers remaining in Arizona. Extending from its headwaters to the town of Clarkdale, the Upper Verde provides abundant wildlife and fish habitat, remarkable recreation opportunities, and clean water for downstream users – from urban communities to farmers and other irrigators. The river faces unprecedented threats from drought, diminished flow, pollution, unmanaged recreation, and invasive species. Recognition as a Wild and Scenic River would protect the free-flowing character of the river as it is today, as well as ensure clean water supplies.

It would conserve important community values like scenery, wildlife, recreation, access to hunting and fishing, and Verde Valley agriculture. Existing grazing permits, water rights, and uses of private property would not be restricted. In fact, a Wild and Scenic River would secure continued access for recreation and traditional uses. A Wild and Scenic Upper Verde River would bring more resources for management, protect our water supplies, and maintain the river and its remarkable ecosystem as it is for future generations.

Rivers are the lifeblood of Arizona's desert landscapes but most have been lost, destroyed, or degraded. The Upper Verde remains a refuge for wildlife and nature for people to enjoy and appreciate. Let's keep it that way!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Broscheid".

**Bob Broscheid**, Executive Director  
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