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DEC 12 2014

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December 10, 2014

ANSAC Committee,

The Verde River is and always was a navigable river. Obviously the Native Americans and early settlers used the river for trade and travel. Historians and long-term local residents recall the use of boats on the river, both for travel and commerce. Recently my two sons traversed parts of the river in inflatable kayaks, and on another trip brought a group of friends and guided them down the river. Adventure and wilderness river travel also enhance and enrich the coffers of local businesses as river travelers who float, paddle, and row down the pristine Verde River buy the necessary items for such a trip. If certain sections of the river are privatized, the economic benefits provided for the local community would be affected negatively.

Yet, one must not always be influenced by the economic benefits of river travel. The simple act of hiking, boating, fishing, or even standing next to a free flowing river has many benefits in our fast-paced, technologically driven society. A few minutes or days along a free flowing, pristine river can enhance ones peace of mind, perhaps soothe the weary soul, and reinvigorate one's psyche which might help enable one to be a more productive member of society.

The Verde River is one of our states longest perennially flowing rivers, and is not only important to humans, but is a critical and vital resource for wildlife. The river should be managed in a responsible way that would have no averse affects on wildlife or ecosystems, and should not be managed for private interests, but for the public good.

Sincerely,



Philip Verellen

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