

Lower Salt

October 19, 2014

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BY:

Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission
1700 West Washington Street, Room B-54
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Reference: Verde River Navigability

Dear Commissioners,

I have been informed of the ongoing hearings intended to determine the navigability of various Arizona streams and rivers. It is my belief that the Verde and Salt Rivers, which course through central Arizona are indeed navigable now and were certainly navigable at the time of statehood. As an Arizona native, I have personally been boating these rivers and their tributaries such as the East Verde, Fossil Creek, and Oak Creek for the last 30 years.

I submit to you that it is in the public's best interest that ownership of the Verde and Salt River streambeds are vested in the State of Arizona thereby ensuring the most effective means of managing these threatened resources for the public trust.

It is sad that Arizona's streams and rivers have been highly exploited and less than a handful remain free-flowing and navigable by watercraft. Even now a new dam is being built on the upper reaches of the Black River. The Verde and Salt rivers are one of the last remaining rivers in Arizona with dependable flow and are high up on the list of destinations for not only Arizona citizens and myself, but also for boaters from other states as well. Restoring and maintaining the public's access to the Verde and Salt Rivers are not only important for the rivers preservation but it is a right that people were granted at statehood, a right which citizens have clearly exercised and that right should be cherished, protected by the commission, and never be taken away.

Your decision to determine navigability in the affirmative for the Verde and Salt Rivers would ensure public access in perpetuity. I encourage you to do just that.

Respectfully Submitted,



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