

Jeanne Keller
2425 E. Winston Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85042

Upper Salt

RECEIVED
JUL 23 2004
BY: _____

ANSAC
1700 W. Washington, Rm. 304
Phoenix, AZ 85007

July 19, 2004

Dear ANSAC,

I'm am writing to you concerning the navigability of Arizona streams. As a whitewater paddler and an owner of a solo canoe, a tandem canoe and raft, I have put my non-motorized craft on as many of Arizona's streams and small rivers as possible.

I have rafted the Upper Salt River 4 times, water levels and permits allowing. This run is from Hwy. 60 bridge to Hwy. 288 Bridge. I have also made multiple runs on the day section from the Hwy. 60 bridge.

I have canoed the Lower Salt River in the heat of summer and under the full moon. I've even inner tubed this section.

I've had my canoe on three different sections of the Gila River. The Gila Box, near Safford; the section below San Carlos reservoir and the Winkleman Run along the highway.

Last but definitely not least I have navigated the Verde River by canoe from Camp Verde to Childs multiple times a year since I moved to Arizona in 1993. The trip from Camp Verde to Horseshoe Reservoir has become a yearly event. My trips have been winter trips, the time that Camp Verde does not irrigate. Except for summer monsoon events, this is the time with the most water in the riverbed. It is low but navigable to canoes and kayaks.

I want to canoe Riito Creek and the Santa Cruz River in Tucson during heavy winter rains or monsoon storms but the rumor that the police would arrest boaters has kept me from launching. It would have been great to be able to navigate these rivers before Tucson dropped the water table so deep that the rivers don't normally flow above ground any more.

I still want to take my paddle raft down Tonto Creek. And if I can time the appropriate water level with a weekend I'd try my solo canoe too.

The San Francisco is still calling. And each time I drive across the Big Sandy and Burro Creek bridges I can feel them beckoning me to come ride on their waters.

Please don't take my rivers away.

Sincerely,

Jeanne L. Keller

Jeanne Keller

025