

fax

RECEIVED
OCT 08 2014

BY:

October 8, 2014

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

Dear Commissioners,

I first boated the Verde River in 1988, and have been boating it frequently, year-in and year-out, since that point. I have boated from the upper reach, at Perkinsville, down to and around Horseshoe and Bartlett Dams, all the way on down to the confluence with the Salt River near Phoenix. My most recent boating event was September 19, 2014, outside Camp Verde, from Beasley Flats down to Gap Creek. The flow of the river was at or near 150CFS. There were three of us boating that day. It is and was clearly navigable water.

I have taken children as young as 10 years old in a canoe on the river, and I took my father in a canoe on the Verde when he was almost 70 years old.

I have boated in canoes, in inflatable rafts, in hardshell kayaks, and in inflatable kayaks.

I have spent as little as 4 hours on the water, and I have spent as many as 8 days on the river, from the Wild and Scenic designated stretches, through the Mazatzal Wilderness, on down to Horseshoe Lake. I have paddled that section entirely alone, and have boated it with a companion. I have boated the river when it was pumping at 1000 Cubic Feet per Second, and I have scraped along at 100 Cubic Feet per Second. I have boated it in literally every month of the year.

I have boated the river with companions from Colorado, and from as far away as Ohio.

I have no doubt that it is in the public's best interest that ownership of the Verde River streambed be vested in the State of Arizona, thereby ensuring the most effective means of managing this threatened resource for the public trust.

As we all watch Arizona's streams and rivers being exploited, we should acknowledge just how precious the Verde is, as one of the last remaining free-flowing, navigable rivers in Arizona.

The people of Arizona were granted access to the Verde River at statehood, and this is a right which clearly has been exercised and continues to be exercised by the public, and this right should never be taken away.

I encourage the Commission to determine Navigability for the Verde River, thereby ensuring public access in perpetuity.

Respectfully,

Mark Jibilian
9846 N 29th Street
Phoenix AZ 85028

Verde
X 013