



CATTLE GROWERS IN SESSION, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Yavapai Cattle Growers

P. O. Box 2257
Cottonwood, Arizona 86326

April 30, 2014

VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission (ANSAC)
Attention: Mr. Wade Noble, Chair
1700 West Washington, Room B-54
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Verde River

Dear Mr. Noble:

The Yavapai Cattle Growers Association was founded in 1932 and currently represents about two hundred and seventy-five members. Many of these members have ranches on the Verde River and its watershed and many of these members own private property on the river and have paid taxes on it for years. There is no evidence that the Verde River was ever a "navigable" river before or after statehood.

In fact, studies have shown that the Verde River is a "Desert River" that begins from an underground aquifer in the Upper Chino Valley watershed. Other than occasional storm flow increases, the flow of the Verde River is steady and more represents a small creek vs. a river. It always has been this way. "Navigable" rivers begin in high mountain peaks or areas that get enormous amounts of snow and deep snow pack that slowly melt and keep the rivers flowing.

The Verde River is not and never has been a "navigable" river in Yavapai County. A look at history shows that traders and purchasers of supplies in the late 1800's and early 1900's used the wagon road from Prescott to Fort Mohave on the Colorado River in northwest Arizona to trade supplies. Had the Verde River ever been "navigable," then supplies easily could have been shipped up or down the Verde, finally ending up in the lower Colorado River and on into the Sea of Cortez. This would have been much closer, but, unfortunately, never a reality.

In conclusion, the Yavapai Cattle Growers Association opposes the designation of the Verde River through Yavapai County as "navigable."

Sincerely,

YAVAPAI CATTLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

By: 

Daniel K. Major, President

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