

October 8, 2014

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

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BY: _____

Reference: Verde River Navigability Hearings

Dear Commissioners,

We at the Southern Arizona Paddlers Club, an informal non-profit organization with a represented membership of 100 people would enjoy offering the Commission our position on the above referenced matter. Additionally, our club has a long history of support for the Verde River as Jim Slingluff, club founder, has testified previously in Verde River issues before the commission.

The Verde River has been used by the public as a means to travel from one point to another by way of watercraft for as long as we can recall. This same public, including our membership, has used the river to travel for the purposes of hunting, fishing, prospecting, exploring, wildlife watching and recreational boating. Some of this on-the-water use has been commercial in nature while some use is purely recreational. I personally have been boating the Verde River for 25 years and shared wonderful experiences with many people.

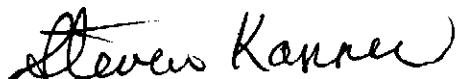
We really cannot envision the Verde River as never being navigable and would find it plausible that even the pre-historic peoples that called the Verde Valley home used the waterway as a means of travel by boat or raft constructed out of common materials they had available to them.

It is our opinion that no person or entity has the right to own or post against trespass a waterway that is or has been used for travel and commerce. This would be commensurate to the arbitrary closing of a legal street, highway or trail; not something to be done without careful deliberation to determine harm. If this posting against trespass on a waterway has been done in the past, it is time to right that wrong.

Our members as well as all citizens expect the management of this high-value asset to be of the highest quality and degree, a degree that allows unfettered freedom and access to all reaches of this navigable river. This is a right established at statehood, a right that citizens have clearly exercised and a right that should not be taken away.

Therefore, we urge the commission to determine the Verde River navigable at the time of statehood thereby placing ownership of the streambed under the auspices of the State of Arizona where the resource will be managed for the public trust.

Sincerely Yours,



Steven Kanner
President, Southern Arizona Paddlers Club

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