



# TOWN OF JEROME

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## RESOLUTION NO. 652

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JEROME, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA, SUPPORTING WILD AND SCENIC PROTECTION FOR THE UPPER VERDE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.**

**WHEREAS**, The Upper Verde River and its tributaries, located between the Verde headwaters and the Town of Clarkdale in central Arizona in the Prescott and Coconino National Forests, is an important and unique public resource that provides numerous benefits to the human and natural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Central Arizona is one of the most rapidly growing areas in the United States, and increasing urbanization pressures threaten the natural wild character and environment that makes the area special and valuable; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of The Upper Verde River and its tributaries as a National Wild and Scenic River will help to protect and restore Indigenous communities' ancestral lands and cultural history in the watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Verde River and its tributaries provide vital habitat for Arizona wildlife, including 18 species protected by the Endangered Species Act, and is an outstanding refuge for native fish; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona recreational tourism is a growing \$20 billion industry bringing revenue from outside Arizona and creating numerous jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River will protect and improve recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, birding, hiking and other recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Wild and Scenic designation does not affect existing, higher priority water rights.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of Town of Jerome hereby requests the United States Congress pass legislation to designate the Upper Verde and its critical tributaries as a "*Wild and Scenic River*" in order to permanently protect this unique place for present and future generations. Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the United States Arizona Congressional Legislators and select key Legislators at the appropriate time.

PASSED AND ADPOTED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, this 11th Day of April, 2023.

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Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

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Brett Klein, Town Manager / Clerk

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William Sims, Town Attorney