



Western Rivers Action Network

Arizona

The Verde River:

- American Rivers has designated the Verde River among America's most endangered rivers due to heavy and increasing groundwater pumping.
- The Verde River sustains \$100 million in economic output annually in the Verde Valley.
- Water from the Verde and Salt Rivers are part of the supply for a water service area of about 375 square miles mainly in the Phoenix Metro Area, which includes parts of 10 municipalities.
- 40% of the surface water provide to Phoenix comes from the Verde River.
- The Verde River's watershed supports 78% of Arizona's breeding bird species, as well as other critical carnivore, reptile, and amphibian species.
- Only 57.3 miles of Arizona rivers are included in the National Wild and Scenic River System. All of the designated miles are within the Verde River's watershed - 40.5 on the Verde itself and 16.8 on Fossil Creek.
- There are 7,000 wells in the Verde Valley that are intercepting water that would otherwise be going to the Verde River.
- The population of Yavapai county has increased by nearly 200,000 residents over the last 50 years and growth is expected to continue. The groundwater that sustains the Verde River is in serious jeopardy.



Southwestern willow flycatcher, Jim Burns



Gila River Basin: Kmusser (2007) Wikimedia Commons



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FACT SHEET

Arizona

Arizona's Rivers



Where to Find More Information:

[Audubon Arizona](http://az.audubon.org), az.audubon.org

[Western Rivers Action Network - Arizona](http://az.audubon.org/western-rivers-action-network-0), az.audubon.org/western-rivers-action-network-0

[Northern Arizona Audubon Society](http://northernarizona.audubon.org), northernarizona.audubon.org

[Desert Rivers Audubon Society](http://desertrivers.audubon.org), desertrivers.audubon.org

[Maricopa Audubon Society](http://maricopa.audubon.org), maricopa.audubon.org

[Trout Unlimited - Arizona](http://az-tu.org), az-tu.org

[Arizona Wildlife Federation](http://azwildlife.org), azwildlife.org

[National Wild and Scenic River System: The Verde](http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/verde.php), www.rivers.gov/rivers/verde.php

[Arizona Game and Fish Department's Upper Verde Wildlife Area](http://azgfd.gov/outdoor_recreation/wildlife_area_upper.shtml), azgfd.gov/outdoor_recreation/wildlife_area_upper.shtml

[Upper Verde River State Wildlife IBA](http://aziba.org), aziba.org

[Salt/Verde IBA](http://aziba.org), aziba.org

Join Audubon's Western Rivers Action Network as we rise to this historic challenge to create healthier western rivers for birds, other wildlife, and people.

<http://audubonaction.org/western-rivers>

For more information contact Arizona's WRAN coordinator Sarah Luna at lsarah@msn.com