

# Western Rivers Action Network

Protecting rivers across the Colorado River Basin



Yellow-billed Cuckoo.  
Photo: Mary Miguez/Audubon Photography Awards



Gila River Basin.  
Photo: Knusser, Wikimedia Commons



Vermilion Flycatcher.  
Photo: Mick Thompson

## 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.
- **Forty percent** 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.
- **7,000 wells in the Verde Valley 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.**

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## The Verde River:

### 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](http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/verde.php) www.rivers.gov/rivers/verde.php
- [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/?page_id=953) http://aziba.org/?page\_id=953
- [Friends of the Verde River Greenway](http://verderivergreenway.org) verderivergreenway.org