“Nature always wears the colors of the spirit” – EMERSON

Verde River
 Verde River

- one of the few flowing river systems left in the state
- second best native fishery in Arizona
- source of economic health for our communities
Yavapai County population growth

Population

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<th>2010</th>
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The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH
Unique situation: Grassland-alluvial basin creates the headwaters of the Verde River.
Watershed function

• Capture water
• Infiltration system
• Water purification
• Climate control
• Erosion control
• Wildlife habitat
Verde watershed: balancing act
Prescott Active Management Area
The Nature Conservancy is uniquely positioned to:

- craft collaborative partnerships
- ensure science will inform policy decisions

Water: a balancing act
River Protection Strategies

Science informing public policy
— grassland assessment
— hydrologic models

Public-private partnership
— regional water management
— land protection
— aquifer protection
Goal: Collective Water Resource Decisions

Parties: County, Cities, Landowners, Public Interest Groups, DWR, Others
Goal: Maintain & Restore Healthy Grassland Over the Big Chino Aquifer

- Purchase of Development Rights
- State Trust Land Reform
Goal: Sustainable water use to meet the needs of people and flow in the Verde River

- Mitigate Export of Water from Big Chino
- Limit Depletion of Aquifer
- Enhance Recharge of Aquifer
Upper Verde River Basin & Prescott Management Area
Verde River: an Arizona Legacy