

A LANDSCAPE VISION FOR THE VERDE VALLEY

West of the Verde River

The Verde Valley landscape, west of the Verde River, includes the City of Cottonwood and the Towns of Jerome, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, each with their own identity and community character. Intermingled are unincorporated residential neighborhoods, farms and ranches. All are buffered by Prescott National Forest lands, which provide natural open spaces and big mountain views. The Black Mountain Range, featuring Mingus Mountain and Woodchute Wilderness on the north and Squaw Peak and Cedar Bench Wilderness to the south, forms a scenic backdrop for the entire Valley.

These wide open spaces and urban interface areas are highly regarded by communities for their natural and cultural resource values, and their social and economic benefits. They are free of litter and illegal uses; and they are protected from wildfire. In addition to providing a panoramic viewscape, the Forest protects the region's watershed by storing ground water and sustaining renewable and non-renewable resources for future generations.

Forest and range vegetation are healthy, providing habitat diversity, forage for grazing animals, and natural corridors for wildlife. The Verde River flows year round through a lush riparian greenway, providing water for agricultural production, habitat for animals, and a large variety of recreational opportunities. All recreationists—including anglers, birders, hunters, hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, gun enthusiasts, river runners, hang gliders and off-highway vehicle drivers—respect and utilize the Forest in harmony with each other and the environment.

A system of non-motorized multi-use trails connects communities, allows access to public lands and encourages people to improve health and vitality by exploring the outdoors. Roads and selected areas are managed for responsible use of off-highway vehicles, while other areas are set aside for protection or managed for non-motorized uses.

Especially important are the geologic, prehistoric and historic attributes of the Verde Valley. People—including the Sinagua, Yavapai-Apache, miners, pioneer settlers and today's residents—have occupied the valley for over 900 years. Visitor centers and educational activities that raise public awareness of cultural values attract locals and tourists alike.

Federal, State and County agencies work cooperatively and effectively with neighboring municipalities, groups and individuals to protect public lands and enforce the rules that govern them.

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