



PRESCOTT • INDIAN • TRIBE

July 08, 2024

Honorable Raul Grijalva
Arizona District Seven
1511 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: TO ESTABLISH THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

The Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe expresses full support for the establishment of the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument (GBGNM) in the State of Arizona. The lands included in this proposed monument area have been, and continue to be, traditionally significant areas for the Yavapai since time immemorial. The Yavapai occupied these areas throughout prehistoric and historic times, as we originated in these lands, never having migrated from any other place. Archaeological evidence found in the proposed GBGNM area traces human occupation back to 3,000 BC and the Yavapai have oral history recalling even more ancient times in this area.

The rock writings and geoglyphs included in the proposed monument area tell of the ancient Yavapai People, who lived and walked in these lands. They tell of sacred areas where Yavapai First Leaders' remains are located and the history of the mountains and trails that were used from the time of the first humans through the Spanish Conquest. Yavapai oral history then recalls the movements of our ancestors during the American Indian Wars until they were settled on the current Yavapai reservations, limiting us to a small portion of our original territories. The Indian Claims Commission documented the Yavapai use of the area included in the proposed GBGNM, and our people have traveled to the ancient sites there to document the rock writings in significant areas such as Sears Point.

The Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribal contact person for this project will be our Culture Research Director, Linda Ogo at 928-445-8790 ext. 7204. We look forward to working with you to establish the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument.

Sincerely,

Robert Ogo.
President

Approved for signature by Board of Directors Poll #24-163