



# ARIZONA RIPARIAN COUNCIL

2124 E Juanita Ave, Mesa AZ 85204

email: riparian@asu.edu

July 20, 2023

Central Arizona Land Trust  
Rebecca Ruffner, President  
P.O. Box 1050  
Prescott, AZ 86302

Re: Conservation Easement at Date Creek Ranch

Dear Ms. Ruffner,

The Arizona Riparian Council (“Council” or “ARC”) supports the establishment of a conservation easement on the Date Creek Ranch in western Yavapai County, Arizona.

The Arizona Riparian Council (ARC) was formed in 1986 as a result of the increasing concern over the rate of loss of Arizona's riparian areas. It is estimated that less than 10% of Arizona's original riparian acreage remains in its natural form. These habitats are considered Arizona's rarest natural communities. The mission of ARC is to provide for the exchange of information on the status, protection, and management of riparian systems in Arizona. Our Council members include scientists, regulators involved in streamside activities, management, and studies, and citizens who are interested in, care about, and understand riparian areas in Arizona.

A conservation easement at the Date Creek Ranch will protect habitat that is important for use by riparian-dependent species, including migratory birds, fish, amphibians, and mammals. On two of our ARC field trips in 2008 to the Ranch we observed recent sign of beaver activity in the stream channel which had low flow. We were impressed how beaver survived in such harsh riparian conditions. Ranch staff had placed wire fencing around the base of many of the cottonwood trees to protect them from being felled by the beaver. The Council conducted a Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment of Date Creek and found that its overall condition rated higher than three other desert streams in central Arizona.

The Arizona Riparian Council welcomes this conservation easement proposal.

Sincerely,

Tim Flood, chair  
Conservation Committee

Kris Randall, President