

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Gayle Mabery, Town Manager
Gayle.Mabery@clarkdale.az.gov

Phone: (928) 639-2415
Fax: (928) 639-2409

Clarkdale Secures New Site on Verde River

Clarkdale, AZ (March 4, 2014) – In April 2013, the Town of Clarkdale secured a river access location in the historic TAPCO (The Arizona Power Co. plant) area north of Clarkdale from Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. The License Agreement designated a 90-acre site and allowed the Town of Clarkdale to use the property for Verde River access for public recreation and education purposes. Intended uses included the development of access drives, parking and trail facilities, restrooms, fencing, modest shade structures, and other facilities that are desirable for a day-use recreational facility.

In February 2014, before opening the site to use by the public, representatives of the Town of Clarkdale discovered a nesting pair of Bald Eagles at the 90-acre site. The Town of Clarkdale is excited about the discovery and committed to working with Freeport-McMoRan and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to limit potential impacts to the breeding cycle of the eagles. The Town of Clarkdale has received approval from Freeport-McMoRan to relocate the access point within a new license area located downstream on the Verde River to limit potential impacts to the eagles.

The new site, called the Lower TAPCO River Access Point (Lower TAPCO RAP), is located on approximately 110 acres on Sycamore Canyon Road, roughly 2.3 miles north of Tuzigoot Road. The Lower TAPCO RAP will still serve as the upper anchor on the Verde River @ Clarkdale project, and will provide boaters with a 3.3-mile float trip between this site and the Tuzigoot RAP. The Lower TAPCO RAP will be included in a Master Planning process that the Town of Clarkdale will undertake in May 2014 to involve the public and other stakeholder groups in a process to define the improvements desired on this and other the Verde River @ Clarkdale sites.

Although the Lower TAPCO RAP will not immediately be open to the public, some special events and licensed activities will begin on the site this spring. Most notably, the Lower TAPCO RAP will be the launch point April 19 for the Verde River Poker Run. This event, sponsored jointly by the Town of Clarkdale and the Verde River Valley Nature Organization (VRVNO), anticipates 150 participants who will float the 3.3 miles of river, collecting a 5-card poker hand along the way. Anyone interested in registering for the event may do so at www.clarkdale.az.gov

In detailing the change in River Access Points, Town Manager Gayle Mabery stated, “Although the need to shift the site will result in a bit of a delay in fully opening the new site to the public, we are very excited about the opportunities that the Lower TAPCO RAP provides. The Verde

River @ Clarkdale project was founded with the philosophy that it is possible to protect, preserve and restore the Verde River and its habitat, while at the same time honoring existing water rights, enhancing the public's experience, and improving the economy of Clarkdale. This shift in site location is a great example of the steps that can be taken to balance public access with protection of habitat.”