# Prescott Creekside E-News October 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Yesterday, I was fortunate to get two walks in on Granite Creek. The first at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and the second at Granite Creek Park. While both locations showed signs of stress from the dry summer, my companions and I saw signs of hope and success. An example might be the many young cottonwoods and willows growing up into what will become habit for American Kestrels and other native wildlife. Your appreciation of these places supports them and makes the projects described below possible. We're always excited to learn about your experiences on the creeks. Please contact us if you'd like to share. I hope you enjoy the success stories in this addition of the Creekside E-News.

### **Release of American Kestrels**

For the last few years, Prescott Audubon Society (PAS), AZ Game & Fish Department, Prescott Creeks have collaborated on a nest box program in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve for American Kestrels — a species in decline through the US. This year, an unrelated male/female kestrel pair were placed in a hack box near an unused nest box in the Preserve. The birds had been found out of their nests before they could fly proficiently and were cared for at a wildlife rehabilitation center in Phoenix. It was hoped that allowing the birds time to become familiar with a new environment, while protected in a wire-mesh enclosure, might result in their use of the nest box next spring.



The pair were fed daily by PAS volunteers before a full release on the tenth day. Upon opening the box, the female was the first to leave the box, followed several minutes later by the male. Both birds remained in the general area of release for about an hour. No sightings have been reported since the kestrels were released. Each bird has a large black band on its left leg in addition to a small aluminum band on its right leg. If seen, please alert Prescott Creeks by phone or email. Read the full story...

84 Acres on Verde River added to Prescott National Forest



### Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated during the recent online campaign. Local riparian ecosystems provide many benefits that may not be easily visible: water purification, nutrient recycling, flood protection, even recreation. Your help is the key to protecting our wild places, their waterways, and Prescott Creeks' ongoing conservation activities. Connecting you to rare riparian forests & the wildlife dependent upon them is how Prescott Creeks serves you. Your support equips us with the much-needed background research, social networks, know-how, and action plan to fully serve our mission.

# Supporter Spotlight



Interior Logic joined Prescott Creeks as a first time Stewardship Sponsor of the 2020 Granite Creek Cleanup and converted their support to a donation when the event was cancelled due to COVID-19! Thank you. When asked why Interior Logic supports Prescott Creeks, they said: "As part of the Nation's leading interior finish company, the Prescott ILG Region prides itself on being composed of integrity, accountability, and authenticity in our daily operations. These values that we carry extend beyond our product and services, and we are proud to

Today's edition of <u>The Daily Courier</u> announced: <u>The Trust for Public Land</u> and the <u>U.S. Forest Service</u> announced the permanent protection of 84 acres on the upper Verde River by adding the land to the <u>Prescott National Forest</u>, according to a release Monday morning. The property, known as the Rio Verde Ranch, lies along the Verde River, one of the last free flowing rivers in Arizona and which provides drinking water to the Phoenix area's four million residents.



The ranch contains a 2/3 mile stretch of the river near the headwaters and includes riparian forest of Fremont cottonwood and Goodding's willow, one of the most threatened forest types in the country. Most of the upper reach of the river – a 40-mile stretch that has been determined as eligible for Wild and Scenic River status – is already owned by the public as part of the Prescott National Forest. However, there are very few places for public access to the river since most of the river is rugged with deep cliffs. Read the full story at The Daily Courier or here for additional images.

spend time contributing to this cause as Prescott citizens. The cleanliness and upkeep of the Prescott area is part of our livelihood and is incredibly important to us." Contact Interior Logic and let them know you also support Prescott Creeks!

# **Support Creeks**



## **MEMBERSHIP**



### **VOLUNTEER**



DONATE

Prescott Creeks is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education, and advocacy.

#### **Our Contact Information**

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