



“Synthesis of Upper Verde River Research and Monitoring 1993-2009.” (RMRS-GTR-291)

Since the publication of this General Technical Report (GTR), a number of resource management agencies have expressed concern that the GTR has serious ramifications for the direction of management of the Upper Verde River (UVR) and the people, fish, and wildlife it supports. This briefing paper addresses this concern and clarifies how the document should be used and interpreted.

The stated objective of the GTR was two-fold:

1. To summarize 15 years of research and monitoring on the UVR conducted by Rocky Mountain Research Station.
2. To make recommendations to the Rocky Mountain Research Station, the Prescott National Forest, and the Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service on future research and monitoring on the UVR to address management issues along the river.

It does not recommend management practices.

The GTR does not provide cause-and-effect linkages regarding the river’s vegetation and channel morphology, and the effects of land management activities on native fishes. The lack of repeat sampling at fixed locations limits the use of vegetation data for interpreting riparian and geomorphic conditions, for evaluation of treatment effects or for assessing trends in condition.

RMRS monitoring information contributes to current understanding of the Upper Verde River but its extrapolation beyond the scope of the work within the UVR should be applied cautiously. Focused, well-designed experimental research and monitoring are still needed to address the complex ecological interactions and the influence of management in this and other arid-land river basins.

We encourage broader collaboration with other state, federal, and universities partners to further elucidate the relationships among natural disturbance, management actions, and conditions in the Upper Verde River basin.

For additional information see: [Upper Verde River: Review of Stream-Riparian Monitoring Efforts](#)

