**SUMMARY FINDINGS**

Research shows that conserving public lands like the Agua Fria National Monument helps to safeguard and highlight amenities that draw new residents, tourists, and businesses to surrounding communities.¹

Western counties with protected public lands, like national monuments, have been more successful at attracting fast-growing economic sectors and as a result grow more quickly, on average, than counties without protected public lands.² In addition, protected natural amenities—such as the pristine scenery found at Agua Fria—also help sustain property values and attract new investment.³

**ECONOMY GROWS AFTER DESIGNATION**

The communities in Yavapai County, Arizona neighboring the Agua Fria National Monument experienced strong growth after the designation of the monument, continuing previous growth trends.

From 2001 to 2015, in Yavapai County:⁴

- Population grew by 29%
- Jobs grew by 26%
- Real personal income grew by 54%
- Real per capita income grew by 19%

**SERVICES JOBS INCREASING ACROSS THE BOARD**

Services jobs—such as doctors, engineers, and teachers—account for the majority of employment growth in Yavapai County in recent decades. These jobs are increasingly mobile, and many entrepreneurs locate their businesses in areas with a high quality of life.

From 2001 to 2015, in Yavapai County:⁵

- Services grew from 51,593 to 71,545 jobs, a 39% increase
- Non-Services declined from 14,336 to 13,542 jobs, a 5% decrease

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¹ Outdoor Industry Association. (2016). Outdoor lasers contribute more than $10 billion annually to the state’s economy.
THE COMMUNITIES IN YAVAPAI COUNTY NEIGHBORING THE AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPERIENCED STRONG GROWTH SINCE ITS DESIGNATION IN 2000.

THE INCREASES IN POPULATION, JOBS, PERSONAL INCOME, AND PER CAPITA INCOME ALSO MIRROR OTHER WESTERN COUNTIES WITH NATIONAL MONUMENTS OR OTHER PROTECTED LANDS.

METHODOLOGY
This fact sheet is part of a series that assesses the economic performance of local communities that are adjacent to national monuments. The series examines national monuments in the eleven western continental states that are larger than 10,000 acres and were created in 1982 or later.

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NON-LABOR INCOME GROWS FASTEST
One of the largest and fastest growing sources of new personal income in Yavapai County is non-labor income, which is made up of investment income such as dividends, interest and rent, and government transfer payments such as Social Security and Medicare.

For people with investment income and many retirees, protected public lands and recreation provide important aspects of a high quality of life. Non-labor income already represents more than a third of all personal income in the West—and will grow as the Baby Boomer generation retires.7

From 2001 to 2015, in Yavapai County:
• Non-Labor income grew from $2.6 billion to $4.6 billion, a 75% increase
• As a result, in 2015 non-labor income made up 57% of total personal income

TRADITIONAL JOBS HOLD STEADY
Long before the monument’s creation, commodity industries (agriculture, mining, timber) in Yavapai County were small relative to the overall economy. These industries remain part of the county’s economy today.

In 2015, in Yavapai County:
• Agriculture accounted for 1% of total employment
• Mining accounted for 2% of total private employment
• Timber accounted for less than 1% of total private employment

PROSPERITY ON THE RISE
As the economy has grown since designation of the Agua Fria National Monument, per capita income has risen as well. This indicates growing prosperity in the region.

From 2001 to 2015, in Yavapai County:
• Real per capita income grew from $30,153 to $36,007, a 19% increase

5 The U.S. Department of Commerce changed the way it classifies industries between 2000 and 2001. To show a continuous timeline for services and non-services employment, we subtracted non-services jobs from total private employment to derive services jobs.