

**Proposal for increased collaboration between CCA and Saguaro-Juniper
January 6, 2022**

Saguaro-Juniper and CCA have a long history of shared stewardship of the wildlands in and around Hot Springs Canyon. In addition to the deeded land owned by the two organizations, both S-J and CCA share an interest in maintaining S-J's two state grazing leases. These grazing leases cover around 7000 acres, including part of the canyon with perennial water, and have several direct benefits to CCA programs.

Hermitage Program Benefits

The grazing leases encompass the hermitage program land and are part of the wildland experience that CCA provides to sojourners. S-J's thoughtful use of this land allows CCA to leave the hermitage land unfenced, which keeps the ecosystem whole and unfragmented.

S-J's gentle cattle herd provides opportunities for hermitage sojourners to interact with animals in a meaningful way. For example, a recent YAV participant on a several-day solo was visited by the cattle each morning and noted that as one of the highlights of her experience.

Conservation Program Benefit

S-J's practice of not allowing the cattle into Hot Springs Canyon where perennial water flows has allowed for rejuvenation of this rich and spectacularly beautiful riparian area. This is an important component of CCA's goal of maintaining the health of the wildlife corridor through Hot Springs Canyon.

Proposal

To acknowledge and strengthen this collaborative partnership, we propose that CCA help fund some of the work of maintaining these grazing leases. This funding could be in the form of grants for specific projects that would support the goals of both S-J and CCA.

Our current suggested project would be for a grant of \$1500 to repair the water piping on range from the Lower Drinker to the Upper Drinker. This water line has leaks at several junctions and loses water during pumping. This grant would help S-J to conserve water during pumping while directing water to different parts of the range to distribute the herd and maximize rangeland health.

S-J is in a time of transition, with a newly expanded Board of Directors, and a desire to envision a strong future for the organization and an active working partnership with CCA. A financial contribution from CCA at this time would be a valuable support to the future of S-J and to their continued holding of the two grazing leases.

David Omick, *CCA Board Member*
Katie Talbott, *Hermitage Program Co-Chair*
Alex Binford-Walsh, *Former Board Member*