



Dear friends of the CCA Hermitage Program,

As many of you know, after eight years of unwavering program leadership and sojourner accompaniment, Susan Tollefson is retiring at the end of the spring sojourn season. Over many months, the Hermitage Committee has been engaged in an extensive process to determine how best to transition.

The current sojourning season has been the busiest in recent history. That, along with moving sojourner reflections, is clear validation that the direct experience of being held by this wildland is both sought after and deeply valued.

The committee has concluded, and proposed to CCA membership, that our best opportunity to see the Hermitage Program thrive is to purchase Susan's 14-acre property which lies at the heart of CCA's hermitage holdings. It will not only provide critical housing and infrastructure for sojourner accompaniment volunteers, but will provide continuation of the wildlife connection corridor in Hot Springs Canyon that CCA and the Cascabel community have long championed.

Our aspiration is to raise \$60,000. It is an ambitious goal, but it will cover the purchase price of \$52,000 and also establish a property maintenance fund. To date, generous supporters have already donated or pledged \$27,000. We are assessing our ability to raise the remaining \$33,000 by asking you, our friends and supporters, for pledges.

This is an opportunity for those who have benefited from the Hermitage Program and for all who support our unique vision and mission to help create the future. Please consider making a pledge!

To do so send an email to Katie Talbott at kt.talbott@gmail.com by **APRIL 5th!** We welcome pledges of any size. While large pledges help us reach our goal more quickly, smaller pledges help demonstrate wide support for our program.

CCA will consider our recommendation at the spring meeting on April 26th. Full funding for this purchase will help the Hermitage Committee make a strong case for CCA approval. If approved, we will then begin to collect pledge money.

We invite you to help make our story a success story!

With warm regards
The Hermitage Program Committee

