

Cienega Corridor Conservation Council (4C)
CHARTER
Approved March 5, 2003

Issues Statement:

Property owners, business leaders, concerned citizens, and Federal, State, County, City and other local entities in the Rincon Valley-Vail region recognize that the open space and natural and cultural values that make the region a special place are at risk to over-development and over-use. A coordinated, stakeholder-driven conservation and management plan is needed to protect these values. The Cienega Corridor is defined as the area linking Saguaro National Park and Coronado National Forest Rincon Wilderness to Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and the Sonoita Valley Acquisition Planning District.

Mission Statement:

To protect, steward, and enhance the cultural and natural resources of the Cienega Corridor.

Vision Statement:

To produce a sustainable balance of human needs and uses while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Goals – ideas to be discussed at later meeting:

- Federal lands connection
- Private landowner conservation options
- State Trust Land reform / creative solutions
- Ecological monitoring and stewardship implementation
- A Plan – appropriate land uses
- Water

Criteria for Focusing Efforts:

1. Address items where 4C will be:
 - a. Focused on specific issues and/or actions that relate to achieving our objectives and goals.
 - b. Productive and add value to existing and future efforts.
 - c. Providing non-duplicative efforts.
2. Any actions taken by 4C will be respectful of stakeholders and the cultural, biological, and historical values of the region.
3. Involve all willing stakeholders in our efforts.
4. Maintain the following principles as much as possible in our work:
 - a. Assign responsibilities at the right level.
 - b. Use collaborative processes to break down barriers and find solutions.
 - c. Separate subjective choices from objective data gathering.
 - e. Make sure all decisions are fully informed.
 - f. Use appropriate geographic and ecosystem boundaries rather than political boundaries whenever possible.

Membership:

Membership will be open to any interested parties willing to work on a consensus basis to develop collaborative and locally based solutions to meet the objectives of the group.

Facilitator/Sponsor: Roseann Hanson/Sonoran Institute.

Decision Making Process:

The decision making process will be based on consensus where consensus is defined as all parties agree that they are comfortable with the decision and not willing to block the decision. The group will strive to address and find a comfort level for any concerns for those parties not comfortable with a decision. Participants in 4C not present for a decision will be informed of the decision in regular meeting notes sent via email or U.S. Mail (as indicated by each participant) and have 1 month (ie – the next meeting, where minutes are approved) to participate in the decision process. The group will strive to make meeting times productive for new business, and limit going over any decisions already agreed upon.

Operating Principles:

Ground rules for meetings include turning off cellular phones; one person speaking at a time; common courtesy will be observed; meetings lengths will be announced and adhered to.

Meeting & Event Schedule:

Meetings will be held every 4-6 weeks, varying whenever possible between weekdays and weekends, to accommodate as many participants as possible.