

The Tracks You Leave Behind



LEGACY AND FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS
FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

Reflecting on Yellowstone Wolf Reintroduction

The following is an excerpt from a Defenders blog post by Suzanne Stone, our Northwest Senior Representative and member of the USA/Canada wolf reintroduction team. Read her full story at www.defenders.org/20thAnniversary

Twenty years ago this winter, gray wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park. It was a time of international celebration for wildlife advocates, especially those of us who had worked so hard to restore wolves to the American West.

Though wolves were once one of North America's most broadly distributed large mammals, government and ranching anti-wolf efforts decimated the population. By the 1930s, wolves were nearly eradicated from the Lower 48, restricted to less than one percent of its former range. But over the next few decades, significant changes in wildlife management were made which included strong support for wolf protection. In 1978, wolves were listed as endangered throughout the contiguous 48 states, except in Minnesota where they were listed as threatened. The ESA listing meant that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had to actively recover wolves.

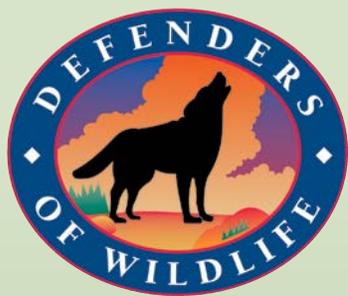
Thankfully, their chosen plan was one that brought wolves back to the West. In 1995 and 1996, USFWS – working with scientists, nonprofits, state agencies and



more – reintroduced 66 wolves to central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. I was a member of the reintroduction team and have spent the last 28 years as a full time wolf conservationist in the West.

At last count, there were approximately 1,600 wolves in the Northern Rockies region. In comparison, we have nearly 10,000 mountain lions, 100,000 black bears and hundreds of thousands of coyotes in the same area. While support for wolves is growing exponentially among wildlife enthusiasts worldwide, these animals still face tremendous danger in some states where they are being aggressively killed.

As wolves were returned in the Northern Rockies, the age-old conflicts that led to their original demise have also re-emerged. The most significant conflicts are based on fear of livestock losses, despite the fact that in the last two decades, less than 1 percent of livestock losses were due to wolves. The negative folklore of the past centuries still feeds deeply rooted intolerance and resentment. The greatest challenge now is to build acceptance and appreciation for wolves by bringing people together to learn how to live with this magnificent native species once again.



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Inside this Issue...

- Shelter a Real Estate Sale from Capital Gains Tax
- Keep an Eagle Eye on Your Beneficiary Designation Form
- Meet Wildlife Defender Sue Moran

Shelter a Real Estate Sale from Capital Gains Tax

Make a Gift that Will Provide You with Lifetime Income and Tax Savings While Protecting the Wildlife You Love

Are you thinking about selling a piece of real estate this spring? If so, please consider donating your property in a manner in which the real estate will be sold tax-free and you (and/or others you designate) will receive lifetime income from the sale proceeds. This arrangement is called a charitable remainder unitrust (“CRUT”). Here’s how it can benefit you and the wildlife you love.

Types of properties that can be donated

Many types of unencumbered properties can be donated to a CRUT. These include a personal residence or vacation home, a residential rental property such as a duplex or apartment building, a commercial property such as an office building or warehouse, or a vacant lot. Suggested minimum value is \$100,000.

Avoid immediate capital gains tax on the sale

Since your CRUT is tax-exempt, real estate you donate can be sold without immediate capital gains tax. This is extremely important since high income taxpayers are now potentially subject to a 20% capital gains tax rate, plus a 3.8% net investment income tax. Since up-front capital gains tax is avoided, considerably more money will be available from the sale proceeds to reinvest for your benefit.

Receive income for life

You choose a percentage payout when you create your CRUT. Each year following the sale of the property, you (and/or other named income beneficiaries) will receive that percentage of the January 1st trust value as revalued that particular year.

Take an income tax deduction

You will also get an immediate income tax deduction when you create your CRUT for a portion of the value of your donated property.



Protect wildlife forever

After your lifetime, trust principal will be distributed to one or more charities you designate in your CRUT. By naming Defenders as a beneficiary, you will help to protect wildlife for generations to come.

EXAMPLE: Michael, age 75, plans to put a vacation home he no longer uses on the market this spring. He bought the home for \$125,000, and it is now worth \$400,000. He donates the home to a CRUT for Defenders. The home is sold by the CRUT tax-free, saving \$65,450 in immediate capital gains tax and net investment income tax. The sale proceeds are reinvested for his benefit. Having chosen 6% as his payout, he will receive approximately \$24,000/year from his CRUT. Plus, he gets an income tax deduction of \$219,224 for his gift.

Keep an Eagle Eye on Your Beneficiary Designation Forms

It is very important to stay on top of your beneficiary designation forms by reviewing them frequently. They are powerful documents that control how many of your assets will be distributed after your lifetime. Beneficiary designation forms control:

- ✓ Assets in your IRAs
- ✓ Qualified retirement plans like a 401(k) and 403(b)
- ✓ Life insurance policy proceeds
- ✓ Benefits remaining under commercial annuities

You are asked to complete a beneficiary designation form when you create an account—and the forms can be quickly and easily changed at any time. Using these forms, you can name any combination of individuals and/or charities as beneficiaries, assigning percentage interests to each.

“I chose to name Defenders as a designated beneficiary of my life insurance policy, because of the wonderful work they do protecting our wildlife, especially our wolves.”

— Elaine K., Hewlett, NY

As you review your beneficiary designation forms, please consider naming Defenders of Wildlife as one of your beneficiaries. This is a simple way to leave a gift to wildlife without rewriting your will or living trust.

“I have designated Defenders a beneficiary in my retirement, checking and savings accounts, because it’s important to support organizations that protect and preserve animals for us now—and for future generations.”

— Linda M., Mundelein, IL



Join the Wildlife Legacy Society

Join the more than 2,400 special friends of Defenders who informed us that they have remembered Defenders of Wildlife in their estate plans. All legacy gifts, large or small, are deeply appreciated. And every gift will help to ensure that future generations inherit a world rich with wildlife. Please let us know if you have remembered Defenders of Wildlife in your estate plans, so we can express our appreciation and welcome you into the Wildlife Legacy Society.



Meet Wildlife Defender Sue Moran

CREATING A LASTING LEGACY FOR AMERICA'S WILDLIFE



For Wildlife Legacy Society member Sue Moran, it was connecting with the past that sparked her passion for protecting the future. When asked why she became interested in wildlife conservation, she said it began through exploring nature with her family while growing up in Geneva, NY, in the Finger Lakes. She explains, "There were plenty of opportunities to go hiking, fishing and observing wildlife. One of my earliest memories is discovering fossils in the glens along the lakes where we hiked. The fossils turned an abstract concept from a textbook into something tangible that I could hold in my hand. I wanted to know more."

Sue has never lost that love for exploration and discovery. An avid traveler, she's taken trips across the U.S. and in Central and South America. "Although I spent my career working in the business sector, I used my free time to explore the natural world," Sue explains. "I've seen Andean condors in Ecuador, a

wild jaguar hunt in Peru and caught a glimpse of the elusive maned wolf in northern Argentina." And as a President's Council member, Sue will travel with Defenders to Yellowstone National Park this summer.

But Sue's passion for animals isn't limited to wildlife. She has had 3 rescue dogs, the last two being Belgian Malinois. Sue said that hiking with her dogs has exposed her to more natural areas and wildlife.

"I know the fight to protect wildlife will continue – which is why I included Defenders as a beneficiary of my living trust."

– Sue Moran

Through her travels, Sue gained an appreciation for intact and thriving habitats, which led her to Defenders. "I love the fact that Defenders focuses on protecting critical ecosystems, because without healthy habitats,



Sue with her Belgian Malinois, Zeke

wildlife doesn't have a chance. We're all so interdependent—plants, animals and humans. Defenders does a great job of focusing resources, collaborating with other groups when possible and achieving impressive results."

"But I know the fight to protect wildlife will continue for many years to come," Sue continues, "which is why I've included Defenders as a beneficiary in my will. I want to be confident that when I'm gone, the money I saved during my lifetime will continue to further the things I care about—if I can have even a small impact, that's important to me."

Don't forget...

Use this legal language when remembering Defenders in your will, trust or beneficiary designation forms:

Defenders of Wildlife (Tax ID #53-0183181) a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia with its principal office at 1130 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036

We recommend you seek the advice of an estate or tax professional in connection with any planned gift.



For additional information...

ABOUT REMEMBERING DEFENDERS IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS, CONTACT US:

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