



The Tracks You Leave Behind



LEGACY AND FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS
FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

Defending Manatees from Florida's Downlisting

When boats and manatees collide, manatees get hurt, sometimes fatally," says Laurie Macdonald, Director of Defenders' Florida Office. "There are in fact so many collisions," she continues," that sadly researchers routinely identify surviving manatees by the number and types of scars on their bodies."



Together with nearly a dozen other groups, Defenders legal staff has filed a petition with the Florida Commission to reconsider its decision and give manatees the protections they deserve.

Over 3,000 manatees live in the wild today, primarily in the warm waters of Florida's bays and estuaries. Averaging about ten feet in length and 1500 pounds, these gentle giants eat marine and fresh water plants.

"We continue to work through the Manatee Forum, a conflict resolution group," says Laurie. "But given the threat this downlisting poses, we've pulled out all the stops. In addition to the legal action, we are busy working in the state legislature for more comprehensive manatee safeguards that must include greater care in developing marinas and boat ramps, both of which introduce increased threats to these gentle giants."

Despite overwhelming public opposition, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted this summer to downlist manatees on the state level from Endangered to Threatened, a move that would weaken manatee protections. The state's own research shows populations could suffer losses as high as 50 percent in the future.

For more information, visit <http://www.defenders.org/wildlife/new/manatees.html>



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Keeping Track of Changes

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
WITH DR. ALICE A. PINSLEY

The following are some of the questions Dr. Alice Pinsley addressed during recent phone seminars and discussions with donors regarding the 2006 Pension Protection Act and other important gift planning issues. We hope you find her answers helpful.

Q: I've heard that there is a new way to make tax-free charitable gifts from IRAs. How does this work?

Under new tax laws—you may be able to make a charitable gift from your IRA.

Alice: If you are 70 or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 a year from your IRA to qualified charitable organizations like Defenders of Wildlife. For

federal income tax purposes, your transfer would generate neither reportable income nor a tax deduction. An added benefit is that the amount transferred to charity would count toward your minimum distribution requirement. But this provision of the 2006 Pension Protection Act

applies to 2006 and 2007 only, so this is the last year to take advantage of it.

Q: Are there other provisions of the Pension Protection Act beyond the charitable IRA rollover that I should be aware of for my 2007 charitable planning?

Alice: Yes. There are many other provisions of this 900-plus page tax act that affect charitable giving. For example, there are new record-keeping requirements for all cash gifts regardless of amount; stricter rules for gifts of clothing or household items; and generous new tax incentives for gifts of qualified conservation property (through 2007 only). These, and other changes are described more fully in the booklet Tax Law Highlights, which you can request on the enclosed reply form.

Q: I would like to provide for Defenders of Wildlife in my estate plans, but I don't want to go to the expense of rewriting my entire estate plan (my will and living trust) at this time. Is there something I can do more easily?

Certified Financial Planner, Dr. Alice A. Pinsley, Ph.D.

To help you stay current with changes in estate, tax, and gift planning, Defenders offers our legacy donors free informational phone seminars with Certified Financial Planner, Dr. Alice A. Pinsley, Ph.D. An ardent conservationist herself, Dr. Pinsley has advised prominent charitable organizations around the country for twenty years. She is also a former president of the National Committee on Planned Giving.



Alice: There are many ways you can provide for Defenders without rewriting your will or living trust. One is to name Defenders as a beneficiary of your IRA or a qualified retirement plan such as a 401(k) or 403(b). This is done simply by completing the beneficiary designation form provided by your plan trustee or custodian. Defenders can be named the sole beneficiary, or a beneficiary of a percentage of assets in the plan. The same applies to a life insurance policy. Simply ask your insurance agent for a new beneficiary designation form. You can also establish a bank account that is payable on death (POD) to Defenders or a brokerage account that will be transferred on death (TOD) to Defenders.

Q: I have Series EE savings bonds in my safe-deposit box and would like to leave them to charities. What is the best way to do this?

Alice: U.S. Savings bonds can be left to designated charities in your will or living trust. It is not possible, however, to have these bonds reissued during your lifetime in your name with a charity named as the beneficiary upon your death, or to transfer the bonds directly to charities during your lifetime. Many people who have savings bonds sitting in safe-deposit boxes are surprised to find out how much they are worth. Using the calculator at www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/tools/tools_savingsbondcalc.htm, you can determine your bonds' value, how much interest has accrued, and the current interest rate. Approximately \$13 billion worth of bonds have matured and are no longer paying interest. You might wish to consider cashing in some of the bonds you own and using the proceeds to establish a charitable gift annuity, which will pay you lifetime income. The deduction from your gift annuity can partially or completely offset the reportable interest on cashing in your bonds.

Q: With the stock market hitting record highs, I'm wondering if there are advantageous ways to donate stock rather than cash.

Visit www.defenders.org

Alice: One of the smartest ways to make gifts to charity is to give appreciated stock or mutual funds. If you make outright gifts of securities you have owned more than one year, you will be entitled to an income tax deduction for the full fair market value. You will also completely avoid the capital gains tax that would be payable on a sale. You can also contribute appreciated securities to Defenders of Wildlife for a charitable gift annuity, and receive an income stream for life.

Q: I am preparing to create/update my estate plan, is there anything new I should know about changes in the tax law?

Alice: There will be no changes in the estate tax exemption in 2007. This exemption went up to \$2 million in 2006 and will stay at this level until it rises to \$3.5 million in 2009. Estate tax is repealed for one year in 2010. But, it is reinstated in 2011 and the exemption drops back to \$1 million at that time. Lawyers are now drafting wills that provide the flexibility needed to accommodate to these changes over time. And bequests to charitable organizations like Defenders of Wildlife are always fully deductible for estate tax purposes.

Q: Where can I learn more?

Alice: To learn more, please see the enclosed confidential reply form. You can request copies of our award-winning "The Tracks You Leave Behind" booklet and video, featuring Ed Asner. You can also request copies of the booklet, Tax Law Highlights, which contains additional helpful information.

Save the Date: April 25th
Our next phone seminar on tax changes and giving. Call toll-free for information 1-800-915-6789.

This information is provided with the understanding that it does not constitute legal or tax advisory service. For personal advice, the services of an attorney, accountant or other professional advisor should be obtained.





Meet Wildlife Defender Bonnie Keith

A BEQUEST INSPIRED BY A LIFETIME WITH ANIMALS



Though her professional degrees are in education and cell biology, Defender's legacy donor Bonnie Keith has found a way to work with animals for most of her life. "I wanted to be a veterinarian," says Bonnie, "but in the late 1940s it was hard for women to get admitted, and priority was given to war vets."

So Bonnie entered the University of Wisconsin as an education major, where she took an extra-credit job in the lab of primatologist Dr. Harry Harlow. When Harlow was asked by the San Diego Zoo to send someone to help with the care of three gorillas, he sent two men. But the gorillas—who had previously been cared for women—would not respond to them. "So Harlow sent me," recalls Bonnie, "and



BONNIE KEITH WITH JERE

eventually I was hired as a medical tech in the zoo hospital, where I cared for harbor seals, marmosets, even a kangaroo that needed dental surgery."

Bonnie left the zoo in 1962, completed a master's degree in cytology from Johns Hopkins University, and for the next 36 years helped run animal rescue operations in California, Idaho, and

Wyoming. It was during the 1990s, while living in Buffalo, Wyoming, that Bonnie gained such affection and admiration for the wolves who regularly wandered onto her property.

"Wolves are such a vital part of our ecosystem," says Bonnie, "and Defenders is just unwavering in their commitment to protecting them." According to Bonnie, it's this steadfast commitment that first drew her to become a Defender's member, and later to include us in her estate plans.

Now living in Chino Valley, Arizona, Bonnie is still working with animals. She is one of two regional rescue coordinators with the American Manchester Terrier Club—and she is still writing letters demanding better safeguards for wolves.

For more information . . .



ABOUT CREATING A DEFENDERS' GIFT ANNUITY OR LEGACY GIFT IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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