



# High Country News

**Planned  
Giving Guide**

# Your gift matters.

You have a passion for *High Country News*, for the West and for independent journalism. You know that personal investments in our communities and in organizations make a real difference in the world.

We have options that will help you accomplish your philanthropic goals and provide the greatest benefit to both you and *High Country News*.

Please reach out to us with questions, comments or feedback at any point. We are here to help you and to plan for a better future, together.

~ The High Country News  
Fundraising Team  
800-905-1155  
[fundraising@hcn.org](mailto:fundraising@hcn.org)

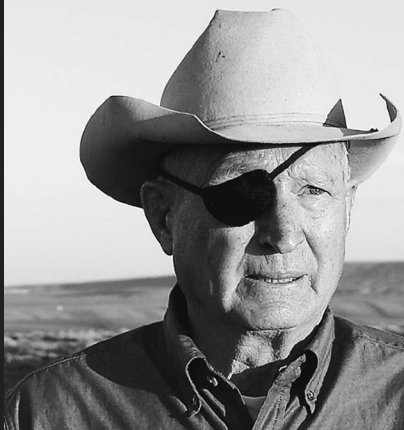
# Become a member of the Tom Bell Legacy Circle

When you leave a legacy gift to *High Country News*, you join an esteemed group of dedicated supporters of independent journalism in the West: the Tom Bell Legacy Circle, named for our founder, a tenacious watchdog of our region for many decades. Tom Bell Legacy Circle members are among *HCN's* most devoted supporters. We invite you to consider following Tom's example. Your planned gift helps ensure the longevity of *HCN* for future generations.

**Your membership in the Tom Bell Legacy Circle begins when you notify *High Country News* of your bequest or planned gift intentions during your lifetime. In appreciation for your commitment, you will receive a lifetime subscription to *HCN*, a certificate of membership and an exclusive Tom Bell Legacy Circle pin. Please contact the fundraising team if you have named *High Country News* in your estate plans so that we may activate your membership.**

“*High Country News continues my work and my vision of providing the best information possible about this place we all care so much about. I would like to see it carry on that vision long after I am gone.*” ”

- Tom Bell  
Founder of HCN  
1924-2016





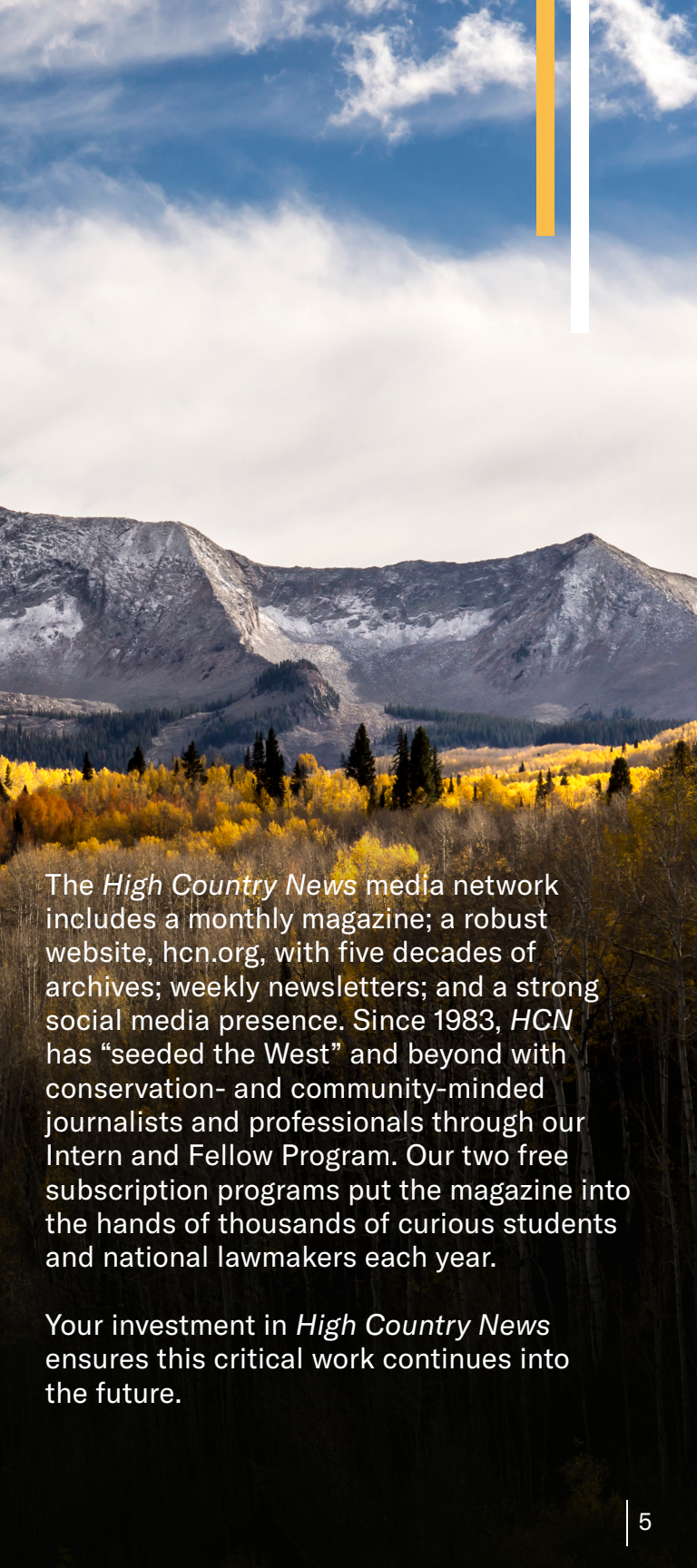
# The High Country News Legacy

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*High Country News* is a successful, reader-supported nonprofit 501(c)(3), independent media organization that covers the important issues and stories that define the Western United States. Our mission is to inform and inspire people to act on behalf of the West's diverse natural and human communities.

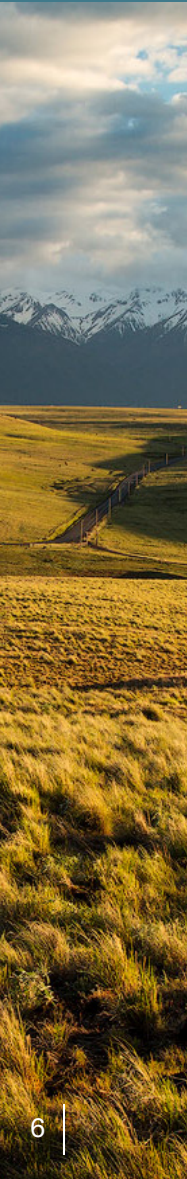
Since 1970, *High Country News* has delivered award-winning stories and in-depth, evenhanded analysis on a broad range of environmental, social, economic and political issues as they relate to the West's public lands, natural resources and wildlife, as well as the region's changing communities, economies and cultures.



The *High Country News* media network includes a monthly magazine; a robust website, [hcn.org](http://hcn.org), with five decades of archives; weekly newsletters; and a strong social media presence. Since 1983, *HCN* has “seeded the West” and beyond with conservation- and community-minded journalists and professionals through our Intern and Fellow Program. Our two free subscription programs put the magazine into the hands of thousands of curious students and national lawmakers each year.

Your investment in *High Country News* ensures this critical work continues into the future.

# Planned Gifts Help Preserve the Vital Western Institution



Generosity comes in many forms. There are numerous ways you can leave a legacy to sustain the independent journalism of *High Country News*, while at the same time providing yourself and your family (or other beneficiaries) with significant tax benefits. In addition to outright, tax-deductible cash gifts, there are other creative ways to give, including:

- **Appreciated Assets** (stocks, mutual funds, real estate, personal property)
- **IRA Distributions** (QCDs)
- **Donor Advised Funds** (DAFs)
- **Wills and Living Trusts** (bequests)
- **Beneficiary Designations** (IRAs, 401(k)s, insurance policies, pension plans)
- **Life Income Gifts** (charitable gift annuities, charitable remainders)
- **Charitable Lead Trusts** (annuity trusts, unitrusts, and testamentary trusts)

Planned gifts can offer advantages to help meet your overall financial goals, enhance the value of your estate and help *High Country News* achieve long-term financial sustainability. They can also provide special opportunities that enable the organization to strengthen and improve its programs.

The following pages will help detail some of these options.

## **Make a big impact with a future gift!**

**The information in this guide is not tax or legal advice, but is intended as a helpful outline of fundraising opportunities at *High Country News*. For legal advice, please consult your attorney and/or tax advisor.**

# Gifts of Appreciated Assets

Donating appreciated assets is a simple way to make a sizable gift to *High Country News* that offers you the chance to support our important work while realizing significant tax benefits for you and your family.

## GIFTS OF STOCK, MUTUAL FUNDS AND REAL ESTATE

Appreciated assets include stocks, mutual funds or real estate that have increased in value over time and have a fair market value greater than their original purchase price. Gifts of these assets are an easy and tax-efficient way to make a significant lasting contribution to help sustain the journalism of *High Country News*.

When you sell stock, mutual funds or real estate, you must recognize capital gain on the sale of such property, which can be as high as 20 percent. Donating appreciated assets that you have owned for more than one year to *HCN* provides you the same income tax savings that you would receive if you wrote us a check, with the added benefit of eliminating capital gains taxes on the transfer.



## GIFTS OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Gifts of tangible personal property allow you to support *High Country News* without touching your bank account. Unlike gifts of stock or real estate, your financial benefits depend on whether we can use the donated item in a way that is related to our mission.

If the gift furthers our mission, you will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the fair market value of the property donated. For gifts beyond the scope of *HCN's* mission, you will receive charitable income tax deduction for your cost basis in the asset (typically the amount you paid for the property).

Please contact *High Country News*:

- Before gifting securities to ensure you receive maximum tax benefits
- For more information on what types of personal property further our mission

# IRA Distributions

Direct gifts from an IRA during your lifetime are a highly effective way to support *HCN* and come with numerous tax benefits.

## Direct IRA gifts for those 70 ½ and older:

- Gifts up to \$100,000 per year can be made directly from your IRA to *High Country News* without having to pay income taxes on the funds.
- Beginning the year you turn 72, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift because the transfer of funds generates no taxable income or a tax deduction. You benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- The gift does not count as income, and can reduce your annual income level.

## Direct IRA gifts for those ages 59 ½ – 70:

- You can take a distribution, then make a gift from your IRA without penalty.
- If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

# Donor-Advised Funds

**A donor-advised fund harnesses the giving power of a private foundation and offers a simple, flexible and tax-efficient way to support *High Country News* during your lifetime and beyond.**

A donor-advised fund (DAF) acts as a charitable savings account and gives you the flexibility to recommend how much and how often funds are granted to *High Country News* and other charities. *HCN* does not directly manage donor-advised funds. However, they can be established at many financial institutions and community foundations.

When you contribute cash, stocks or non-publicly traded assets to your DAF, you are generally eligible to take an immediate federal income tax deduction. Those funds can then be invested for tax-free growth while you decide which charitable organizations to support.

You can create a lasting legacy by naming *HCN* as the beneficiary of the entire account or a percentage of the fund after your lifetime. Donor-advised funds can inspire a family legacy of giving if you name your heirs as successors to continue recommending grants to *High Country News* and other charitable organizations.

# Wills and Living Trusts

A charitable bequest in your will or living trust is one of the easiest ways to provide continuing support for *High Country News* while reducing your estate taxes.

Wills and living trusts allow you to leave money to *HCN* and provide flexibility to change your estate plans in the event your life circumstances change. After your lifetime, the asset(s) you leave to *High Country News* will pass to us, and your estate is entitled to a charitable deduction for the amount of your bequest. This reduces the estate taxes owed.

Several types of charitable contribution bequests can be included in any new will or trust, drafted into a codicil for your existing will, or added as an amendment to your existing trust.

In as little as one sentence, these provisions allow you to complete your gift:

**Specific Bequest** is a provision that allows you to leave a specific amount, percentage or asset to *High Country News*.

“ I bequeath to *High Country News* the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_ % of my estate; or the property described herein) for its general purposes. ”

**Residuary Bequest** is honored after all other bequests and distributions to family and friends are made, and all debts, expenses and taxes have been paid.

“ I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to *High Country News* for its general purposes. ”

**Contingent Bequest** is made only if certain conditions are met, such as your primary beneficiary not surviving you.

“ I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my real and personal estate to my husband, Robert, if he survives me; if he does not survive me, then fifty percent (50%) of my estate shall be distributed to my children, then living, by representation and fifty percent (50%) to *High Country News* for its general purposes. ”

If you choose to include *High Country News* in your will or other estate plan, please name us as follows:

***High Country News*, a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado, and with the principle business address of P.O. Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.**

Our tax identification number is:  
**23-7015336.**

# Beneficiary Designations

In addition to providing you with certain tax advantages, beneficiary designations are a quick, hassle-free way to make a gift.

Not everyone wants to commit to making a gift through their will or estate plans. Beneficiary designations to *High Country News* can be made through IRAs and retirement plans, life insurance policies and commercial annuities. This method of giving provides you significant tax advantages and the freedom to tailor your donations and beneficiaries at any time.

## DESIGNATING *HCN* AS A BENEFICIARY OF AN INSURANCE POLICY

You can designate *High Country News* as the primary beneficiary for a percentage or specific amount of your life insurance policy. You can also name us as a contingent beneficiary so we receive the balance of your policy only if your other beneficiaries do not survive you. After your lifetime, the benefits from your policy would pass to *HCN* free of federal estate tax.

## DESIGNATING *HCN* AS A BENEFICIARY OF YOUR PENSION PLAN, 401(K) OR IRA

IRAs, retirement and pension contributions left to family or living beneficiaries are subject to federal income taxes. By designating *HCN* as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of your pension plan, 401(k) or IRA, the full amount of your plan will pass to us tax-free after your lifetime by removing the value of the retirement assets from your gross taxable estate.

**Lifetime gifts do not necessarily apply to retirement accounts other than IRAs. Please speak with your advisor to determine if an IRA rollover is available for your retirement accounts. Retirement plan administrators are not obligated to notify a charity of your designation or monitor whether your gift designations are followed, so please contact *High Country News* if you intend to make a retirement gift.**



# Life Income Gifts

A life income gift provides for you or your loved ones while also supporting *High Country News*. Your age, assets and income objectives will help you to determine the most suitable life income gift for you.

Income payments continue for the beneficiaries' lifetime(s), or, in some cases, for a term of up to 20 years. There are three types of life income gifts that provide specific income payments: charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder annuity trusts (CRATs) and charitable remainder unitrusts (CRUTs).

## BENEFITS OF A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

- Receive **fixed annual payments** for life
- Possibly receive tax-free income
- Diversify some of your portfolio to produce a fixed income for you and/or your beneficiaries, which is backed by *High Country News's* assets
- Federal, and possibly state, income tax charitable deduction
- Reduce or eliminate estate taxes



## BENEFITS OF A CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUST (CRAT)

- Receive **fixed annual payments**
- Pay no immediate capital gains tax on the transfer of appreciated assets
- Federal, and possibly state, income tax charitable deduction
- Reduce or eliminate estate taxes

## BENEFITS OF A CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST (CRUT)

- **Variable lifetime income**, based on a percentage of the fair market value of the trust assets, revalued each year
- Federal, and possibly state, income tax charitable deduction
- Pay no immediate capital gains tax on the transfer of appreciated assets
- Reduce or eliminate estate taxes
- Diversify your investments

# Charitable Lead Trusts

A charitable lead trust is an excellent way to give an immediate gift to *High Country News* while ultimately transferring assets to your loved ones and reducing the tax burden on your heirs.

## CHARITABLE LEAD ANNUITY TRUST

A charitable lead annuity trust pays a **fixed annual amount** to *HCN*. Charitable lead annuity trusts are more attractive when interest rates are low, but can pose tax-planning challenges if the heirs of the trust include grandchildren. This type of trust:

- Reduces or eliminates gift of estate tax on gifts to heirs if your estate exceeds the applicable estate tax credit
- Avoids all gift and estate tax on asset growth
- Can be more difficult to plan for the generation-skipping transfer tax



## CHARITABLE LEAD UNITRUST

A charitable lead unitrust pays a **variable annual amount** based on the value of the assets in the trust. The payment made to *HCN* is a percentage of the value of the trust each year. If the trust's assets go up in value, the annual payment will go up as well. Charitable lead unitrusts also provide more attractive tax benefits if grandchildren are named as heirs to the trust. This type of trust:

- Reduces or eliminates gift tax on the initial gift if your gift exceeds the applicable gift tax credit
- Avoids all gift and estate tax on asset growth
- Provides options to plan for the generation-skipping transfer tax

## TESTAMENTARY CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

You may also establish a charitable lead trust under the terms of your will. This is an effective way to make a sizable gift to charity while reducing your estate taxes. Your will or revocable trust would provide that either a certain portion of your estate assets (or the amount that would create a non-taxable estate) should be transferred to a charitable lead trust upon your death.

**Somewhat complex requirements must be met in order for a charitable lead trust to provide you with the tax advantages above. Please contact *High Country News* to discuss your intentions and be sure to review the tax considerations with your financial advisors, especially if you are considering including your grandchildren as beneficiaries.**

**Thank you for your interest in leaving a legacy to help sustain the mission of *High Country News*. To inform and inspire people to act on behalf of the West's diverse natural and human communities.**

**The *HCN* Fundraising Team is happy to work with you and your financial advisor to establish the planned gift(s) that are most appropriate for you to achieve your financial planning goals. Our communication with you is strictly confidential.**



# HCN

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