

## Guidance for Prospective Donors

**How can you leave a conservation legacy?** Since 1940, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* magazine has celebrated Minnesota's rich bounty of natural resources in stories, photographs, and essays. Generations of readers young and old have enjoyed learning more about our waters, woods, and prairies. The pages of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* have taken us from western grasslands to the rocky beauty of the North Shore and just about every place in between.

Like the wild places we celebrate, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* itself is a resource in need of conservation to ensure it continues to inform and entertain the readers of tomorrow. The Minnesota Department of

Natural Resources welcomes current and planned gifts, and we will work with you and your advisers to ensure that your gift is accepted and used as you intend.

**The Minnesota Conservation Volunteer legacy.** As you consider your legacy, please consider remembering *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* with a **gift of retirement account assets** or a **bequest**. These are the **two easiest methods** of providing long-term financial support to sustain *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* for future generations, without reducing your current income or giving up control of your assets.

### 1. Remembering Minnesota Conservation Volunteer with a gift of retirement plan assets

Current tax laws provide an incentive for leaving retirement plan assets to qualified charitable organizations. Gifts to support *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* are deductible under section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, because the magazine is part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, a state agency.

Individual retirement plans come under many names:

- Individual retirement accounts (IRAs)
- 401(k) plans for most private-sector voluntary contribution plans
- 403(b) plans for most nonprofit-sector voluntary contribution plans
- Simplified-employee pension-individual retirement accounts (SEP-IRAs) for self-employed individuals
- Other forms of qualified pension or profit-sharing plans.

The process is simple. Use your retirement plan's beneficiary designation form to name *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* as the beneficiary of a specific amount or percentage of the account using this language: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* magazine.

### 2. Remembering Minnesota Conservation Volunteer in your will

As part of your estate planning, you may also support *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* with a bequest in your will or trust. A bequest is one of the easiest, and often most generous, ways you can acknowledge your appreciation of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* and ensure that the magazine continues to inform and entertain readers for many years to come.

Bequests can include nearly any kind of property or financial instrument, including land, homes, or financial assets. Under current gift acceptance policies, all physical assets will be sold and the proceeds used to support the publication and outreach efforts of the magazine.

As with the gift of retirement plan assets, a bequest to support *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* will provide dividends for generations of future readers.

To include *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* as a beneficiary in your will or trust, use the following language: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (FEIN 41-6007162) to support education and outreach programs of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* magazine.



### Plan Your Legacy

If you plan to leave *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* a gift of real property, or if you would like to dedicate your gift to a specific *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* project or to an income-earning, permanently restricted account (*MCV* Education and Outreach Fund), we would like to discuss your legacy in advance. Please call Jill Anderson at 651-259-5358 to arrange a time we can speak or meet with you and your advisers.

### Education and Outreach

In 2007 Dale L. Charbonneau provided a major gift to bring *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* and its Young Naturalists stories into classrooms throughout the state. In 2008, after Mr. Charbonneau passed away, we learned that he made an additional provision for *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* in his estate plan. That bequest became the basis for our Education and Outreach Fund.

While the *MCV* Gift Fund covers everyday operating costs, the Education and Outreach Fund makes possible additional efforts to reach new readers, especially young children and students. For example, this fund covers the cost of printing and mailing the magazine to every public library and school in the state. It enables us to create a Teachers Guide for each Young Naturalists story published and make it accessible to everyone online. More than 300 students in the Cass Lake–Bena Middle School are currently receiving *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, thanks to this fund. You may choose to add your gift to this income-earning fund.

Thank you for considering a legacy gift to *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is not a source of financial planning, tax, or legal advice. Please consult a trusted and qualified financial advisor, tax advisor, or attorney to determine the impact of giving on your specific situation.

Minnesota Conservation Volunteer is published bimonthly by the Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4046.