

## Guidance for Planned Giving

**How can you leave a conservation legacy?** For 70 years, *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, our woods, and our wildlife. The pages of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* have taken us from the sweeping prairies of the west, to the rocky beauty of the North Shore, and just about every place in between.

Like the forest, prairie, lakes, and rivers 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 advisors to ensure that your gift is accepted and used as you intend.

**The *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* legacy.** As you consider the legacy you will leave behind, 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 the enjoyment of 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. As a part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, a state agency, gifts to support *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* are deductible under section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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
- Self-Employed 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 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 pay rich 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 publication 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 (a special gift account that functions much like an endowment fund), we would like to discuss your legacy in advance. Please call David Lent at 651-259-5347 to arrange a time we can speak or meet with you and your advisors to discuss your gift.

### Recent Gifts

The Peterson Sisters Trust, established by long-time readers Helen and Ruth Peterson, conveyed a gift of \$89,000 to support *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*. According to their attorney, the sisters—Helen, a schoolteacher, and Ruth, an ardent conservationist—planned their conservation legacy to include bequests to Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, a scholarship fund for forestry students, and an unrestricted gift to *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*. The Peterson gift expressed the sisters' deep commitment to ensuring that others would share the joy of reading this treasured magazine.

One of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer's* most generous supporters, Dale Charbonneau provided an outright gift of \$250,000 to launch the magazine's Young Naturalists in the Schools program. The cards and letters he received from students and teachers across the state were all the proof he needed that *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* plays a vital role in stimulating greater interest in Minnesota's natural environment. When Mr. Charbonneau passed away, he left a bequest to help sustain *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.