

# Land Trust Alliance *Fact Sheet*



## Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a contribution given at death, such as a bequest through will, or a life income gift such as a charitable remainder trust, charitable gift annuity, reserved life estate, life insurance and gift of IRA or pension plan. An effective planned giving program may actually strengthen the annual and capital giving programs of an organization. Donors who have made significant planned gifts to help ensure the long-term financial viability of the organization often feel that supporting current needs bolsters and affirms their planned gift commitment.

### Bequest

Bequest provisions in a will allow the donor to control the distribution of his or her estate, and to preserve as much of that estate as possible through judicious use of tax-saving opportunities. Bequests can be used to endow the donor's annual contribution, place conservation restrictions on land, or make a special gift that will enhance the land trust's ability to achieve its mission.

### Charitable Remainder Trust

A charitable remainder trust is an irrevocable trust that will provide income for the landowner and other beneficiary for life or a term up to 20 years. The annual income may fluctuate year to year depending upon the structure of the trust, the

ages of the landowner and other beneficiary, the value of the property funding the trust (subject to a conservation easement), and other factors. When the trust ends, the remaining assets go to the land trust.

### Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity is a contract in which the donor agrees to transfer certain property to the land trust, and the land trust agrees to make regular annuity payments to one or two beneficiaries for life. The amount of the annuity payment will depend upon the value of the land, the age of the donor and other beneficiary, the annuity rate selected and the federal discount rate in effect at the time of the gift.

### Reserved Life Estate

A reserved life estate is when the landowner conveys the land to the land trust during his or her lifetime, but continues to live on or use the property until his or her death. They have donated a "remainder interest" in the property. When the landowner dies or releases his or her life interests, the land trust will have full title and control over the property.

### Life insurance, IRA and pension plan

By donating these assets or accounts to a land trust, the owner avoids being subject to estate taxes and may be eligible for an income tax deduction at the time of donation.

