



# National Park Legacies

Gift and Financial Planning Information

Spring 2013

## A TIME TO PLAN

Spring has arrived and gardeners understand that certain steps taken in the fall and winter have a positive impact on how their gardens will grow in the seasons ahead. Mulching, pruning, cleaning, and planning will lead to better results in the spring.

### Begin now

Now may be an ideal time to pause and make sure other parts of our lives are in good order, too. One area that is important to keep well-tended is one's estate plan.

We are told that far too many people neglect this important right and responsibility. Making no estate plan is certainly risky, and many who have made plans have failed to keep them up to date. When was the last time you updated your long-range estate and financial plans?

### Life's changes

Many events in life can affect your will, living trust, or other estate plans. The birth of a child or grandchild is one example. A move to another state or a change in marital status are others. Changes in your assets can also affect your plans.

### Take a picture

Like a snapshot, your will and other plans reflect your thoughts, desires, and financial picture at a certain point in time. When your circumstances change, so should the documents that reflect them. Most changes can be anticipated through careful planning.

Many friends of National Parks Conservation Association are surprised to learn there are ways to provide security for themselves and their loved ones while also creating a legacy that will help protect our National Parks for generations to come.

### Looking ahead

Just as the gardener takes certain steps in the winter to help assure abundance in the coming season, so should we all pause now to take steps that will improve the future of those people and charitable organizations we care about.

Please continue reading for information that may help you make provisions for your future, your family's well-being, and the future of our National Parks.

Above: Joshua Tree National Park, California © Eric Foltz/ISTOCKPHOTO  
Below left: Black bear cub in Minnesota © James Michael Kruger/ISTOCKPHOTO Below right: Sunflowers bloom in Grand Teton National Park © Yasushi Tanikado



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## REACH YOUR GOALS

As you consider strategies for accomplishing your personal and charitable goals for 2013 and beyond, you may want to do the following:

- Determine the value of your assets and any income they produce.
- Define your goals for the management and future distribution of those assets.
- Review the needs of loved ones and consider any changes that may be needed in your plans.
- List those charitable organizations you want to remember in your plans.

### Make a list

Now make a list of your assets, including their original cost and current market value. This might include:

- Your home and other real estate
- Furnishings and other personal property
- Collections of value
- Vehicles
- Checking and savings accounts and certificates of deposit
- Other investments
- Life insurance policies
- Retirement plans

### Meet with advisors

Next, meet with your professional advisors to shape up your personal and philanthropic goals. An attorney, and possibly your accountant, life insurance



representative, or others, can help you consider your specific circumstances and structure an estate and financial plan that best meets your needs.

### The choice is yours

Complete, up-to-date, and legally valid estate plans demonstrate your determination to do everything you can to facilitate the eventual distribution of your assets to heirs and charitable interests.

Charitable bequests need not affect your family's future security. You can choose from a number of ways to remember NPCA in your plans, whether it be a specific property or dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or naming us as residual beneficiary to receive all or a portion of what's left after loved ones have been taken care of.

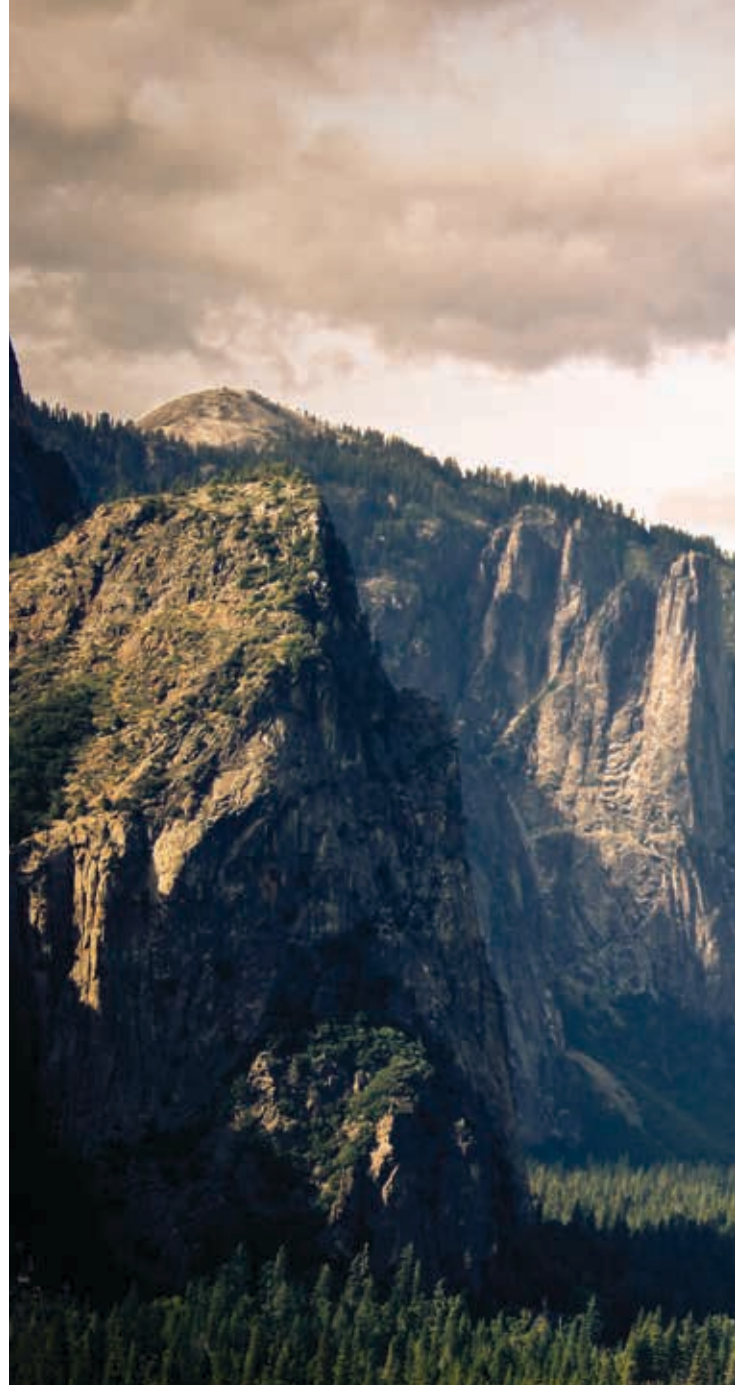
Above: Grizzly Bear and cub along stream © Daburke/Dreamstime Below: Woman kayaking in Voyageurs National Park © George Burba/Dreamstime



# COMMON MYTHS ABOUT WILLS AND ESTATE PLANS

- 1. Only wealthy people or someone with no dependents needs an estate plan.** If you have any property at all, you need to plan carefully to avoid unnecessary delays and expenses.
- 2. When people die without wills, state laws usually distribute their property in about the same way they would have.** The state distributes property according to an all-purpose plan. Generally, children will receive equal amounts regardless of differing needs. No provisions will be made for special friends or favorite charities.
- 3. A good estate plan, professionally made, rarely needs revision.** Periodic reviews are advisable, since so many changes occur throughout life; children become independent, estate values can increase or decrease, tax laws change.
- 4. Charitable bequests come mainly from those whose estates are so large there is plenty left over.** People with modest estates often discover they can make meaningful gifts to charitable interests like NPCA while still arranging generous provisions for loved ones.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMXIII RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NFX2-13



Yosemite Valley, Tunnel view  
© Maxoffsy/Dreamstime

## THE CHARITABLE IRA IS BACK

**O**n January 1, 2013, Congress enacted legislation that, among other things, extended the Charitable IRA Rollover for certain charitable distributions for 2012 and 2013.

Individuals over 70½ who have a traditional or Roth IRA may make tax-free distributions up to \$100,000 directly from those accounts for qualified charitable purposes. See your plan administrator for details.

## EDUCATOR'S LEGACY SUPPORTS OUTDOOR LEARNING IN NATIONAL PARKS

If you ask John Harvey, America's national parks, the outdoors and nature beat indoor activities like TV, video games, and computers every time.

As an educator, John knows the parks are great teachers. "My life's work and greatest interest has been in education," he said. "Through access and resources, people can learn so much from the natural resources that are our national parks, and enjoy the learning process."

John's interests and experiences led him to arrange a charitable remainder annuity trust. He said it is "a systematic means of contributing annually to the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). The breadth of our National Park System and the increasing need for assistance as federal funds are reduced mean more support is needed," he said. When John informed NPCA that he had included the organization as a beneficiary of his estate plan, John became a member of the Mather Legacy Society.

Born in The Hague, Holland (his father's work took the family abroad), John grew up on a farm in northern Ohio.



JOHN HARVEY

John earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from The College of William & Mary and his Ph.D. from Boston College. He did additional graduate work at The University of North Carolina and Harvard University. He coached basketball, baseball, and football at the secondary and university levels, and served as an administrator at Harvard and Carnegie Mellon University for 25 years.

He lives in Concord, Mass., close to Cambridge and Harvard where he works on occasional projects.

"I initially became interested in our national parks through visits to the Williamsburg/Yorktown area. I have taken a number of trips to Yellowstone and have taken summer courses through the Yellowstone Association Institute," John said.

"People at all economic levels in this country have access to the national parks, wildlife areas, and seashores, which are less expensive than many other activities. Some parks and seashores are free or inexpensive to visit."

John retired from full-time work in 2004, giving him much more time to enjoy the national parks and use his lifetime senior pass, which he said makes an excellent gift. "I've given several to relatives and friends!"



Denali Fox  
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### *NPCA's Recommended Bequest Language*

Including NPCA in your will is among the easiest ways to offer support of NPCA's work for years to come. NPCA's Board of Directors has suggested the following language to include NPCA as a beneficiary of a will or trust: "I give \_\_\_\_\_ (specific amount, percentage, or residuary share) to the National Parks Conservation Association, having its principal offices at 777 6<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723. (Federal Tax Identification Number 53-0225165)." If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include NPCA.

