“My efforts on behalf of the West’s clean air, clean water, wilderness, wildlife ... were done for my children, for posterity, and for my fellow man.”

—Tom Bell, founder
High Country News
Dear Friends,

In the early 1970s, a few years after I'd founded High Country News, the paper was struggling financially to keep its head above the water. I was asked why I was willing to keep going despite the economic hardship. I replied that my efforts on behalf of the West’s clean air, clean water, wilderness, wildlife — all that we seek in a healthy, pleasant environment — were done for my children, for posterity, and for my fellow man. I continued, “I think I speak for many who cannot speak for themselves, including those yet unborn.” And I added that if their lives were blighted by air they couldn’t breathe, water they couldn’t drink, or land that could not sustain them, “then I think we must take the blame.”

This is why I support High Country News in its efforts to establish a legacy program, and why I have named High Country News in my will. High Country News continues my work and my vision of providing the West’s citizens with 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.

Please join me. Together, we can make sure that High Country News serves the West with independent journalism for generations to come.

With thanks,

Tom Bell
Careful financial planning can be beneficial to you and your heirs and allow you to leave an enduring legacy to support the independent journalism of High Country News for future generations.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

High Country News is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fulfilling its mission to inform and inspire people to act on behalf of the West’s land, air, water, and inhabitants. We work to create what Wallace Stegner called “a society to match the scenery.” Since 1970, the organization has accomplished this by producing a biweekly newspaper, High Country News, which provides in-depth and evenhanded analysis of the West’s natural resources, public lands, conservation, wildlife and changing communities.

Respected for its ability to bring local and regional news to national attention, and for its independent views on controversial issues, High Country News not only delivers stories with uncommon depth, but brings an analytical eye that connects local issues to the broader American West and to the nation. The paper’s readers include natural resource managers, government officials, policy-makers, journalists, students, teachers, environmental activists and thousands of other people who care about the West.

In recent years, High Country News has reached out beyond its community of newspaper readers to spread its journalism far and wide with its Web site (www.hcn.org), and syndicated news and Writers on the Range op-ed services.

With corporations dominating much of today’s media, High Country News stands out as a reliable, independent source of information on the wide array of issues that confront the environment and communities of this diverse and beautiful region.

High Country News earns approximately half of its revenue from subscriptions to the newspaper. The remainder of income required to support the organization comes primarily from foundation grants and from the generosity of our readers, without which High Country News could not survive.
PLANNED GIFTS HELP PRESERVE THIS VITAL WESTERN INSTITUTION

There are many 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:

- Gifts of stock or other assets
- A beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy, 401(k) plan or IRA
- A bequest in your Will
- Life Income Gifts
- Charitable Lead Trusts

Planned gifts can offer many advantages to help you to meet your overall financial goals, and help High Country News in its long-term financial planning. They can also provide special opportunities that enable the organization to strengthen and improve its programs.

Please be advised that the information provided in this High Country News Planned Giving Program Guide is not intended as tax or legal advice, but as accurate and authoritative general information on planned giving. For legal advice, please consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor.
Donating appreciated assets is a simple way to make a sizable gift to High Country News while avoiding capital gain taxes on the appreciation. It also provides an income tax deduction in the year of gift.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED ASSETS

GIFTS OF STOCK AND REAL ESTATE
Gifts of long-term appreciated stock, mutual funds or real estate offer an easy and tax-efficient way to make a lasting contribution to High Country News. Your gift will help to sustain the journalism of High Country News while avoiding capital gain tax and reducing federal income tax.

In general, when a person sells an appreciated asset, he or she must recognize capital gain on the sale of such property. For example: Let’s say you purchased $4,000 worth of ABC Stock, which is now worth $10,000. If you sold the stock, you would generally be required to pay taxes of $900. If, instead, you gift the ABC Stock to High Country News, you will avoid the $900 in capital gain, and also be entitled to take a charitable deduction of $10,000 on your federal income tax return, saving $2,800-$3,700 in federal income taxes (depending on your tax bracket). You would also save in state taxes as well. Essentially, you could make a $10,000 gift to High Country News — one that would “cost” you less than $5,500 to do!

To ensure you are entitled to receive the most beneficial tax treatment, please contact us BEFORE you sell your securities.

GIFTS OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY
As with gifts of stock and real estate, a donor will be entitled to a deduction as a result of a contribution of personal property to High Country News. However, the deduction will be based on whether the item donated is related to our mission. If the gift you make is used in furthering our mission, you will receive a charitable deduction for income tax purposes for the full fair-market value of the property donated. But if you decide to give us artwork, jewelry, or other non-mission related property, you receive an income tax charitable deduction equal to your cost basis in the asset (typically the amount you paid for the property).
A charitable bequest in your will is one of the simplest ways to provide continuing support for High Country News.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS PROVIDED IN YOUR WILL

One of the simplest ways to provide an enduring gift of support to High Country News is through your Will or Revocable Living Trust. By including High Country News in your estate plans, you can specify that some or all of your assets come to us after your lifetime. At that time, the asset(s) you specify will pass to us, and your estate can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your bequest, reducing the estate taxes payable.

TYPES OF BEQUESTS AND SAMPLE WORDING

There are several types of bequests that allow you to designate how your estate will be distributed:

**Specific Bequest**
A specific bequest is a provision in your Will that allows you to leave a specific amount or specific asset to High Country News, such as an outright gift of cash, securities, or other property. An example of a provision that could be included in your Will would be: “I bequeath to High Country News the sum of $_________ (or ____% of my estate; or the property described herein) for its general purposes.”

**Residuary Bequest**
A residuary bequest is honored after all other bequests have been made, and all debts, expenses and taxes have been paid. For example, you could provide that certain family members receive a certain portion of your estate, and that debts, expenses and taxes must be paid, and you could also provide that: “I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to High Country News for its general purposes.”
HOW TO NAME US IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST
If you choose to include High Country News in your Will or other estate plan, we should be named as:

High Country News, a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wyoming, and with the principal business address of Post Office Box 1090, Paonia, Colorado 81428.

Our tax identification number is 23-7015336.

Contingent Bequest
A contingent bequest is made only if certain conditions are met. For instance, if your primary beneficiary does not survive you, you can indicate your next choice through a contingent designation. An example of such a provision would be: “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 percent) to High Country News for its general purposes.”

Such bequests may be included in any new Will or Trust that you put in place. Your estate planner may also draft a codicil to your existing Will or an amendment to your existing Trust to provide for a charitable contribution.

With any of the above bequests, you may specify that your gift be used to support a specific program at High Country News rather than for general purposes. However, before doing so, please contact us to discuss program details and appropriate bequest wording.

A benefit to providing for a bequest in your Will, rather than making an outright gift, is that you may change your mind and bequest at any time.
In addition to providing you with certain tax advantages, beneficiary designations are a quick, hassle-free way to make a gift.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

High Country News accepts gifts of life insurance as the beneficiary of your policy. We also may be named as the beneficiary (primary or contingent) on your retirement accounts. In addition to providing you with the tax advantages described below, beneficiary designations are a quick, hassle-free way to make a gift. Changing your beneficiaries is easy: You may simply contact your insurance carrier or employer/plan administrator and request a beneficiary form. As with bequests, you have the freedom and flexibility to change your mind and your beneficiaries at any time.

DESIGNATING HIGH COUNTRY NEWS AS A BENEFICIARY OF AN INSURANCE POLICY

You can name High Country News as primary beneficiary of your life insurance policy or as contingent beneficiary, should your other beneficiaries not survive you. After your lifetime, the benefits from your policy would pass to High Country News free of federal estate tax. To establish this type of gift, you simply request a “Change in Beneficiary Designation” form from your insurance agent.

DESIGNATING HIGH COUNTRY NEWS AS A BENEFICIARY OF YOUR PENSION PLAN, 401(k) OR IRA

By naming a charitable organization as beneficiary of your retirement plan, you may save your beneficiaries money in federal taxes on many levels. First, designating High Country News as the beneficiary will remove the value of the retirement assets from your gross taxable estate. Additionally, because contributions to your retirement plan were likely not subject to income taxes at the time of contribution, nor were taxes payable as they appreciated in value over the years, distributions that a beneficiary receives from a retirement plan will be subject to federal income taxes upon receipt. However, since High Country News is a nonprofit and is exempt from taxes, it is not required to remit any portion of the distributions to the Internal Revenue Service.

For example, let us assume that Sally owns a 401(k) account that has a value of $50,000 at the time of her death, and that she designated her niece, Linda, as beneficiary. If Sally’s estate is taxable, Linda may only be entitled to as little as $30,000 in distributions. Further, as Linda received distributions from the 401(k) plan, she would be required to pay income taxes on such
Designating a charitable organization as a beneficiary of a retirement plan gives you a lot of “bang for the buck.”

distributions, and therefore would likely only receive a net benefit of $20,000, depending on her income tax bracket. However, High Country News, as a charitable organization, would receive benefit from the full $50,000, as compared to only $20,000. In addition, Sally’s estate would receive an estate tax charitable deduction for gifting the 401(k) to High Country News.

Designating a charitable organization as a beneficiary of a retirement plan gives you a lot of “bang for the buck.”
Your age, assets, and income objectives will help you to determine the best type of Life Income Gift.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS

A Life Income Gift is a highly effective way to contribute assets to High Country News, while allowing you to keep an income for yourself and others for the remainder of your life, their lives or a fixed term of years. To create a Life Income Gift, you make an irrevocable gift of cash, securities or real estate to High Country News, and in return, receive an income (fixed or variable, depending on the option you choose). After your lifetime and/or the lifetime(s) of other designated beneficiaries, the remaining balance of your gift would be used to support High Country News.

Your age, assets, and income objectives will help you to determine the best type of Life Income Gift. A fixed income option would be a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT), while a variable income option is the Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT).

CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUST (CRAT)

A CRAT allows you to secure a steady stream of income and reduce your taxes while helping to support High Country News. To create a CRAT, you place assets into an irrevocable trust and name a trustee (for example, High Country News, or a bank trust department). The trustee invests the assets (which can grow tax-free) and pays a fixed dollar amount to the trust beneficiaries (yourself, your spouse, your children, or whomever you designate) for life or for a set term of years. When the last income beneficiary dies or the trust’s term ends, the trust dissolves, and the remaining assets are distributed to the charitable beneficiary.

This option may be the right one for you if you are concerned about meeting your current financial needs.

The longer the income stream is distributed to you and your family, the less of a taxable deduction you are entitled to. However, the deduction may be taken in the year the assets are transferred to the CRAT, and you need not wait until the assets are actually distributed to the charitable organization.
**CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST (CRUT)**

A CRUT works the same way as the CRAT, with this main distinction: the income distributed is not a fixed amount. Instead, with a CRUT, you or your family receive a lifetime or term income that is a percentage (by law, a minimum 5 percent) of your trust’s assets valued annually. Income payments increase or decrease with the changing value of the trust.

The unitrust provides a potential hedge against inflation as income payments may rise over time. In addition, the unitrust can be structured to defer income and maximize growth (for retirement planning, for example) or to handle specific types of assets.

Another benefit to both the CRAT and CRUT is that no capital gain should be recognized by you upon contribution of appreciated property to the trust. Furthermore, you would be able to diversify your holdings within the trust without triggering capital gain.
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.

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS
If you have a sizable estate, wish to avoid taxes, and your heirs are generally taken care of for the foreseeable future, yet you wish to provide them with a substantial inheritance after your lifetime, a Charitable Lead Trust may be the right planned giving option for you. 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 — often with significantly reduced gift and estate taxes.

LIFETIME CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS
You establish a Charitable Lead Trust by transferring cash or appreciated assets, such as securities or real estate during your life, to a trust for the benefit of High Country News. The trustee may be the charity, a financial institution, you, or an individual of your choice. Your trust then provides annual income based on fixed dollar amounts (annuity trust) or a fixed percentage of the value of the trust (unitrust) to High Country News for a fixed period, usually 10 to 20 years. In the year you establish the trust, you would be entitled to receive a charitable tax deduction for the present value of the income that will be distributed to High Country News over the duration of the trust. This is particularly tax-advantageous, because you are entitled to the deduction up-front, rather than being required to wait until distributions to High Country News are actually made. Upon termination of the trust period, the principal transfers to your beneficiaries, enabling you to pass significant assets to family members with little or no gift or estate tax. It is possible, depending on your charitable desires, for Charitable Lead Trusts to be drafted so that there are no taxable gifts generated, even though your family members will eventually receive the assets. Amounts held by the Charitable Lead Trust should not be includable in your taxable estate.

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. As
with the lifetime lead trusts, there must be a fixed dollar amount (annuity trust) or a fixed percentage of the value of the trust (unitrust) that will be distributed to High Country News.

There are a variety of somewhat complex requirements that must be met in order for a Charitable Lead Trust to provide you with the tax advantages discussed above. We invite you to contact us for details on implementation of the Charitable Lead Trust.

THE TOM BELL LEGACY SOCIETY

The Tom Bell Legacy Society of High Country News was created to honor our founder, as well as those dedicated supporters who have chosen to leave a legacy for the future of High Country News by making a planned gift. Membership in the Tom Bell Legacy Society is open to all donors who have made such a commitment, and there are no dues or other responsibilities.

If you choose to include High Country News in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can say “thank you.” Informing us of your intentions does not create any obligation on your part. Please contact the HCN Development Department, 800-905-1155.
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 land, air, water and inhabitants — to help create what Wallace Stegner called “a society to match the scenery.”

The High Country News Development Department would be pleased to work with you and your financial or tax advisor to establish the planned gift(s) that are most appropriate for you to achieve your financial planning goals. Our communication with you about planned giving is strictly confidential and without obligation to you. For more information, please contact us.