

# THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

LEGACY AND FINANCIAL PLANNING  
NEWS FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

## Right Whale Wronged

Things are going terribly wrong for the North Atlantic right whale. Scientists predict that without immediate action this critically endangered whale—fewer than 450 remain—will likely be functionally extinct, meaning the population will no longer be viable, within 20 years.

Last year was catastrophic for the whales, with 17 known deaths and only five births. This year, researchers have not detected a single new calf. Moreover, new research shows that the population has been in decline since 2010.

Commercial whalers targeted right whales in the 19th and early 20th centuries because they swim slowly, stay close to shore and float when dead, making them the “right” whales to hunt. When right whale hunting was finally banned in 1936, the species was so depleted that its survival was uncertain. After receiving protection under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act in the 1970s, the right whale began a slow recovery.

Unfortunately, an increase in ship strikes and entanglements in commercial fishing gear now threaten the whale’s existence. Entanglements lead to drowning or a slow and painful death by infection or starvation and gravely impair a whale’s ability to swim,



NOAA/NMFS

feed and reproduce. Roughly 85 percent of the total right whale population bears visible scars from fishing gear.

In January, Defenders of Wildlife and our conservation allies filed suit to hold the National Marine Fisheries Service accountable for violating its legal obligations to protect the right whale from further deadly entanglements. Defenders also strongly supports the SAVE Right Whales Act of 2018, introduced on World Oceans Day in June to fund the development of innovative technologies to reduce life-threatening entanglements and ship strikes.

Defenders will tirelessly continue the fight, in the courts and in the halls of Congress, to save the right whale from extinction. 🐾



TRACY COLSON/USFWS



© LYNN SIMONS



© ALETHEA LEDDY

**FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Jim Luerssen**  
Director of Planned Giving  
Defenders of Wildlife  
1130 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
1-800-915-6789  
[legacy@defenders.org](mailto:legacy@defenders.org)  
[www.defenders.org/tracks](http://www.defenders.org/tracks)

# Don't Sleep on New Higher Annuity Rates

Take advantage of the new, higher charitable gift annuity rates in effect as of July 2018. Receive a strong monetary return for life by creating a charitable gift annuity with Defenders of Wildlife. In exchange for your gift of cash, appreciated stock or mutual fund shares (minimum \$5,000), Defenders will pay you a fixed dollar amount each year for the rest of your life. And you'll receive substantial tax benefits.

It's no wonder Defenders' members are wild about this special way to help protect wildlife! Hundreds of our supporters have created gift annuities now totaling more than \$3.5 million for Defenders, and many have made multiple gifts. The recently increased payout rates make this charitable gift opportunity even more attractive.

## Income you'll receive

Your annuity rate will depend on your age (at nearest birthday) when you make your gift. You can see the comparison in rate increases below. Annuities for two beneficiaries are also available.

### Old Rates

Age	65	70	75	80	85	90
Rate	4.7%	5.1%	5.8%	6.8%	7.8%	9.0%

### New Higher Rates

Age	65	70	75	80	85	90
Rate	5.1%	5.6%	6.2%	7.3%	8.3%	9.5%

## Immediate income tax deduction

You'll receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the value of your gift. This is a great way to save on your 2018 taxes.

## Additional tax advantages: gifts of cash

If you donate cash, a substantial portion of the annuity payments you receive will be completely tax-free for the rest of your actuarial life expectancy (the number

of years a person your age is expected to live, according to U.S. Treasury tables). The rest would be taxable as ordinary income. If you outlive your actuarial life expectancy, the entire annuity would then become taxable as ordinary income.

### Example:

*Sally, who is 80 years old, donates \$25,000 to create a charitable gift annuity. She'll receive an annuity of 7.3 percent (\$1,825/year) for the rest of her life. More than 80 percent of her annuity (\$1,346.85 of the \$1,825 she'll receive each year) will be completely tax-free for the next 9.4 years. Plus, she gets an income tax deduction of \$12,341.*

## Additional tax advantages: gifts of appreciated securities

If you donate appreciated stock or mutual fund shares, your annuity rate will be applied to the full value of your donated securities, no matter how low your cost basis. If you were to sell these assets, on the other hand, an immediate capital gains tax and a possible net investment income tax could substantially reduce the amount available for reinvestment.

For the rest of your actuarial life expectancy, only part of your annuity would be taxable as ordinary income. The rest would be a combination of tax-free income or income taxable as capital gain. The allocation would depend on the cost basis of the securities you donate. If you outlive your actuarial life-expectancy, the entire annuity would then become taxable as ordinary income.



# Generous Gifts to Protect Wildlife that Cost You Nothing During Your Lifetime

## How to leave a bequest to Defenders

There are many ways to provide for charities like Defenders in your will or living trust. Bequests to charity will pass completely free of estate tax. For example, you can:

- ◆ **Leave a percentage of your estate or the residual estate.**
- ◆ **Leave a set dollar amount.**
- ◆ **Leave a particular asset.** While almost any type of asset can be left to Defenders, government savings bonds (Series E, EE, H, HH, etc.) are especially smart assets to leave to charity from a tax standpoint.
- ◆ **Name Defenders contingent beneficiary.**

For example, many married couples establish “mirror” wills, each leaving assets to the other, with Defenders receiving the bequest upon the demise of the second spouse.

Whether you’re writing your will for the first time or updating plans already in place, please consider a gift to Defenders of Wildlife that will continue your legacy and protect the wildlife and wild places we all cherish.

## Other ways to make an impact at no immediate cost to you

- ◆ Use your beneficiary designation forms to name Defenders as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), a life insurance policy or a commercial annuity.
- ◆ Title or retitle a bank account as “payable on death” (POD) to Defenders or a brokerage account as “transfer on death” (TOD) to Defenders.

If you decide to remember Defenders in your plans, please be sure to use the legal designation language below and let us know so we can properly thank you! 🐾

**Use this legal language when including Defenders in your will, trust or beneficiary designation forms:** *Defenders of Wildlife (Tax ID # 53-0183181) a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia with its principal office at 1130 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.*

**“I have loved animals and nature all my life. It pains me when I hear that the endangered species act is in peril. I need to do what I can to support those species who do not have a voice.”**

—Eileen C., donor from Norwalk, Connecticut



**“There are no words to describe my admiration for Defenders, and their continued work to defend my beloved wolf, and other imperiled wildlife. I am very proud to be a supporter of such an organization.”**

—Georgina D., donor from Kennewick, Washington

## What if you don’t need income immediately?

You can make your gift now and get your tax deduction immediately, but defer receiving your annuity payments until a later date. The longer you wait for your annuity payments to begin, the higher your annuity rate will be.

## Receive a personalized illustration

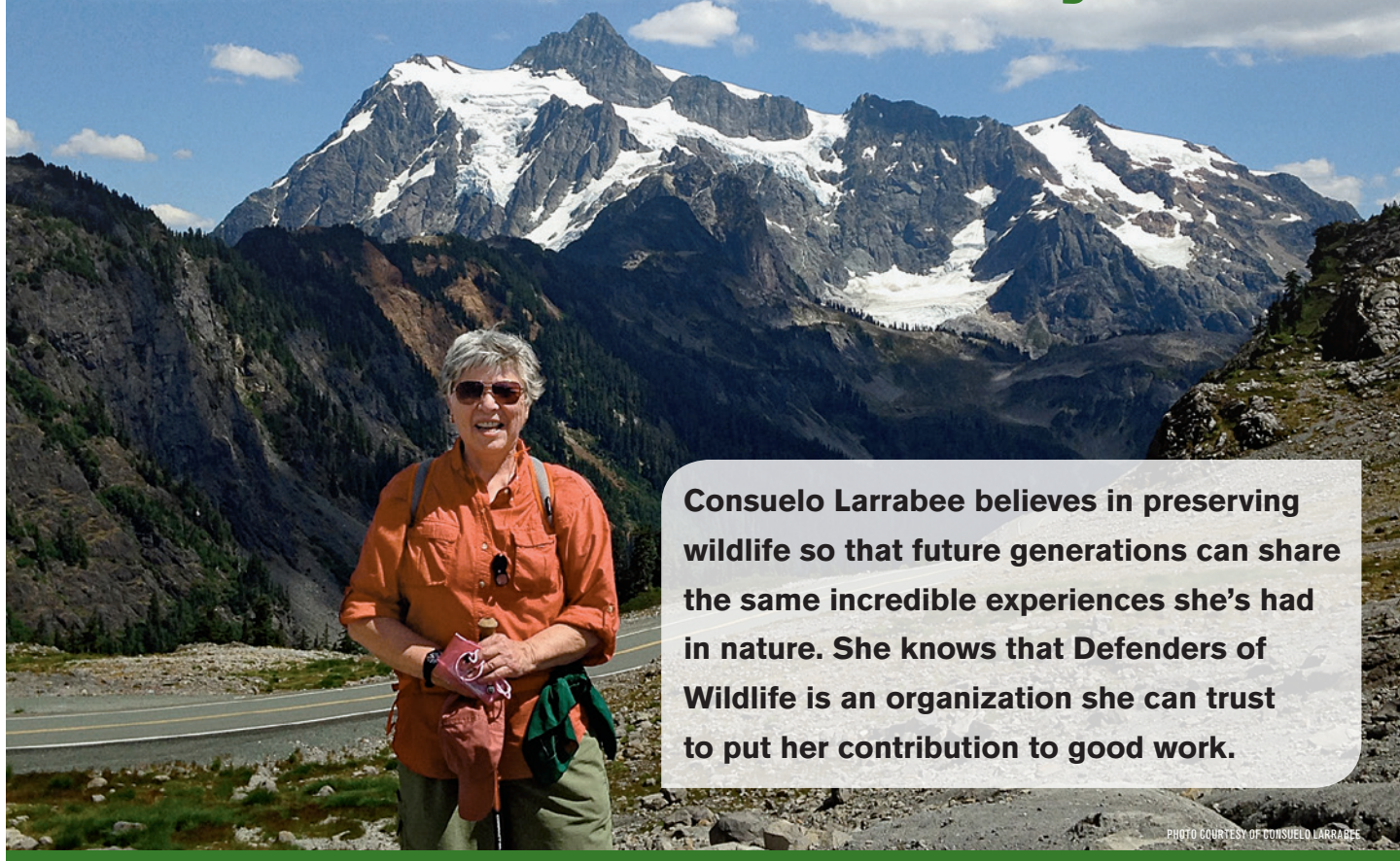
To receive a free personalized illustration showing the annuity rate and tax benefits you would receive, please email Jim Luerksen at [legacy@defenders.org](mailto:legacy@defenders.org), visit [www.defenders.org/annuity](http://www.defenders.org/annuity) or call 1-800-915-6789. 🐾



© TAYLOR WILSON



**“Defenders is number one at protecting the wild species and places I love, and that is why I have included them in my will.”**



Consuelo Larrabee believes in preserving wildlife so that future generations can share the same incredible experiences she's had in nature. She knows that Defenders of Wildlife is an organization she can trust to put her contribution to good work.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CONSUELO LARRABEE

**Please join Consuelo by including Defenders of Wildlife in your estate plans.**

**Sample bequest language for your attorney:**

*“I give, devise and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate/the remainder [or \$ \_\_\_\_\_] of my estate to Defenders of Wildlife, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) [Tax ID #53-0183181] located in Washington, DC.”*

**For additional information...**



ABOUT REMEMBERING DEFENDERS IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS, CONTACT US:

**Defenders of Wildlife**  
1130 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

*Jim Luerssen, Director of Planned Giving*  
1-800-915-6789 ♦ [legacy@defenders.org](mailto:legacy@defenders.org)  
[www.defenders.org/tracks](http://www.defenders.org/tracks)

*We recommend you seek the advice of an estate or tax professional in connection with any planned gift.*