Planning Your Legacy with

WOODS HOLE RESEARCH CENTER

WHRC is an independent research organization where scientists study climate change and how to solve it, from the Amazon to the Arctic.

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George Woodwell founded the Woods Hole Research Center on the belief that a healthy environment is the birthright of every human being—a vision that has endured for over 30 years. Guided by this fundamental commitment to a sustainable planet for future generations, WHRC works to advance solutions to the climate crisis through cutting edge research and real-world policy applications.

Many thoughtful and generous donors have partnered with WHRC through outright gifts to help us achieve success in these areas. As we prepare for the future, please consider a planned gift as a way of preserving George Woodwell’s extraordinary legacy and life work.
Known to many as America’s first environmentalist, George Perkins Marsh was a 19th century scholar, diplomat and naturalist. His book, Man and Nature, sparked the establishment of forest reserves and the national forest system. It is still widely considered a pivotal text in the founding of the conservationist and environmental movements. To express our sincere appreciation to those who commit to planned gifts, WHRC offers lifetime membership in the George Perkins Marsh Society.

**Benefits and Privileges of Membership**

As a George Perkins Marsh Society member, you will enjoy the benefits that flow from sound estate and financial planning. Your generosity may result in an increased spendable income, immediate income tax deduction, reduced estate taxes, and/or reduced capital gains taxes on appreciated assets. As a member of the Society, you play an important role in securing the future of WHRC’s work to safeguard the health of our planet for generations to come.

Each year, George Perkins Marsh Society members:

- are recognized in the Honor Roll of Donors in the Center’s annual report
- are invited to special events hosted by the Center around the country
- receive periodic reports about Center activities, plus special reports from the Center’s president not otherwise available to the public
- are invited to participate in an annual “State of the Center” briefing hosted by WHRC President Phil Duffy

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A legacy gift comes from enthusiasm for an organization’s mission, for its people, for its accomplishments, or even from a sense of duty. On all accounts, we found common ground with the Woods Hole Research Center and chose to name it as a beneficiary in our estate planning. Working, learning, even traveling with so many of those similarly enthusiastic about the Center’s mission have been highlights for us over three decades. How could we not join the George Perkins Marsh Society and make a commitment to WHRC’s future?

— Mary Lou & Charlie Montgomery
Walpole, NH
Examples of the most common planned gifts are described here, though there are a variety of other ways to make a deferred commitment to Woods Hole Research Center.

Bequests

A bequest is a gift made by naming Woods Hole Research Center as a beneficiary in your will. This is both a simple and popular method of partnering in the Center’s future. If you already have a valid, up-to-date will, your attorney can add Woods Hole Research Center as a beneficiary through a simple amendment to your will called a codicil. For a straightforward bequest, we suggest the following language: “I give and bequeath the sum of ___ dollars to Woods Hole Research Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in Falmouth, Massachusetts for its general purposes.” Bequests of all sizes are appreciated.

Alternatively, you could bequeath a particular asset or percentage of your estate rather than a dollar amount.

Living Trusts

Including WHRC in a revocable living trust works in much the same manner as a bequest. Your attorney can assist you in tailoring the language to your needs and wishes.

Retirement Plans

One of the most tax-wise ways to make a gift to Woods Hole Research Center is through a beneficiary designation in your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other retirement plan. Because retirement plans at final distribution may incur considerable taxation to your estate and heirs, a gift of these assets may be one of the lowest cost ways to provide critical support for WHRC’s work. In addition, you are able to make an annual tax-free donation directly to WHRC from your IRA account.

WHRC has partnered with FreeWill to offer a new online tool that will help calculate your yearly IRA distribution, and help you decide how much you can give as a qualified charitable distribution—tax free. Get started with FreeWill’s online tool and learn more—it’s free.

https://www.freewill.com/qcd/whrc

Life Insurance

Whole life, universal, and other forms of permanent life insurance policies can provide an important planned gift for WHRC’s future. You can contribute all or part of an insurance policy that you own but no longer need.

When Woods Hole Research Center is named as the owner and beneficiary of an existing policy, your annual premium payments become tax-deductible. In addition, you generally are able to deduct an amount approximately equal to the current cash value of the policy for income tax purposes in the year you transfer ownership. Another option is to purchase and name WHRC as owner/beneficiary of a new life insurance policy.

Don’t Have a Will?

You don’t need to be wealthy to leave a legacy bequest, but you do need a will. WHRC has partnered with FreeWill to assist you with this process. You will have the opportunity to leave a bequest to the Center if you so choose. It’s 100% free for you to use, and most people finish in 20 minutes or less. To learn more, visit www.freewill.com/whrc.
Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity provides you with a guaranteed fixed income for life in exchange for your irrevocable contribution, which may be in the form of cash and/or appreciated securities. WHRC’s minimum level for funding this type of gift is $25,000.

The annuity is governed by a simple contract, and payments are made to you on a quarterly or other periodic basis. Annuity rates are based on your age at the time of the gift and typically range from 4.7 percent up to 9.5 percent.* The older you are, the higher the annuity rate. Individuals age 65 and older are eligible to begin receiving payments immediately.

Deferred Payment Annuities
For individuals younger than age 65, or for those who wish to delay the income stream from an annuity until retirement, there are deferred payment charitable gift annuities. These annuities work the same as those described above, but payments are deferred a minimum of one year, resulting in a higher annuity rate.** The longer payments are deferred, the more the annuity rate increases. For gifts to WHRC, annuitants must be at least age 60 at the date of first payment.

Charitable Remainder Trusts
With the assistance of an attorney, you can establish an irrevocable trust naming yourself, another individual, or a bank as trustee. You may transfer cash, securities, or other property to the trust. The trust then pays income to you and/or other beneficiaries for life or a term of up to 20 years at a certain percentage or dollar amount as determined when the trust is established. When the trust’s term is concluded, the remainder is distributed to Woods Hole Research Center. The income and estate tax advantages of a charitable remainder trust can be significant. A trust can be an especially attractive method of giving for those who own stock with a low cost basis.

For More Information

Like any financial decision, a planned gift must be chosen and shaped with care. We look forward to talking with you and your advisers about the best method for including WHRC in your financial or estate plans.

Please contact:
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Director of Board Relations and Stewardship
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www.whrc.org/plannedgifts

This brochure provides information of a general nature only and is not intended as legal or financial advice. The services of a financial adviser, attorney, or other estate planning professional should be obtained when considering any type of planned gift.
A chance encounter introduced us to Phil Duffy and the Woods Hole Research Center several years ago, which led to our heightened awareness and understanding of the most daunting environmental challenge facing the world today: nothing less than the survival of the planet. We began making annual contributions and also decided to include the Center in our estate planning to support WHRC’s mission—both now and in the future—to promote science-based solutions to the vexing challenge of climate change.

—Frank and Judi Kauffman
Falmouth, MA & Chevy Chase, MD