



# The Living Wilderness Fund

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Dear Contributor,

We would like to thank you for choosing to leave the legacy of a living wilderness. The Sitka Conservation Society's Living Wilderness Fund is an endowment designed to protect a legacy of wilderness forever. The goal of the fund is to advocate for wilderness protection and wilderness values.

While other gifts may crumble or be forgotten, a gift of wilderness is the only legacy that grows stronger over time. Your memory will live on as loved ones and others visit the areas you have protected--each time they see a brown bear and cub forage in the intertidal, Sitka deer graze in the old growth, eagles snatch salmon out of estuaries, and flowers bloom in the alpine.

There are several ways to make a bequest. Each seeks to be responsive to your intentions and needs. Through the terms of your bequest you will decide the circumstances of your giving and the amount you want to give, either as a dollar figure or as a percent of all parts of your estate. The following language may aid you and your attorney in preparing your bequest to the Living Wilderness Fund for the benefit of Sitka Conservation Society.

## Specific or General Bequest

A specific or general bequest is one in which you state that you are giving a fixed dollar amount, a specific asset, or a percentage of your estate to the beneficiary. This could include a gift of cash, securities, real estate or personal property. In each case the Living Wilderness Fund would be designated as the beneficiary.

*For example, your specific bequest might state:*

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Living Wilderness Fund of the Sitka Conservation Society, an Alaska nonprofit corporation (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ %) of (specify cash account, securities, real estate, personal property)."

## Residuary Bequest

With a residuary bequest you direct that all or part of the remainder of your estate, after the specific bequests and any debts, taxes and expenses have been satisfied. All or part of what is left may be designated as a gift to the Living Wilderness Fund.

*For example, your residuary bequest might state:*

“All of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate I give, devise and bequeath to the Living Wilderness Fund of Sitka Conservation Society, an Alaska nonprofit corporation.”

### Contingent Bequest

A contingent bequest comes into effect only if the beneficiaries with a higher priority do not or cannot receive the bequest. If, for example, the named beneficiaries are not living at the time of a person's death, or if the beneficiary chooses not to accept a bequest, the Living Wilderness Fund could be named as a contingent beneficiary to receive the estate.

*For example, your contingent bequest might state:*

“In the event that my designated beneficiary is no longer living at the time of my death, I bequeath ( \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_% of (all or part of my estate) or the rest of my estate) to the Living Wilderness Fund of Sitka Conservation Society, an Alaska nonprofit corporation.”

Again, we would like to thank you for bequeathing a gift to the Living Wilderness Fund. Once you have decided how you would like to direct your gift, please let us know of your plans. Knowing your plans will also help us in planning for the future programs of the Sitka Conservation Society. This will enable us to ensure your intentions are carried out as you wish. If you wish, we would also like to honor you publicly as one who has committed yourself to the future of our wild areas through estate gifts to the Living Wilderness Fund.

Founded in 1967, Sitka Conservation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization that protects the natural environment of the Tongass and Sitka's quality of life. Our federal tax identification number is #92-0096633.

This language is merely provided as a sample and is not intended to be a substitute for tax or legal advice.

For additional support contact:

### **Sitka Conservation Society**

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