Charitable Remainder Trusts

A Charitable Remainder Trust with the National Audubon Society enables you to make a major gift to support our work of protecting birds and their habitats while receiving income for life. The most common type is the Unitrust, which has many flexible variables and is designed to reduce income taxes as well as the value of your taxable estate.

How does a Charitable Remainder Unitrust work?

- You irrevocably donate $100,000 or more in cash, stocks/securities, or real estate.
- Draft the trust document and choose who will serve as Trustee.
- You and/or the named beneficiaries receive payments based on an established percentage payout (5%) of the market value of the trust, which is revalued annually.
- At the end of the trust period (your lifetime(s) or a fixed number of years), the remainder passes to Audubon to be used as you have directed.

What are the benefits of a Charitable Remainder Unitrust?

- You receive income for life or a term of years, for named beneficiaries 50 years or older.
- You receive an immediate income tax deduction.
- Unitrusts have the potential to increase in value over time.
- Turn an illiquid asset into an income-producing asset.
- You avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated assets you donate.
- Your gift creates long-term support for Audubon’s conservation work.
- You may add more gifts to your trust at any time, for additional tax deductions and increased income payments.
How much will I save in taxes?

If you donate appreciated assets held longer than one year, such as securities/stocks/real estate, you will completely avoid the capital gains tax that you would pay if you sold those assets yourself without making a gift. You will also earn an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the value of the property you donate, based on the term of the trust. The deduction is calculated by actuarial charts similar to those used by the insurance industry.

How do I establish a trust?

If you know an attorney and financial institution well-versed in trusts and trust management, please work with them. For your convenience, Audubon provides a template trust contract with Audubon as the sole trust beneficiary. Audubon works with State Street Global Advisors in Boston, MA, who can serve as Trustee for the trust. Donors who join the State Street pool of managed assets benefit from a low trustee fee and a trust manager who has partnered with Audubon for more than 30 years.

How will my gift be used by Audubon?

All unrestricted gifts are used to support Audubon’s most urgent conservation priorities. If you want to designate your gift for a specific purpose, please contact us.

Next Steps

To discuss your gift or for more information, please contact us. We can provide a confidential forum in which to explore your options, without any obligation on your part.

CONTACT

Shari Kolding, CAP®
Director of Gift Planning
512.236.9076
shari.kolding@audubon.org

Audubon Office of Gift Planning
225 Varick St., 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014
www.audubon.org/legacy
plannedgifts@audubon.org