

Selecting Your Heirs

Who are the potential heirs for your land?

Your heirs could include your children or grandchildren or perhaps other relatives like your nieces, nephews, or cousins. But your loved ones don't have to just include family, is there a friend or neighbor that you'd like to include?

For each of your potential heirs, think about the following topics. Some of these topics could be potential barriers that would need to be addressed, for example if they live far away from your land or if they show little interest in your land. But don't be discouraged, barriers can be addressed although they might need some creative thinking.

For each potential heir, complete the following

Name

Location

Do they live close to your land or are they far away? Could this potentially change in the future?

Engagement

How engaged are they with your land? Where do you think they are on the heirloom scale with respect to your land?

Interests

What are they interested in? Is there a way to engage them with your land around those interests? Some might be easy, like birding but others might be more difficult like using their mobile phone.

How will you divide your estate if you have multiple potential heirs?

After you have thought about who might be your heirs, then think about how you might divide up your estate between them. Remember, your land is just one part of your estate.

Also think about do you want to be equitable so each heir receives the same amount or do you want to be fair. If you want to be fair, then it will be up to you to decide what fair means. Perhaps there is a reason why one heir would be something specific (your land for example, because they share your values or goals for the land) or perhaps you'd like to reward one heir or help one heir that needs some additional assistance. Remember that this is your estate, you can decide how you plan to divide it, however you will need to make sure you communicate your plans with your heirs so they understand why and you can address any potential conflicts or issues.

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