



Working together for open space, working lands, and wildlife habitat on the Palouse

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TROY WOMAN PROTECTS LAND AND LEGACY A Tribute to her Brother and the Community

TROY, ID (July 21, 2013) – Judy LaLonde, owner of Big Meadow Creek Alpacas in Troy, recently established a conservation easement on 49 acres to permanently protect the forest and agricultural character of the land as well as the fish and wildlife habitat along Big Meadow Creek. The creek is a tributary of the west fork of Little Bear Creek and is a high priority stream for protection and restoration of steelhead trout habitat. Ms. LaLonde donated the conservation easement to the Palouse Land Trust, which will work with LaLonde and all future landowners to make sure the property remains forever protected from incompatible use.

Big Meadow Creek Alpacas was established by LaLonde’s brother, Bradley Neuman. When Neuman passed away suddenly in 2008, LaLonde inherited the farm. “Brad was my best friend,” said LaLonde. “He introduced me to alpacas, and he left me this beautiful land. I felt that if I could protect the farm, the forest, and the wildlife habitat, then I could give something back to Brad and to the whole community of Troy.”

John Bolles, board president of the Palouse Land Trust, praised LaLonde’s commitment to the land and the community. “Judy is a great example of the generous landowners we often work with: Good stewards of the land who want to perpetuate their vision for the greater good. The forest on her property not only provides beautiful open space and scenery that is a tribute to the rural heritage of Troy, it also represents important habitat for fish and other wildlife. A conservation easement on her land means this place will continue to be protected for future generations.”

An open house is planned for Saturday, August 24, 2013, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, to celebrate the permanent protection of the property. Big Meadow Creek Alpacas is at 1021 McKeehan Road in Troy. Carpooling is encouraged.

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and the Land Trust that allows the landowner to continue owning and using the land, leave it to their heirs, or even sell the land, but restricts certain types of development in order to preserve special natural values of the property. The conservation easement stays with the land regardless of ownership. Once a conservation easement is in place, the Palouse Land Trust works with future owners to make sure the restrictions are upheld and the easement donor’s vision is fulfilled. Palouse Land Trust is a non-profit organization and is supported by member donations. Please visit www.PalouseLandTrust.org for more information.

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If you’d like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Judy LaLonde, please call Amy Trujillo at 208-669-0722 or email amy.trujillo@palouselandtrust.org.