

SAYING GOODBYE



Geoff Crimmins/Daily News

Amy Trujillo, center, walks with Nick Norton and Jaime Walker on Thursday at Idler's Rest Nature Preserve north of Moscow. Trujillo is leaving the Palouse Land Trust after six years to take a job in Hailey, Idaho. Norton will serve as interim director of the trust, while Walker will continue as the community outreach director.

Palouse Land Trust executive director to leave job next month

Amy Trujillo helped trust preserve hundreds of acres of Palouse land

By Garrett Cabeza
Daily News staff writer

Amy Trujillo was the first official employee at the Palouse Land Trust, an organization with the mission to conserve the open space, scenery, wildlife habitat and water quality of the Palouse for current and future generations.

After serving six years with the organization — all of them as the executive director — she will move on in January.

Trujillo said she will serve as Wood River Land Trust's deputy director starting next year in Hailey, Idaho.

She said she did not have plans to leave Moscow, and it will be difficult to do.

"But it was just a tremendous opportunity for me and my family," Trujillo said.

She said she will miss the people the most — co-workers, landowners and others she has met in her six years living and working in Moscow.

"The people are amazing," she said, adding they are like a large family. "It's been really touching

the last few weeks."

Trujillo said her time at the trust has been rewarding and fulfilling.

"It's been better than I could have imagined," Trujillo said. "The friendships that I've made through it have been ones that I will keep the rest of my life."

Trujillo said she is most proud of the projects that required

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teamwork from multiple landowners, agencies and donors to preserve land.

One of those projects is a Palouse Prairie conservation easement the trust is in the process of completing. The easement will be contiguous with the trust's other prairie easements on Paradise Ridge and Gormsen Butte south of Moscow, Trujillo said.

Trujillo said when combining the 62 acres of Palouse Prairie the trust purchased last year, other conservation easements and the newest easement, the trust created more than 400 acres of protected prairie to help support the recovery of Spalding's catchfly, a federally-threatened flowering plant, and prairie restoration in general, she said.

"I think that's what I'm most proud of is just being able to work with so many great people and see how it makes the organization thrive and grow," Trujillo said.

Trujillo said improvements at Idler's

Rest northeast of Moscow will commence in the spring.

She said the trust is attempting to raise \$20,000 in matching funds to a \$30,000 grant from the Thomas O. Brown Foundation and \$5,000 donation from a Pullman couple. Trujillo said the trust is within a few thousand dollars from reaching the \$20,000 goal, and it hopes to reach the amount by the end of the year. She said people can donate at palouselandtrust.org.

Trujillo said the money will help with Idler's Rest improvements, including parking lot and new trail work, Americans with Disabilities Act compliant access to the cedar grove and community programming.

Nick Norton, PLT conservation project manager, will serve as the interim executive director starting in January. He said the trust's board of directors is in the early stages of searching for the next executive director.

Norton said the hope is to have the executive director position filled by late April.

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