



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Announcing: The Lawlor Hay Fields

### *A 79-acre Sustainable Agriculture and Conservation Easement*

The Interior Alaska Land Trust (IALT) is very pleased to announce the completion of a sustainable agriculture and conservation easement on the Lawlor Hay Fields. This 79-acre property is owned by the Mayo Family Trust and farmed by its current stewards, Happy Gap Farm. About 7 acres of the property are woods and over 70 acres are cleared fields used for hay production and pasture. The fields contain Brome grass and a variety of wild grasses enjoyed by migratory birds, moose, fox, lynx, hare, and human visitors year-round. Popular walking, skiing, and running section-line trails offer wonderful scenic overlooks and wildlife viewing opportunities. Well-used and well-loved, neighbors are celebrating the protection of a favorite neighborhood green space.

**Purpose of Easement:** The purpose of this conservation easement is to retain the character of the land and its sustainable agriculture and wildlife habitat potential in perpetuity.

**Significance of the protected Property:** The Lawlor Hay Fields property meets five of the nine Land Selection Criteria adopted by the Interior Alaska Land Trust in January 1996.

1. Land that contains, or has the potential to contain natural systems of educational or scientific value

The Property is one of the few agricultural areas in close proximity to Fairbanks. As such, it could be of interest for research or educational purposes. The cleared, south-facing land provides unusual wildlife habitat.

5. Land that is, or has the potential to be used by the public for recreation, including trails

The Property is currently used by neighbors for recreation, especially the trails around the perimeter.

6. Land that is valuable to a community as open space due to its proximity to developing areas or its prominent position in how people perceive their community.

The Property is a large piece of undeveloped land, providing open space and wildlife habitat in a rapidly developing part of Fairbanks. The Property is surrounded by relatively small residential lots, and a commercial riding stable.

7. Land that provides scenic enjoyment to the public, such as land seen along roads or rivers, or land with unique physiographic features.

The Property is one of the few hay fields in the Fairbanks area, which is mostly forested residential land. As such, it provides a unique feature in the landscape.

8. Land of agricultural or forestry significance

The Property produces approximately 55 tons of hay/year that is bought locally by livestock owners.

### **About the Interior Alaska Land Trust**

As a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization, the Interior Alaska Land Trust is committed to the enjoyment, stewardship, and voluntary conservation of land. Their mission is to conserve land north of the Alaska Range for the benefit of the community by working with Interior Alaska landowners to acquire, protect, or manage natural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, historic, or cultural aspects of property.

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