Insider Info



CLARISSE O'CONNOR PRINCIPAL BROKER/OWNER, TIMBERLINE REALTY

Clarisse O'Connor loves Wallowa County so much that during her earlier years in the county, for vacations, she'd hire out to cook for a local outfitting company that packed hunters into the Eagle Cap Wilderness. A longtime banker who became a Certified Realtor in 1997, O'Connor says she cherishes memories from those vacations when she'd cook big breakfasts, pack giant lunches, and, with no phones to interrupt her days, enjoy "peace and quiet" throughout the days until the hunters would return tired and late, then go straight to bed.

O'Connor moved to the Joseph area from Spokane in 1983 and never has regretted the move.

A former horseback riding enthusiast who still raises a few head of cattle seasonally, O'Connor maintained a secondary sewing business for many years where, among other things, she made Native American wedding dresses and outfits for Chief Joseph Days' royalty.

WHEN FRIENDS VISIT:

"I like to take them to the lake and to Imnaha. I also like to take them out to eat. We have a wonderful variety of restaurants here that range from healthy to everyday fare to Thai to the Old Town Café to the new Silver Lake Bistro and more."

WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT WALLOWA COUNTY:

"I like the views and I still find the sunsets inspiring. ... We who live here like to step up and help each other. And one more thing I really like is that our words still mean something."

A STUNNING PLACE TO LIVE

If you are looking for a place with a unique way of life in a stunning natural setting, Wallowa County could be for you. This remote valley is home to roughly 7,000 people, and offers a one-of-a-kind way of life few can even imagine.

Wallowa County is surrounded by wilderness, and is blissfully lacking things like traffic lights, subdivisions, strip malls, and big box stores.

The small communities of Enterprise, Joseph, Imnaha, Lostine, and Wallowa have their own distinct flavor, and tiny Lostine to Joseph, with its famed Main Street Art Walk.

This is still a place where you can find land or a lot with a great view, and build your dream home – however you choose.

Activities for families abound, ranging from skiing in the winter months to camping and hiking wilderness trails in the summer. Community leaders adopted an innovative approach, providing free and confidential coaching for local entrepreneurs ready to start a new adventure.

Health care is where we have true bragging rights. As rural areas have struggled with health care, Wallowa County has to buillt a state-of-the-art, full service hospital and emergency room. Today, Wallowa County's health care serves as a national model for rural health care.

