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Vale District Office

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News Release  
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## **Labor Day Weekend Wagon Encampment at National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center**

Baker City, Oregon- A Wagon Encampment event August 30, 31 and September 1 at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will recreate a pioneer “nooning” stop on Oregon Trail as it might have looked 150 years ago.

“Nooning” was a historic term for a mid-day lunch break and rest. In the mid-1800’s, scores of pioneers traveled in their wagon trains through the Baker Valley at this time each year, traveling 12-15 miles per day. Nooning was crucial to conserving energy during hot late summer days.

On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm costumed interpreters will provide Dutch oven cooking demonstrations at the Center’s outdoor wagon encampment. Samples are available for visitors. A variety of dishes will be prepared, all using historic recipes and ingredients that were available to overland pioneers. Dishes will include freshly prepared bison and lamb stews, cobblers, and biscuits, but the typical daily monotonous pioneer fare of hard tack, dried fruit, and beans will also be on hand.

Sheryl Curtis will appear as “Bullwhackin’ Kass” with her team of oxen. Curtis gives brief demonstrations of how the massive draft animals take commands for basic tasks and answers questions about frontier teamsters and early freighting. The six foot tall oxen, though large and intimidating, love to be petted by visitors and enjoy posing for photographs with children.

Nationally known musicians Phil and Vivian Williams will be offering three musical programs each day in the Leo Adler Theater. Recognized for their research and preservation of historic American music, the Williams play fiddle, guitar and banjo to recreate authentic music from pioneer days. Local fiddlers Stefanie Gordon and Jane Steussey will be providing music for pioneer dancing at the outdoor wagon encampment.

Historic characters such as miners, merchants, washwomen, and pioneer children will be on hand to tell visitors their stories of life on the Trail. A mountain man will be giving black powder shooting demonstrations, and help modern visitors better understand the true challenges of “living off the land”.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the Bureau of Land Management, is located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$8. Seniors are \$4.50. Children 15 and under are free. Federal passes are accepted. Visit [oregontrail.blm.gov](http://oregontrail.blm.gov) for more information about the Center, or call 541-523-1843 for updates on programs and events. For information on this and other events in Baker County, Oregon over Labor Day Weekend, call 1-800-523-1235.

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