

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Vale District Office

BLM

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News Contact: Wanda Lassiter (541)523-1835

Winter Activities at National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

The “Homestead Handicrafts” series of workshops will continue through January with a workshop on hand piecing quilt squares with Mary Brattain on January 12, and Making Rag Dolls with Kelly Burns on January 27. The quilting workshop is a drop-in workshop between 10:00 and 2:00 that requires no pre-registration, with a cost of \$10.00 to cover admission and materials. The Rag Doll workshop is another drop-in workshop from 1:00 to 3:00 with a nominal fee to cover cost of supplies. The Rag Doll is based on a historic style, does not require sewing, and is suitable for all ages and skill levels.

January snows sometimes discourage people from visiting the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, which is unfortunate, according to staff operating the site daily. Roads and driveways are cleared daily and driving is generally not a problem. Spectacular wintery vistas from the top of Flagstaff Hill make great photo opportunities. Exhibits are open, and films and interpretive presentations are offered each day in the Leo Adler Theater. Visitors can always call ahead for current weather and road conditions.

In addition to regular programs throughout the month, special programming is offered over the weekend of January 19-20-21 (Martin Luther King Day). All interpretive presentations during the “Winter Wilderness Weekend” will feature topics to help visitors better understand and appreciate what happens in nature during winter in eastern Oregon. Programs will include talks and activities on identifying wildlife tracks, casting tracks, wildlife and plant identification, nature photography and art demonstrations, and children’s activities. Films on the Donner Party and Mountain Men will show how people survived (or didn’t survive) winter wilderness conditions in historic times.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is five miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from Interstate 84. The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. For more information call (541) 523-1843 or visit the web at oregontrail.blm.gov. The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a Federal fee site. Admission for adults is \$5.00 and seniors are \$3.50. Free fee days are offered monthly. Federal passes are accepted.

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The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

