

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

100 Oregon Street • Vale, Oregon 97918 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale>

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-030-2012-03
For release: Immediate Release

Contact: Mark Wilkening
(541) 473-6218

Vale District Office

BLM

National Historic Oregon Trail Center-Reduced Hours for Two Months

Baker City, Ore. – The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) announced today it will be open to the public four days per week, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday starting December 5, 2011 through February 12, 2012.

Sarah LeCompte, Director of NHOTIC, held public meetings throughout the summer of 2011 to help develop a new business plan for the Center. From the meetings and analyzing years of data, it showed that visitation waned in December and January while costs to operate the facility escalated during this two month time period. Keeping the roads and pathways clear of snow and ice during severe weather contributed to a major expense during the winter months.

The business office will continue to be open Monday through Friday, 8:00–4:00 weather permitting. The facility can also be opened for pre-scheduled tour groups of twenty or more people on other days. Staff plans to evaluate this seasonal schedule in the spring with local tourism marketing organizations before the next season.

Having the facility closed to the public three days a week will allow staff to do needed repairs to exhibits, develop new programs and to assign visitor services employees and volunteers to other projects which have been deferred due to lack of staffing.

Cost to visit NHOTIC during is reduced during the winter months but for details visit the following link for hours and fees at NHOTIC, <http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/index.php>.

For additional information concerning this about the reduced hours, please contact Sarah LeCompte, Center Director at 541-523-1825 or Mark Wilkening, Public Affairs Officer (541) 473-6218. Additional information about the BLM Vale District can be found by visiting the district website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – more than 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 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, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

-BLM-

Come join the Oregon/Washington BLM on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr for the latest on outdoor opportunities, videos of your public lands, spectacular photos, and a whole lot more!

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/blmoregon

FLICKR: www.flickr.com/photos/blmoregon



YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/blmoregon

