Meet the Pioneers at Oregon Trail Center Memorial Day Weekend

BAKER CITY, Ore. – The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is offering two days of special programs featuring historic re-enactors and demonstrations of frontier life Saturday and Sunday May 25 and 26.

Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day, volunteers and staff will demonstrate skills such as quilting, art, black powder arms, music, games and food. Presentations by roving interpreters portraying pioneers include “John Stewart” and “Joe Meek”.

Featured performer Karen Haas of Tacoma will appear three times daily in the Leo Adler Theater, including presentations Friday May 24. Programs are “Wagons West”, Friday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., “Tales and Tunes” Saturday 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and “Narcissa Whitman” at noon each day. The first two programs are interactive, family friendly presentations. “Narcissa Whitman” takes a more serious look at the life and times of the pioneer missionary, and may be more appreciated by adults than by children.

“Wagons Ho! Interactive Oregon Trail Experience” continues in the Flagstaff Gallery. This special exhibit uses costumes, life size games, puppets, and a full scale packable pioneer wagon for youngsters to learn by doing about Oregon heritage and the frontier adventure.

The Interpretive Center will be open all weekend, with living history presentations in the theater, and all hiking trails open. Conditions are excellent for bird watching and picnicking, or taking the self-guided geology walk.

The Trail Center is located five miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is currently open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is $8.00; for seniors it’s $4.50; children 15 and under are admitted for free. Federal passes are accepted. Call (541) 523-1843 for updates on programs and events. For more information about the Trail Center visit: www.oregontrail.blm.gov

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than $130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly $5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a $1.1 billion budget. 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.

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