

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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News Release
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Special Exhibit for Children at National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Baker City, Oregon: Kid sized exhibits and interactive displays help youngsters learn the Oregon Trail story in the special exhibit “Pack Your Wagon: Critters, Costumes & Curiosity”. The exhibit runs through July 5th in the Flagstaff Gallery at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

The exhibit is designed for younger visitors and school students but is suitable for all ages. Interactive elements include a giant magnetic map of the Oregon Trail, a puppet theater, a wildlife memory game, a poetry board, and an animal track rubber stamping activity. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a full scale “Pack Your Wagon” display where visitors practice the decision-making skills Oregon Trail pioneers needed to plan their long journey to the west. All activities are designed to enhance curriculum goals of school history classes but incorporate a fun, interactive approach to learning about frontier history and nature. Some of the activities are suitable for preschoolers.

A special program “Pack Your Wagon” will be held within the exhibit featuring costumed interpreters portraying a bickering pioneer couple mid-way through their trip on the Oregon Trail who enlist youngsters to help them resolve their arguments of what stays in the wagon, and what gets thrown out to lighten the load. Call ahead for times and dates of this presentation.

The exhibit was funded through a grant from Oregon Community Foundation, matched with donations from Trail Tenders and Bureau of Land Management. Staff interpreters can help educators or group tours customize their visit to the exhibit with a guided activity. To book a special group tour of the exhibit please call the Interpretive Center at least 48 hours ahead of your visit. Parents and teachers might also want to inquire about the “Jr. Pioneer” activity book in which youngsters earn an award by completing a series of activities throughout the Interpretive Center.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily winter hours; 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily summer hours. For more information call (541) 523-1843 or visit the web at oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site. Admission for adults is \$5 and seniors are \$3.50 through the end of March; \$8.00 for adults and \$4.50 for seniors April 1-October 31. Free fee days are offered monthly. Federal passes are accepted.

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