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For Immediate Release June 3, 2011 News Contact: Sarah LeCompte, (541) 523-1825

Summer Programs for Youth at Trail Center

BAKER CITY, ORE. Activities for youngsters and their families are scheduled throughout the summer at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Activities combine learning about nature and history while enjoying the outdoor trails and the exhibits at the site. .

Each week through August 25 the “Thursday Outdoor Club” will be held from 1:30 to 3:00 pm with nature-based activities and short hikes at the Interpretive Center. A different theme each week includes learning about geology, birds, wildlife, photography, and orienteering. Guests from the Grande Ronde Watershed Council and Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area will bring hands-on activities to learn about fish. All activities are geared for ages 8-12, but are suitable for family members of all ages. Youngsters can participate for \$2.00 per meeting which includes all supplies, a journal, and – when eight activities are completed – a special award. Families purchasing a NHOTIC family pass for \$45 can bring the entire family to all sessions at no additional cost.

On Saturday June 18th, the Whole Earth Nature School brings their “Survivor Kid” workshop to the Interpretive Center. This six-hour day camp teaches how to survive and thrive in the outdoors with basic skills such as tracking, building a fire, building a shelter, and identifying native plants and their uses. It requires pre-registration and a fee of \$20.00.

Birds of Prey will bring their raptor show to the Interpretive Center on June 15. This program includes “ambassador raptors” such as owls and hawks in the Leo Adler Theater, where the audience can see the birds up close, and ask questions of their handler.

Nature Hikes, Geology Walks and Gold Panning are offered four or more times each week. Youngsters may also request a free copy of the “Junior Pioneer” and “Junior Naturalist” booklets with activities to complete while visiting the site, and a chance to win an award by completing all activities.

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

-BLM-

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.

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