

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Vale District Office

Camping Exhibit at Trail Center

BAKER CITY, OR. – A special exhibit exploring the history of camping in the West opens June 26th and continues through September 8th at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. “Traveling Light: 200 years of Camping in the West” covers camping technology from the era of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to modern day luxury camping with packable gourmet food and wilderness espresso makers. The exhibit includes information on the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and how camping and connecting with nature has influenced opinions about wilderness.

The exhibit looks at shelter, water, food, clothing, and creature comforts over the past two centuries. Camping due to necessity of no lodging or highways in the 1800s gradually transformed to a recreational activity, with an array of choices for campsites and gear, and a huge support industry. Technology associated with camping is displayed using artifacts, photographs and artwork. Four diorama scenes will compare a typical mountain man camp, Oregon Trail pioneer camp, early 1900s car camping, and modern day wilderness camping.

Throughout the summer the exhibit will be accompanied by special programming and workshops aimed at helping visitors learn more about camping skills including Leave No Trace techniques and Dutch Oven camp cooking, and a “Pack a BackPack” activity.

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 6 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.

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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. The BLM’s mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In fiscal Year, 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

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