

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

BLM
Vale District Office

News Release OR-038-2011-07
For Immediate Release May 13, 2011

News Contact: Sarah LeCompte, (541) 523-1825

Run to the Ruts Race on National Trails Day

BAKER CITY, ORE. - There is still time to sign up for the “Run to the Ruts” 5k fun run/walk to be held at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on National Trails Day, June 4.

The run/walk race is open to all runners and walkers and will be held on the hiking trail system at the Interpretive Center. The race course is described as “challenging” as it includes an elevation change of 370 feet in the 3.1 mile race through sagebrush and spectacular views. The course includes both paved and unpaved trails. The race starts at the top of Flagstaff Hill, down to the Oregon Trail ruts where pioneers once traveled at a slow oxen pace, then back up to finish at the top of the hill.

Due to the narrow width of the trails, total number of race participants is limited. The run starts at 9:00 am, with walkers starting immediately afterwards. There is a \$20 entry fee for runners, a \$10 fee for walkers. All entered runners/walkers receive a shirt (moisture wicking for runners, cotton for walkers), plus a goody bag. Juice, fruit, bagels, and breakfast burrito brunch will be served to all registered race participants immediately following the race. Over 20 local sponsors have contributed to the event.

All trails at the Interpretive Center were repaved last fall. Each year, a growing number of runners and walkers have been using the Interpretive Center trails for fitness training, so this is a great time to get to meet some of those fellow runners, try out trail running, enjoy the outdoors, and celebrate National Trails Day – which is a fee free day at the Interpretive Center.

The race is sponsored by Trail Tenders. More information and registration is available by calling them at 541-523-1844, e-mail oregontrailshop@wildblue.net, www.oregontrailshop.com, complete photo view of the race course is on their blog: www.trailtender.blogspot.com.

Trail Tenders are holding the race as just one portion of a daylong celebration with dedication of the new front gate and entrance remodel at the Interpretive Center, a Dutch oven lunch, live music, and family activities including gold panning, carriage rides and nature hikes.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the Bureau of Land Management, is located 5 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.

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/oregonblm

FICKR: www.flickr.com/photos/blmoregon



YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/blmoregon

