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For Immediate Release

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Trail Center seeks volunteers for National Public Lands Day

BAKER CITY, Ore. – The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is seeking volunteers to help with several projects on Saturday September 24 as part of National Public Lands Day (NPLD).

Saturday is an admission-free day at the Visitors Center in observance of NPLD, normally held on the last Saturday of September. National Public Lands Day started 17 years ago with three sites and 700 volunteers. It has grown every year, and events across the nation last year included over 170,000 volunteers repairing trails, removing trash, restoring habitat and other similar projects.

National Public Lands Day educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resource issues and the need for shared stewardship of these valued, irreplaceable lands. It builds partnerships between the public sector and the local community based upon mutual interests in enhancing and restoring America's public lands. It also improves public lands for outdoor recreation, with volunteers assisting land managers in hands-on work.

The event at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center begins at 9:00 am and goes until noon. Projects include cleaning trails and outdoor interpretive areas of weeds, sanding and painting exterior benches, picking-up trash, graveling and repairing trails, and cleaning and repairing signs. Interested volunteers should meet at the front porch of the center. All equipment and supplies are provided. Each volunteer who participates will receive a T-shirt, and the first thirty volunteers receive a free pass good for one visit to a federal recreation site. Water and snacks will be provided.

The NHOTIC, 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 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$8; for seniors it's \$4.50; children 15 and under are admitted for 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 this and other events in Baker County, Oregon call 1-800-523-1235.

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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