

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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For Immediate Release

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Oregon Trail Interpretive Center offers Thursday Outdoor Club for young visitors

BAKER CITY, Ore. – The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is offering special programs throughout the summer to help young visitors and their families connect with nature.

Each Thursday between June 14th through August 23rd the “Thursday Outdoor Club” is 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, art, and orienteering. Guest presenters from regional resource agencies and non-profit organizations will provide programs on habitat and wildlife. 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. Families purchasing a NHOTIC family pass for \$45 can bring the entire family to all sessions at no additional cost. Parents, grandparents, or guardians accompanying a youngster can attend at no cost.

The June 14th session will be the “Pioneer Hike” with Ranger Rachael using trails on site to explore the differences in technology, food and resources between hiking in the 1850’s and hiking today. Hikers will learn basics on wayfinding and native plants and animals in eastern Oregon. June 21st guest presenter Tom Novak, noted local artist, will lead club members through the basics of drawing native plants and animals and sketching outdoors. Pre-registration by calling 541-523-1843 is appreciated, but visitors to the Center who are unable to pre-register can join in as well.

Birds of Prey brings their raptor show to the Interpretive Center June 23rd. This program includes “ambassador raptors” such as owls and hawks from the Birds of Prey Conservation Area outside Boise. The program is 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.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the Bureau of Land Management, is located east of Baker City, Oregon. Take Exit 302 from Interstate-84 onto Highway 86 and proceed five miles. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$8; seniors are \$4.50; and 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 program and event updates. For information on other events in Baker County, Oregon, call (800) 523-1235.

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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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