

NEWS Release

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Vale District Office

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Wagon Train re-enactment brings Oregon Trail pioneers back to Baker City.

Baker City, Oregon: Visitors to the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on August 15th can walk along with costumed interpreters, authentically outfitted wagons and riders. The route, along Ruckles Creek Road on Virtue Flat, roughly follows a segment of the Oregon Trail used in the 1860's by early-day miners and settlers to Baker Valley.

Wagon master Mike Hanley of Jordan Valley, along with wife Linda, has led many wagon trains utilizing historic style equipment and the traditions of the wagon train. During the Oregon Trail era of the 1840's through 1870's, pioneers usually passed through this portion of Eastern Oregon from mid-August to September. This time, volunteers from throughout Oregon are joining the train to provide visitors with the opportunity to see what the emigrants experienced on their trek west.

The wagon train will camp Friday night, August 14th on the eastern end of Ruckles Creek Road, in Baker County, and will start rolling west about 8:30AM Saturday morning, August 15th. After a trek of 9 miles the wagons will encamp along Route 86 below and across the road from the Interpretive Center. The encampment will be open to the public until 6:30PM. Entertainment will follow up at the Interpretive Center from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The wagon train will stay encamped through Sunday noon.

Visitors may view or photograph the wagon train from a view point at the top of Flagstaff Hill. The Wagons should be in viewing range around 1-2PM. Those wishing to immerse themselves further in the emigrant experience may walk along with the wagon train. Visitors may hike the entire 9 miles, or try a shorter 2.5 mile trek. The full walk begins at 8AM, the 2.5 mile walk starts at 1PM. A shuttle bus from the top parking lot of the Interpretive Center will take walkers to drop-off points. Water and portable toilets are provided. Walkers should be in reasonable physical shape, and must provide their own snacks and lunch. Please wear good walking shoes and clothing suited for hot, dry weather.

In addition to the wagon train, Ray Egan will be performing living history presentations in the Leo Adler Theater, and James McGill, author of "Rediscovered Frontiersmen: Timothy Goodale" will be on hand to answer questions about the Goodale cutoff and autograph his book. For more information about the Wagon Train, please contact the Interpretive Center at 541-523-1843.

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 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$8. Seniors are \$4.50, and fee is good for two days. 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 in Baker County, Oregon, call 1-800-523-1235.

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