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OR-030-2006-034
AUGUST 1, 2006

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Beautiful Trails and Burning Forests

Oregon's Hiking Trails and Chautauqua Presentations to be held at Interpretive Center

BAKER CITY, Oregon – On August 8th and 9th the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will be presenting two very special programs. On August 8th at 2 p.m., William Sullivan, author of numerous books on Oregon, will present a slide show titled "Oregon's Most Beautiful Trips and Trails." After the program the author will be signing books including "100 Hikes/Travel Guide: Eastern Oregon." On August 9th at noon, the very timely Chautauqua program "Burning Forests" will be presented by Oregon State University history professor William Robbins. Both presentations will take place in the Leo Adler Theater at the Center.

William Sullivan is the author of ten books and numerous articles about Oregon. In 1985 Sullivan set out to investigate Oregon's wilderness on a 1,361 mile solo backpacking trip from the state's western most shore at Cape Blanco to Oregon's easternmost point in Hells Canyon. His journal from that adventure titled "Listening for Coyote" was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission in 2005 as one of the 100 most significant books on Oregon's history. Sullivan's other books include "Oregon Trips and Trails," "Exploring Oregon's Wild Areas," and a popular series of "100 Hikes" guidebooks.

"Burning Forests" places fire, particularly human caused fire, in its historical context to show how political and economic interests shaped forestry and public policy. William Robbins retired from the Oregon State University faculty in 2002 as Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History. Robbins is one of the Pacific Northwest's foremost authorities on the interplay between history and the landscape. His most recent books include the "Great Northwest: In Search of a Regional Identity" and "Landscapes of Promise: The Oregon Story, 1800-1940." Dr. Robbins' presentation is sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

The Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. For more information call (541) 523-1843 or visit oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site.

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