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New Exhibit at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

A New Exhibit and a Glorious 4th at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

BAKER CITY, Oregon – A new exhibit titled “Ezra Meeker: 70 years on the Trail” will open July 1 at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City. The exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of Ezra Meeker’s historic journey which began the movement to preserve the Oregon Trail.

Ezra Meeker first traveled the Oregon Trail in 1852. In 1906, at the age of 76, he retraced his route west to east via ox-drawn wagon. Meeker lectured, wrote newspaper and magazine articles, and produced booklets and post cards to increase awareness of the trail. Thirty seven trail markers were installed along the way. He eventually met with President Theodore Roosevelt and managed to draw enough attention and public support that Congress appropriated funds for Trail preservation. On later trips Meeker retraced portions of the Oregon Trail in a custom-built automobile and in an open cockpit airplane. Recognized as the *Champion of the Oregon Trail*, his unwavering dedication set in motion efforts to preserve the Trail that continues today.

A good time to view the Meeker Exhibit would be during “Pioneer Fourth of July” that will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Independence Day. Of special interest will be a collection of replica historic American flags that reflect the development of the country from 1795 to 1908. Costumed Interpreters will be present to discuss how the pioneers celebrated the “Glorious 4th”.

The Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM 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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