

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Vale District Office

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Interpretive Center Offering Historic Firearms Seminar

Baker City, Oregon: Historian and firearms expert Ken Swanson will lead an all day seminar on Historic Firearms of the American West on Saturday May 2nd at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

The seminar will include lectures on the technology and trends that shaped the manufacture, design, and use of weapons on the frontier. Myths and legends surrounding guns and their role in western culture will be examined. Swanson will also offer instruction on display and interpretation of historic weapons for the general public, including safety and security, conservation, and how to present firing demonstrations.

Swanson worked over 20 years with the Idaho State Historical Society, including serving as Director of the State Museum and Historic Sites. He is currently Director of the Idaho Military Museum. He has been a consultant on firearms to many museums, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of Justice, and various police agencies. He has presented historic firearms lectures to numerous state and regional museums and historical societies, is a certified Civil War cannoneer, and an instructor for the National Muzzleloading Rifle Association. He shoots competitively with everything from muzzleloaders to full automatic firearms.

The Historic Firearms Seminar is scheduled for 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Pre-registration is required with a fee of \$25. Space is limited. For more information or to register call 541-523-1843, or e-mail OR_NHOTIC_Mail@blm.gov.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. For more information call (541) 523-1843 or visit the web at oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site. Admission for adults is \$8 and seniors are \$4.50. Free fee days are offered. Federal recreation passes are accepted.

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