

**NEWS RELEASE
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100 years later Ezra Meeker returns to Baker City

BAKER CITY, Oregon – 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. As he traveled Meeker lectured, wrote newspaper and magazine articles, sold booklets and post cards and solicited donations to raise money to place markers along the Oregon Trail. The Oregon Trail preservation work Meeker began continues to this day. Ezra Meeker Oregon Trail Trek Centennial re-enactors will be at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City on Wednesday July 26.

The Ezra Meeker Trail Trek Centennial, which includes 23 stops in seven states is sponsored by the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Ezra Meeker Historical Society who are commemorating the trip by displaying live oxen and Meeker's original covered wagon. Historian Dennis Larsen will present a slide show on Ezra at 10:30 am and Ezra Meeker, portrayed by Ray Egan, will give his original lectures at noon.

In addition to the appearance at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on Wednesday July 26, Meeker and Troop will be in Geiser Pullman Park in Baker City on Tuesday July 25 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. for informal discussions and photo opportunities.

Of the approximately 37 original Oregon Trail markers instigated by Meeker, five are located in Baker County, including one at Flagstaff Hill on the grounds of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and one in Geiser Pullman Park. The others are in Durkee, Huntington, and Old Mount Pleasant.

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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