

News Release
For Immediate Release

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WAGONS HO! FILM FESTIVAL on November 28

Baker City, Oregon: The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center's annual Wagons Ho! Film Festival is from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 28, 2008. Each year, the Interpretive Center offers this opportunity to learn where popular Hollywood depictions of the western history diverge from historical facts. This year's lineup includes an animated feature and two classic westerns. In between films, interpreters will offer historical background on the film subject, and provide commentary about the series.

Shows begin at 9:30 am with "Fievel Goes West" This 1991 award winning animated feature is about a family of mice who, after emigrating to America, decide they need to move to the far west, in hopes of finding a place where "mice and cats can live in peace." The film uses the voices of John Cleese and James Stewart to portray classic western characters.

James Stewart also stars in the second feature "Bend of the River" starting at noon. Stewart portrays a determined man leading a wagon train into Oregon, and confronting challenges of stolen supplies and livestock, double-crossing friends, and competition for the charms of a beautiful woman on top of the rigors of traversing a rugged landscape.

At 2:00 is the 1946 classic western "Canyon Passage" starring Dana Andrews with a cast of well-known Hollywood regulars early in their careers, and music by Hoagy Carmichael. Andrews plays a cowboy-businessman in a frontier Oregon gold mining town. "Canyon Passage" is considered a trendsetting film for the western genre, and includes just about everything one would want in a good western such as a cabin raising, poker game, bar fights, shoot-outs, gold dust, romance, and Ward Bond as the bad guy – all in technicolor.

In between features, Trail Tenders will offer a lunch of bratwurst, cooked dutch oven style, plus chips and a drink for \$5.00. The Oregon Trail Shop will be open all day and offering documentary films about the westward migration story – for those who prefer historically accurate depictions to the Hollywood dramas.

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 4:00 p.m. daily, but will be closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday. 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 \$5 and seniors are \$3.50. Federal passes are accepted.

