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Grant will provide students “hands-on” Oregon Trail activities

BAKER CITY, Oregon – This spring, students will be able to try on pioneer clothing, pack a full-scale wagon, and get up close and personal with the Oregon Trail thanks to an \$8,000 grant awarded to Trail Tenders, Inc. this month. The grant, received from the Oregon Historic Trails Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, will be matched with funds from Trail Tenders, Inc., and the Bureau of Land Management, to create a “Children’s Activity Room” exhibit at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City.

The exhibit, scheduled to open March 7 in the Flagstaff Gallery, will include a full-scale, fully accessible “Pack Your Wagon” component with authentic scale foam replicas of typical pioneer gear, which will allow younger visitors to learn hands on the work involved in picking and choosing what to take on a long journey. Other elements will include a puppet theater, a clothing try-on activity, and a large magnetic map.

The interactive exhibit is designed to be set up each spring during peak field trip season for students and teachers studying the Oregon Trail and life ways of early Oregon settlers. Some smaller, portable components of the exhibit will be made available for classroom use through short-term loans other times of the year.

The Oregon Community Foundation supports more than 1,300 community organizations throughout Oregon each year. Trail Tenders, Inc., is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of the educational and recreational programs for the public benefit within the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center complex, and to further the Center’s goals throughout Baker County. For more information about the Trail Tenders and volunteer opportunities at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, call 541-523-1843.

The Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. For more information about the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, visit our website at oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site.

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