

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-038-2012-19**  
**For Immediate Release:**

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## **It's a Star Party at the Trail Center!**

**BAKER CITY, Ore.** - A special night-time program to learn about the sky will be featured at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Saturday night, September 15.

The annual "Starry Night Star Party" invites local astronomers to set up telescopes and enjoy dark skies away from town lights. Novice stargazers can bring binoculars or share telescopes with experienced astronomers during the event from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Earlier in the day, 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Baker City astronomer Ric Riencks will present safe solar viewing.

Giveaways from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and from Astronomy Magazine will be available to help get acquainted with constellations, satellites, and preservation of night skies. New to the event this year are special activities for youngsters, with films in the theater and outdoor activities to learn the constellations.

Visitors may arrive any time before 8:00 p.m.; however gates will close at 8:00 p.m. to avoid the "light pollution" of car headlights. Guests are requested to park in the lower parking lot to reduce excess light.

**The evening program is offered free of charge.**

Visitors to the evening program are requested to observe star gazing etiquette of using no flashlights to improve visibility, and to please leave pets at home. Benches are available, but it is recommended to bring your own folding chair as seating is limited. Weather conditions may change the event, so visitors may wish to contact the Center for an update if cloudy weather obscures the skies.

The Trail Center is located five 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. Admission for adults is \$8; for seniors it's \$4.50; children 15 and under are admitted for free. Federal passes are accepted. Call (541) 523-1843 for updates on programs and events. For information on this and other events in Baker County, Oregon call 1(800) 523-1235. More information about the Trail Center visit:

[www.oregontrail.blm.gov](http://www.oregontrail.blm.gov)

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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