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*Championship Fiddling at Interpretive Center*

## Vivian and Phil Williams to perform at Labor Day Weekend Wagon Encampment

**BAKER CITY, Oregon** – Visitors to the Labor Day Weekend Wagon Encampment at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will delight at the impromptu performances of Vivian and Phil Williams September 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition to their delightful campsite performances, the two can be seen in the Leo Adler Theater at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. September 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>.

Vivian Williams is well known in the U.S. and Canada for her fiddling ability. She was the 1999 Seniors Champion at the National Old Time Fiddling Championships in Weiser, Idaho, three time Washington State Fiddle Champion, three time National Ladies Champion, four time winner of the West Coast International Championship in Canada, and has won the Smithsonian Fiddle Contest in Washington, DC.

Phil performs on guitar, mandolin, banjo, and bass. Phil has developed a reputation as an outstanding backup player and has published a collection of fiddle tunes for the mandolin under the title "The Mandolin Player's Pastime."

Much of the fiddle and old time music found throughout the Pacific Northwest, and now found mostly in rural areas, was brought to the region over the Oregon Trail. Phil and Vivian have done considerable research into the dance music played on the Oregon Trail and in pioneer communities along the way as recorded in pioneer journals and have recorded a CD of these tunes. In their presentations they will play authentic instruments from the time period; mid-1800's fiddle, guitar and fretless banjo.

Other Wagon Encampment activities will include Bullwackin' Kass and her oxen, pioneer skill demonstrations, Dutch oven cooking, and children's activities.

The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information call (541) 523-1843 or visit [oregontrail.blm.gov](http://oregontrail.blm.gov). The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site.

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