# BRIEF: Oregon Trail Ruts Damaged, BLM Seeks Information

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### **ABSTRACT**

Hundreds of items have been removed from a few miles of trail listed on the National Register of Historic Places and protected under the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979.

#### **FULL TEXT**

Aug. 23--BURLEY -- Southern Idaho was a treacherous stretch of the Oregon Trail that forced pioneers to drag their belongings through the desert just before the trek through rugged Oregon. Some reminders of that piece of Idaho history have just been destroyed.

Ruts from the many wagon wheels that rolled through the dirt and sagebrush near Burley during the 1800s have been damaged, the Bureau of Land Management said in a press release Thursday. Hundreds of items have been removed from a few miles of trail listed on the National Register of Historic Places and protected under the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979.

The BLM believes the individuals used shovels and metal detectors in a search for coins and artifacts embedded in the historic trail. Digging in an archaeological site on public land can result in a felony charge, said BLM Archaeologist Suzann Henrikson.

The violation of ARPA could result in up to \$20,000 in fines and one year in prison. Selling or purchasing the artifacts retrieved from the site is also a violation of ARPA.

If you have any information regarding the damage to the Oregon Trail ruts near Burley, please call BLM Special Agent Linden Schlenker at 524-7590.

Credit: The Times-News, Twin Falls, Idaho

#### **DETAILS**

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