

# *BLM News*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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## **SUMMER TALK SERIES SCHEDULED**

The Summer 2003 History in the Park, Stories from the West program is a free lecture series reflecting the wealth of history of Nevada and the American West. Several of the talks focus on stories of the California National Historic Trail.

Sponsored by the Northeastern Nevada Museum and the Bureau of Land Management Elko Field Office, the talks will be held on the lawn in the City Park immediately behind the Museum.

Topics for the series include the Donner Party (June 17<sup>th</sup>), Mormon Battalion in Nevada (July 1<sup>st</sup>), John Sparks – Western Cattle King (July 17<sup>th</sup>), and Children on the Trail (August 19<sup>th</sup>).

The first talk on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., will be about the Donner Party and will be presented by BLM Elko Public Affairs Officer Mike Brown.

“Most people are familiar with the "end" of the Donner, or Donner/Reed Party in the winter of 1846/47,” Brown described. “It's a story that's been told thousands of times and it never loses its audience. It was (and still is) the most famous incident of cannibalism in American history. The very horror of being snowbound in the Sierras helped spur the growth and use of various cutoffs on the California and Oregon Trails. In addition to death by cholera, disease, accidents, etc. - being eaten by your companions was added to the list of hazards of overland travel. The "story" of the Donner Party is a collection of stories about chance meetings, poor communication, bad decisions, coincidence, uneasy feelings, bad luck, and perhaps simply "fate.”

All talks begin at 7:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the talks will be moved indoors to the Museum theater. All talks are free and the public is encouraged to attend. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for open seating on the grass.

For more information about the series, contact Amber Johns at the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko, (775) 738-3418.

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