



# SHERIFF

## CROOK COUNTY

*"Conservators of the Peace"*

"PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE"

308 NE 2nd St, Prineville, OR 97754 | Phone: (541) 447-6398 | Fax: (541) 416-0353

**Contact: Undersheriff John Gautney    Date: August 1, 2012    Case No.**  
**Event: SAR Event-Missing Person    Location: Ochoco National Forest near Ochoco Summit East of Prineville**

## Media Release

On July 31, 2012 The Crook County Sheriff's Office took a report of a missing person. We sent a crew to the area to look for the person who had been enroute to Albany from LaGrande, Oregon. The missing person is identified as 60 year old David Whitson. Mr. Whitson had contacted family members by phone and said he was near Ochoco Divide and was out of gas. Family members responded to the area and were not able to locate Mr. Whitson. They contacted the Sheriff's Office for assistance.

The initial search team located Mr. Whitson's vehicle On USFS Road 27 and started tracking from that location. First thing this morning 2 SAR K9 Teams began a K9 search for Mr. Whitson. Currently we have SAR Command coordinating the search with several SAR volunteers assigned to the Mission.

Oregon Emergency Management has been advised and are standing-by if additional resources are needed.

Mr. Whitson is described as follows:

David Whitson  
60 years of age  
5 ft. 8 inches tall  
Approx. 195 lbs  
Possible medical problems-not believed to be life threatening.

The Crook County Sheriff's Office is asking that anyone having had contact with David Whitson over the past 48 hours to contact the Sheriff's Office at 541-447-6398.

### **Updated information as of 1730 hours on August 1, 2012:**

Today at approximately 1600 hours, Mr. Whitson was located by a family member near the Ochoco Reservoir which was outside the official search area. Mr. Whitson was dehydrated and had minor injuries, but declined medical treatment. He was reunited with his family. Mr. Whitson was located more than 20 miles from the location of his vehicle which had run out of gas on USFS Road 27 near Grant Springs in the Ochoco National Forest.

The Crook County Search and Rescue Unit was assisted in the operation by four crew members from the Oregon Army National Guard with a HH60 "Mike" Blackhawk helicopter which is a MEDEVAC aircraft assigned to Charlie Company, 7-158 Aviation Regiment of the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 out of Salem, Oregon.

Crook County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all the SAR Volunteers who responded to this mission. We are very fortunate to have a large SAR Volunteer group in Crook County willing to respond to emergencies like this at a moment's notice. A mission of this sort would be very difficult to staff if not for these trained and qualified volunteers.

**Undersheriff John Gautney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**