



★ CROOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ★

308 N.E. 2ND STREET
PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754

RODD CLARK, SHERIFF

PHONE: (541) 447-6398
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MEDIA RELEASE

September 25, 2008

Contact: Undersheriff Jim Hensley, Crook County Sheriff's Office, Phone: 541-416-3865 or 541-447-6398.

*****UPDATE*****

September 25, 2008 5:20 pm.

On September 25, 2008 at approximately 3 pm Donald Curtis was observed by an Oregon State Police Airplane approximately 5 miles east of where he had parked his vehicle. The pilot of the airplane was able to direct search teams to his location on B.L.M. lands at the very east end of Teeters Road. Mr. Curtis was in good spirits and was in good condition for the ordeal that he had been through. He was transported back to the Search and Rescue command post where he was reunited with his family.

Mr. Curtis had spent the night in the woods and other than being a little hungry, thirsty and tired was very happy to see his family.

The Crook County Sheriff's Office and the Crook Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue unit was assisted by the Oregon State Police, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue unit, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, and the Shelk Family (Ochoco Lumber Company) providing an airplane for the early part of the search.

Original Media Release

On September 24, 2008, at approximately 6 pm the Crook County Sheriff's Office was contacted by Patricia Curtis of Shedd, Oregon in regards to her overdue husband who was hunting in the Ochoco National Forest. It was reported that Donald Curtis, age 53, of Shedd, Oregon was archery hunting with a friend in the Ochoco National Forest.

On Tuesday, September 23, 2008, Mr. Curtis contacted his wife and advised his hunting partner had a medical emergency. Mr. Curtis advised that his hunting partner was taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Prineville and was later transported by air to St Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon. Mr. Curtis advised his wife that he and his hunting partner had wounded an elk and that he needed assistance in tracking and removing the



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animal. He made arrangements to meet his wife and others at the Ochoco Ranger Station on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 11 am. Mrs. Curtis arrived at that location at the scheduled time.

Mrs. Curtis reported waiting three hours for Mr. Curtis at Ochoco Ranger Station and then obtained directions to Mr. Curtis' campsite. Mrs. Curtis went to the campsite and did not locate Mr. Curtis so they returned to Prineville and contacted the Crook County Sheriff's Office. Crook County Search and Rescue responded to the area and in the early morning hours of September 25, 2008, located Mr. Curtis' vehicle several miles from his campsite. Search and Rescue personnel searched the area through the night for Mr. Curtis and were unable to locate him.

Search and Rescue units are continuing the search this morning, September 25, 2008, with the assistance of the U.S. Forest Service and the Deschutes County Search and Rescue units.

The search area is approximately 7 miles south of the Big Summit Prairie area in the Ochoco National Forest. Mr. Curtis is described as a white male adult, 5'4", 160 – 165 pounds, short brown curly hair, blue eyes, and having a moustache.

As further information develops, we will notify with updates.