



**Deschutes County Sheriff's Office
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MEDIA UPDATE April 20, 2009 7:00pm

Smith Rocks State Park

BY: Sgt. Scott Shelton

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office SAR Coordinator

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue continued the search today for Alex Thompson.

Today's search efforts involved approximately 35 personnel from the following agencies: Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Deschutes County Search and Rescue, Crook County Search and Rescue and the Oregon State Parks. Additionally Leading Edge aircraft assisted with a helicopter.

Searchers completed an extensive shore and water search from the point that Alex was last seen to approximately the foot bridge crossing the Crooked River. The area searched was approximately 2 miles long.

Additionally searchers completed shore searches an additional 2 miles downstream.

A helicopter search was conducted from the foot bridge to Lake Billy Chinook.

The search teams have been unable to locate Alex at this time.

Search efforts will continue for the next several days in a scaled down manner. These searches will continue to focus on the areas of high probability to locate Alex.

Search efforts today were greatly enhanced by the reduction in water flow. This flow will be increasing over the next 24 hours making search efforts more difficult and hazardous.

Family members have been consulted with throughout the duration of this search. The family of Alex Thompson supported the decision to scale back the operation of the search to insure searcher safety.

Additional information will be provided in updated press releases.

Update, 04-19-09

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue crews continued the search for Thompson throughout the day today. More than 30 searchers including divers, swift water technicians and mountain rescue technicians scoured more than a mile and half of the river but were unable to locate Thompson.

The search will resume tomorrow morning as searchers continue to take advantage of the lower water level during a limited window of opportunity.

Corporal Wayne Morgan

MEDIA RELEASE

Search for Missing Swimmer in Crooked River

Crooked River at Smith Rock State Park, 04-18-09

BY: Cpl. Wayne Morgan

Missing: Alex Thompson 19 Years Old
Aloha, Oregon (Currently OSU Student in Corvallis)

At approximately 4:15 PM Alex Thompson was swimming with fellow OSU students in the Crooked River at Smith Rock State Park. Thompson became exhausted and then disappeared into the swift water. Friends called 911 Dispatch and started searching for Thompson from the banks.

Deschutes County Sheriff's Deputies, Redmond Fire Department, Oregon State Parks Rangers and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue responded to the area. Approximately 18 Sheriff's Search and Rescue members searched the river and banks until dark. Members of the Sheriff's Search and Rescue dive team were in the water searching as well.

Ochoco Irrigation District was contacted and the water flow from Bowman Dam was decreased to assist in the efforts. The search for Thompson will resume tomorrow morning.

There is no further information available at this time.