



# SHERIFF

C R O O K C O U N T Y

*Sheriff Jim Hensley*

"PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE"

## MEDIA RELEASE

Date: October 2, 2011 3:30 pm

Date & Time of Incident: 10/01/11 to 10/02/11 9:32pm

Type of Incident: Search and Rescue callout for overdue hunter

Location of Incident: Ochoco National Forest, near Crystal Springs

Prepared by Sheriff Jim Hensley

### Subject Information:

Eldon Simpson 54 year old Prineville resident

### Narrative

On Saturday 10/01/11 at 9:31 pm the Crook County Sheriff's Office received a report that Eldon Simpson, age 54 of Prineville had failed to return to his camp on forest service road 150 near Crystal Springs in the Ochoco National Forest after a day of hunting.

Members of the Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue unit responded to the area shortly after the report came in and began driving in the area in an attempt to locate Simpson. The SAR members used sirens and other signaling devices in an attempt to signal Simpson and did not get any responses. The SAR teams remained in the area attempting to locate Simpson throughout the night but he was not located.

On Sunday 10/02/11 at 5:00 am 17 SAR members, including 2 K-9 tracking teams, responded to the area and began to prepare to start a ground search and prior to starting the search, Simpson was located walking on a forest service road by one of his hunting companions and returned to his camp at approximately 6:30 am. Simpson was uninjured and did not require any medical treatment.

From information gathered Simpson had become disorientated and after dark started a fire and spent the night in the woods. During the night Simpson had heard the sirens that the SAR team was activating but did not signal back and after daylight walked out to a road where he was picked up and taken back to his camp.

While out in the woods hunting or any other activities in the forest everyone should always be prepared in case they become lost or unable to make it out of the woods after dark. They should have necessary items to spend the night in the woods. Matches or other means to start a fire, warm clothing, a large plastic bag to use to keep dry, water, food (snacks), signaling device of some kind (whistle) and to make sure someone knows what area they will be in. A GPS is another piece of equipment that would be a great investment for anyone that is planning on recreating in our national forests. These devices can be very crucial and can assist in finding your way out of the woods even in the worst weather.

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