

NEWS RELEASE

Russel Burger, Sheriff
Lane County Sheriff's Office
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 682-4150 / FAX (541) 682-4522
Email: sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us



DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 12-14-07 approximately 1 p.m.

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 12-14-07 3:30 p.m.

NATURE OF STORY: Missing Person Search

LOCATION: Umpqua National Forest
Southeastern Lane County

VICTIM: Jeanie Smith, age 56, of Cottage Grove

DETAILS: Shortly before 1:00 p.m. this afternoon Jeanie Smith (missing in the Umpqua National Forest since Thursday afternoon) was located by an air crew of the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

Smith was found in an area near Laying Creek, off U.S. Forest Service Rd. 1790. The air crew directed ground searchers to Smith's location. Smith was reported to be uninjured, but suffering from hypothermia.

Smith had been missing since Thursday afternoon, when she became separated from her companion while mushroom hunting in the forest southeast of Dorena Reservoir. At this hour, arrangements are being made for an Oregon Air National Guard helicopter to airlift Smith out of the forest; with the coming darkness and Smith's weakened condition it would take several hours for volunteers to carry her out to a road or landing site and the Lane County helicopter is a smaller aircraft, not equipped to hoist victims by cable basket.

Since being contacted Thursday evening, Lane County Sheriff's personnel have been searching the area for about 19 hours. During today's efforts, almost 25 ground searchers were working in the area. The helicopter crew had been in the area for less

than half an hour, after waiting for clear weather to take off from Eugene. The search effort was considered to be time critical, since Smith was reported to have limited survival supplies and inadequate clothing for overnight conditions.

Prepared by and for additional information contact: Capt. William Thompson