

Stranded snowmobiler rescued west of Bend

by Cheryl McDermott

A 26-year old Salem woman who became separated from her fellow snowmobile riders on Saturday afternoon then got stuck in the deep snow gave rescuers a general location of "somewhere near Wanoga Sno-Park", but little else to go on in their attempt to bring her to safety. Deschutes County Sheriff's Cpl. Wayne Morgan said Jaysa Nesbitt was a novice snowmobile rider who called 911 about 5:15 p.m. after she tried to turn around and go back in the direction she believed her companions were located. U.S. Forest Service personnel and Deschutes County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to the area about 15 miles west of Bend on the Cascade Lakes Highway with snowmobiles and tracked ATVs. They found her just before 10 p.m. on Trail 1 about ¾ miles east of Trail 2. "She was in good condition," Morgan reported, adding that she was able to ride back to the Sno-Park after SAR team members dug out her stuck snowmobile. Snowmobile riders should stay aware of the location of other party members and not become separated, Morgan reminded. "In severe weather conditions, the consequences may be life-threatening," he said.

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