

Search for missing swimmer continues

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

TERREBONNE, Ore. — The search for a 19-year-old man who went missing Saturday afternoon after he disappeared into the swift water of Crooked River at Smith Rock State Park is continuing Monday, although the mission is now likely that of recovery instead of rescue, officials reported.

Alex Thomson — photo courtesy helpfindthemissing.org

According to Deschutes County Sheriff's Cpl. Wayne Morgan, Alex Thompson, a 19-year-old Aloha resident and current student at Oregon State University in Corvallis, was swimming with friends in the river about 9 ½ miles northeast of Redmond when he became fatigued and disappeared on April 18 about 4:15 p.m.

Despite an intensive search covering more than one and ½ miles of the river on Friday and all day Saturday, Deschutes County Sheriff's Search and Rescue crews, divers, and swift water and mountain rescue technicians were unable to locate Thompson, Morgan said.

Ochoco Irrigation District is decreasing the water flow from Bowman Dam to assist in the efforts, and searchers today plan to take advantage of what the corporal described as a limited window of opportunity with the lower water level.

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