

Missing Prineville hunter found dead

by Cheryl McDermott

48-year old Mike Mizer who failed to return home on Thursday from a day of hunting and cutting firewood in the Ochoco National Forest in Crook County was found dead Saturday evening of apparent natural causes, Crook County Undersheriff Jim Hensley reported.

Mizer, a longtime resident of Prineville, left his home early Thursday morning, and was reported missing on Friday. Over 75 searchers including the sheriff's office, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, Oregon National Guard, and Civil Air Patrol searched over the weekend.

About 6 p.m. Saturday, a hunter found Mizer lying on the ground beside his vehicle, deceased. According to a news release, he had apparently left the main road, traveled to the end of an unimproved road then into the woods for a short distance where he began cutting and splitting firewood before he died.

“Preliminary investigation indicates that Mizer died of natural causes,” Hensley said.

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