

RESCUE: Injuries have been frequent in backcountry

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Sheriff's Office was notified and activated their search and rescue team — The Camp Sherman Hasty Team. The Hasty Team was able to contact the injured hiker by cell phone and determine that he would not be able to move from his location on his own for medical treatment. The Hasty Team coordinated resources and hiked from the Cabot Lake Trailhead eight miles to the injured hiker's location.

"The trail conditions at higher elevations this time of year are still snow-covered in spots, making navigation difficult," Pond reported.

The injured hiker was still accompanied by the two Good Samaritan hikers. A medical assessment was made by the Hasty Team, who

determined that a helicopter was needed to safely recover the hiker and get him to the hospital. The Hasty Team remained with the injured hiker overnight until an Oregon National Guard helicopter was able to respond in the morning and take the man to the hospital.

In a separate incident, Deschutes County Search and Rescue retrieved an injured woman on the South Sister Trail on Thursday, July 4.

DCSO SAR coordinator Lt. Bryan Husband reported that at about 1:08 p.m., 911 Dispatch received a report from Brian Gray, that his wife, Jennifer Gray 45, of Portland, had just sustained a non-life-threatening injury while hiking on the South Sister trail. The Grays were at approximately 8,100 feet elevation. The injured woman was unable to hike any further. Other hikers in the area stopped to assist the couple until rescuers arrived.

Two Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Deputies and 14 DCSO search and rescue volunteers responded to assist. Two DCSO SAR volunteers responded to AirLink, which was able to get SAR volunteers into the area of the injured subject quickly. Four DCSO SAR volunteers responded to the Mt. Bachelor parking lot in case they needed to be shuttled up the mountain as well. Six DCSO SAR volunteers responded to the Devils Lake trailhead and began hiking up the South Sister trail to the injured subject.

AirLink was able to fly DCSO SAR volunteers to a location in close proximity to Gray and her group. DCSO SAR volunteers made contact with Mrs. Gray and her group at approximately 3:38 p.m.,

further stabilizing her. DCSO SAR volunteers, with the assistance of the group on scene, carried Gray to the awaiting AirLink helicopter, which transported her to St. Charles Hospital in Bend for further medical treatment. DCSO SAR volunteers hiked back down to the Devils Lake trailhead.

"The Deschutes County

Sheriff's Office would like to thank AirLink for their assistance with this rescue," Lt. Husband stated. "Without their assistance, the response time to Mrs. Gray's location would have been considerably longer, potentially leading to further medical problems."

The Sheriff's Office reminds those traveling in the backcountry at this time

of year to prepare for all different types of trail conditions (dirt, snow, ice) and all different types of weather conditions (sun, rain, sleet, snow). Always travel with the 10 essentials: navigation device, sun protection, extra clothing, extra food, extra water, light source, first aid supplies, multi-tool, emergency shelter and a way to start a warming fire.



PHOTO PROVIDED

A National Guard helicopter came to the aid of an injured hiker.

Judge to rule on blocking grazing permit renewal July 17

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Three environmental groups have rejected a government offer to further limit but allow some grazing by Oregon ranchers who were convicted of intentionally setting fires on public land.

The *Oregonian*/OregonLive reports the Western Watersheds Project, the Center for Biological Diversity and Wildearth Guardians rejected the offer Friday.

They then requested that a judge ban Hammond Ranches Inc. from grazing cattle on two government allotments while they contest

the ranchers' 10-year grazing permit.

Wildlife, ecology and rangeland experts for both sides gave testimony about whether grazing would harm sage grouse and redband trout in the Steens Mountain area.

Harney County rancher Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond listened to the federal hearing in Portland but didn't participate.

U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon said he'll rule by July 17 whether to grant a preliminary injunction and further halt Hammond livestock from grazing on the two allotments.

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