

## Deputies Searching for Missing Hunter Southwest of Vernonia

Sunday, 21 September 2014 23:53 - Last Updated Monday, 22 September 2014 07:26

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Deputies and volunteers from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office are continuing their search and rescue operation off of Wolf Creek Rd. and US Hwy 26 overnight.

John Hill, 37, Hillsboro was bow hunting Saturday but failed to return Saturday night. Family heard from him by cell phone that evening and, again, at 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning. The last they heard from him was at 9:30 a.m., and family members said he sounded disoriented.

Columbia County Sheriff's Office personnel were alerted to Hill's status just after noon on Sunday. Efforts to find the missing hunter were originally centered around Timber Rd., but moved further west once Hill's grey Dodge pickup truck was located on North Wolf Creek Rd. off of U.S Hwy 26.

By evening, search and rescue volunteers and deputies from both the Columbia County and Washington County Sheriff's Office were engaged in full-scale search efforts. Search and Rescue Canines from Yamhill County combed the brush and wooded landscape in the area around the located pickup truck. A National Guard helicopter added air support into the evening hours, also.

Columbia County Search and Rescue officials will remain on scene overnight, with additional crews scheduled to resume full-scale search operations in the morning.