



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Sgt. Jason Reinfeld

Incident #: 21C09039

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Date: August 21, 2021

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/sheriff>

Sheriff Brian Burnett reports on August 20th, 2021 at approximately 4:30 pm a 78 year old Peshastin man was located on the French Creek trail in the Icicle Drainage. The man was reported missing on Monday, August 16th after he didn't return home from fishing on Sunday the 15th. Searchers worked all week attempting to locate the missing man.

On August 20th, a group of hikers located the man on the trail and flagged down a search team in the area who were returning to the SAR base. They were approximately 2-1/4 miles in from the trailhead. He was dehydrated but was still able to walk. It was determined on scene however, he would need to be littered out the remainder of the way.

After interviewing the man, searchers were able to determine he hiked in on Sunday morning and went up the French Ridge trail off of French Creek. At some point, he lost the trail and started working his way down off trail. He located the creek and was able to catch and eat some fish.

Throughout the week searchers from several different agencies helped in the search. Chelan County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Deputies, CCSO Swiftwater Rescue Deputies and Volunteers, Chelan County Volunteer SAR, Chelan County Mountain Rescue, as well as representatives from Kittitas County, Okanogan County, Spokane County, King County, Snohomish County, as well as spontaneous volunteers including family members all participated in the search. The hikers who located the man volunteered to assist with the litter carry-out.

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