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Tuesday, October 10, 2006

### Search on hold for lost hunter

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NEHALEM - Tillamook County Sheriff's deputies have suspended their search for a 78-year-old man who never returned from an afternoon of hunting last week.

For nearly a week, deputies and rescuers from neighboring Clatsop and Lincoln counties have used helicopters, dogs, and ground crews in hopes of finding Norman Moore.

Tuesday, Oct. 3, Moore left a note around 10 a.m. saying he was going hunting up the Miami Foley Road and that he was planning to return by way of Cook Creek, according to his wife, Bonnie. She was not at home when he left.

When he didn't return by 8 o'clock that night, she reported him missing.

His two-wheel-drive, 2000 Toyota Tacoma pickup was found with a flat tire about midnight that night more than a mile down Moot Point Road, according to Tillamook County Undersheriff Terry Huntsman.

"Apparently, he was trying to change the tire," Moore's wife said. "He had the truck blocked, but it looked like he couldn't get to the spare."

In the pickup, searchers found his food, water, coat and guns, she said.

"I think that he thought if he walked to the main road, there would be other hunters who he could flag down."

A native of the North Coast who worked at the Garibaldi Mill, Moore is regarded as an expert on the remote roads where he went hunting, his wife said. Whenever she joined him on his frequent trips, he could tell her what was around each bend.

"He definitely was not lost," she said.

The Moores moved to Miami Foley Road from Clackamas in 1995.

In recent years, according to his wife, Moore suffered a series of strokes that affected his speech and mobility. A few weeks ago, Moore underwent an MRI that indicated a blood clot had formed in his brain, but had disbursed after treatment with a blood-thinning drug. Although his condition had improved, he was still weak from the ordeal.

"All his life, he has been the 'strong-as-a-bull' type guy," she said. "I told him not to go by himself ... he didn't have the strength in his legs."

She recalled that when dusk caught up with him on a hunting trip nearby on Thanksgiving 2004, searchers found him snuggled down in a log, planning on spending the night.

"That time, it was only for a couple of hours, but it seemed like forever," she said .

Although the search has been postponed, friends and family members are continuing to comb the area, said Moore. Around 16 family members have been camped out on her floor for the past week

"I think he is on about 10 prayer chains," she said. "There is no way that I can thank everybody for all the care and concern. The search parties are so dedicated, they didn't want to give up. They had to be forced to go home. I can't say enough good things about them."

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