On Sunday morning, January 3, searchers from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office located a man missing since Saturday night in a wooded area near Camp Wilkerson.

Rick Taylor, 55, Columbia City became separated from his brother, Paul last night after a day of hunting elk in the area around Camp Wilkerson off of Apiary Rd. in north Columbia County. Paul Taylor made it to a residence on Meissner Rd. and notified authorities of his missing brother.

"We activated our county-wide volunteer Search and Rescue Team and called out two deputies to assist in the search," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "We are very pleased to say that after an all-night search and rescue effort, Mr. Taylor was found relatively unscathed by our searchers this morning."

Taylor told searchers that after he was separated from his brother, the battery on his CB radio lost power, and he was unable to make contact with his brother again. There is no cellular telephone coverage in this area. He advised he tried to keep warm under some fir trees, but located some equipment with a concealed cab and spent the rest of the night inside.

A deputy driving down a gravel road about 2.5 miles from Camp Wilkerson located him just before 9 a.m.

"This is our second successful Search & Rescue mission in a row after we found a missing hiker in October," Dickerson said. "I can't say enough about the dedication to these kind of events we have with our search and rescue volunteers."

A total of 14 SAR volunteers and three sheriff's office enforcement deputies responded to the effort with the assistance of Columbia 911 Dispatch, the Columbia County Road Department, and Columbia River Fire and Rescue (which dispatched an ambulance to the scene to provide a medical check once the hunter was found).