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Searchers find Tuftonboro woman safe

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New Hampshire Union Leader

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Searchers found a Tuftonboro woman soaking wet and lost in the woods Saturday night nearly 18 hours after she wandered from her home.

Gloria Smith, 65, was not hurt when a search dog and its handler found her about 935 feet in the woods off Route 109A in Tuftonboro, New Hampshire Fish and Game Lt. James S. Goss said Sunday.

Local police, conservation officers and the five canine teams with the New England K-9 Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team were searching for Smith since her relatives reported her missing from her 49 Middle Route home early Saturday afternoon, Goss said.

Smith suffers from various health issues, including memory and vision problems, he said. Smith's brother found her house empty with the television and lights on when he went to check on her about 9 a.m. Saturday, Goss said.

A passerby reported seeing her walking on Middle Route towards Wolfboro about 5:40 a.m.

Smith was about a total 4,900 feet from her home when the search dog and its handler found her soaking wet and shoe less.

"It was an outstanding job on their part to find her and to get her out," Goss said.

She was taken to Huggins Hospital in Wolfboro as a precaution, Goss said.