

Deputy still critical

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Manhunt scaled down

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SANTA CRUZ — Sheriff's deputies have drastically scaled back the manhunt for fugitive Leslie Grover Wyman, wanted for the attempted murder of a sheriff's deputy and highway patrolman Monday.

Sheriff's Lt. Lloyd Gray said Wednesday that the search for Wyman has been reduced to "intensified car patrols in the San Lorenzo Valley and following-up leads." Wyman, officials say, is a 44-year-old "survivalist type who likes to be alone."

Sgt. Carl Kuebler said the Sheriff's Office has received more than 40 calls of possible sightings of

the suspect, including one this morning in Felton.

Deputies and highway patrolmen combed Henry Cowell Park after a jogger reported seeing Wyman. But two hours later when they nabbed the man downtown Felton it turned out to be just another of hundreds of look-alikes.

Santa Cruz Police also say they have been deluged with reported sightings.

While none of these calls has produced Wyman, the public is still encouraged to call, said Kuebler.

California Highway Patrolman Jeff Lee, 24, was released from Santa Cruz Community Hospital this morning. Lee was shot in the thigh and wrist after responding to Sheriff's Deputy Mike Gray's call for help Monday in Felton.

Gray remains in extremely critical condition at Dominican Hospital.

Wyman has a history of assaults on peace officers, dating back to 1972 in San Mateo County when he tried to hit three San Francisco Water District watershed keepers with a large stick.

Lt. Gray described Wyman as "a gun nut — or more appropriately, someone who is experienced and acquainted with weapons."

He is believed to have shot Gray and Lee with either hollow-point or soft-point bullets, sources have said. That's one reason Gray's internal injuries are so serious, sources added.

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Wyman is believed to be armed with a 9mm handgun — the same caliber weapon he was arrested for possessing last year in the city of San Mateo. At that time, he also had a .38 caliber derringer.

Wyman served in the U.S. Navy, according to sources, and has a sister who is employed as a sheriff's deputy in San Mateo County.

Lt. Gray said Wyman "is the kind of guy who likes to live off the land."

Wyman is known to have stayed in an abandoned home in Felton off and on for the past few months, sources have said.

He was also spotted in the same heavily-forested area of the watershed district in which he was arrested 10 years ago last week, a watershed employee said.

Members of the Sheriff's Department SWAT team moved into a campsite in Davenport Wednesday afternoon to search for signs of the fugitive.

A source said authorities found footprints matching the kind of high-top sneakers Wyman is believed to have been wearing when he disappeared into Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park immediately after the shooting.

The campsite had been used in the past day, but was abandoned.

Sheriff's Sgt. Kuebler said deputies will be following this kind of lead in their search for the elusive gunman.

Deputies used a helicopter from San Bernardino County that was equipped with an infrared device Wednesday morning to get sightings of the suspect.

Lt. Gray said the infrared device "worked super."

However, a land-radar device loaned by the National Guard did not work as well.

Dog patrols have also been abandoned.

Deputies are searching areas on foot when they get a good sighting of a man who matches the description of Wyman.

Sgt. Kuebler said he has no idea whether Wyman is still in the Santa Cruz Mountains. If he is, he is experienced in the ways of the woods, and can stay

hidden for long period of time, he said. "It would appear hnot going to give up," said Lt. Gray.

Senate approves

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