



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

Media Release June 26, 2016

Kootenai County, Idaho – Airplane crash in the backcountry claims the life of a Spokane man.

On Saturday, June 25th at just after 3:00 PM, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office responded to a thickly forested area near Horsehaven for a reported airplane crash. A passerby was driving through the area and saw the wreckage off the road.

Horsehaven is located off Forest Service Road (FSR) 209 and FSR 794, the area is about 40 miles east of Coeur d'Alene by vehicle.

A backcountry deputy and KCSO Volunteer Search and Rescue personnel patrolling the area were within a mile of the crash scene and on scene within minutes of the report. The downed plane was about 25 yards up a steep embankment off FSR 794. The deputy was able to confirm that the pilot (sole occupant) was deceased in the plane.

Additional law enforcement, medical and fire personnel were dispatched from the local area. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) were contacted and advised of the crash. A KCSO detective also responded to assist with the investigation.

Due to the remoteness of the scene and impending darkness, the scene was secured overnight. Detectives will be resuming their investigation this morning as the NTSB investigators were coming from out of the area.

The identity and airplane information are being withheld pending notification to the family. Further details will not be available today.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff
By: Lieutenant Stu Miller