



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF, **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF, **TRAVIS CHANEY**

On Tuesday February 4th at about 6:42 PM the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office was advised of a possible disabled vehicle in the woods in the area of Blue Creek. The reporting party, Tammy Hurt a 51 year old female from Coeur d' Alene, who was an occupant of the vehicle, stated the vehicle she was in was disabled and she, and a male subject John Paremsky a 46 year old male also of Coeur d' Alene were on a logging road in the woods. Central Dispatch was able to trace the phone call to the area of Borley Rd. and Timothy Lane. Deputies responded to the area, and after an extensive search they were unable to locate the vehicle. Due to the low temperatures and the vehicle possibly being in the woods additional resources were called out.

At around 10:00 PM, Deputies from the Recreation Safety Section and volunteers from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Search and Rescue Unit responded to the area to begin searching for the vehicle and its occupants. Spokane County's helicopter Air 1 was also called in to assist with the search.

Using cell phone data from the cell phone carrier and from Central Dispatch, Air 1 was able to locate a possible vehicle in the vicinity of the original call. Air 1 guided searchers to the area and at 1:06 AM the vehicle and its occupants were located about 100 yards from Borley Rd. down an embankment. The two occupants were in good physical condition and did not require any medical help.

According to the occupants they went for a drive and started down the road in approximately 2 feet of snow. When they realized they needed to turn around they ended up going over a slight embankment and ended up getting stuck. It is unknown why the occupants did not walk out to the county roadway or to the residences which were less than a quarter of a mile away.

With the temperatures forecasted to be well below freezing over the next several days, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone to be prepared when they venture out into the woods. Everyone should have warm clothing, extra food and water, fully charged cell phones and most important, always let someone know where you are going and when you are planning on returning.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
By: Sergeant Ryan Higgins