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## PRESS RELEASE GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Garfield County, Colorado;** On August 23, 2009 at approximately 4:42 p.m. Garfield County Emergency Communications Authority received a 911 call from a male party requesting assistance. The caller stated that he was with a group from Grand Junction, CO consisting of 5 adults, 2 young children and 3 dogs.

The group had been exploring an area west of Coulter Mesa on the Flattops north of Rifle, CO when the RV they were driving became stuck in the mud. The four wheel drive road they had been traveling was located approximately 20 miles west of Coulter Lake Guest Ranch in a remote area near Mullen Gulch. The caller stated that there were no injuries, but that they were almost out of water, lost and unable to proceed. The caller stated he had walked for over a mile to get to higher terrain in order to get cell service so he could call for help.

Garfield County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area with two four wheel drive vehicles but were unable to locate the party after driving several roads in the vicinity.

Due to impending darkness and the difficulty of the terrain, the Garfield County Sheriff's Search & Rescue Unit was called to aid Deputies in the search. Search and Rescue crews arrived with four wheel drive vehicles and ATV's at approximately 8:37 p.m. due to rough terrain, and located the group with their vehicle at 9:36 p.m. The group was reported to be in good condition with no injuries, and was transported to Rifle just after midnight where they awaited transportation back to Grand Junction by friends.

Search & rescue advises anyone recreating in the backcountry to use caution when exploring unknown areas and roads by making wise travel decisions, be aware of rapidly changing weather and road conditions, always carry a good map and have adequate provisions in case of an unexpected situation.