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SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2010 (4:45 p.m.)

RIVER RESCUE OPERATION SUSPENDED AFTER SECOND DAY

GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo. – At approximately 2:00 p.m. this afternoon, search and rescue personnel indefinitely suspended their search for a 21-year-old male who fell into the water near the No Name area yesterday afternoon.

After tirelessly searching the river yesterday afternoon and evening, twelve specialists using probing poles and three dogs scoured the shoreline and river, via rafts and a motorized Zodiac watercraft, for more than six hours today.

Due to the dangerous river conditions of water flow near 8,000 cubic feet per second and water temperatures below 50 degrees, the morning's rescue effort eventually shifted to a recovery operation with the same heightened level of specialized resources. The hazardous conditions and associated effects to rescuers led to the searchers' decision to suspend the operation at this time.

Over the past two days, multiple agencies participated in this effort, to include: Garfield County Search and Rescue, Garfield County Sheriff's Office deputies and specialists, Glenwood Springs Police and Fire Departments, Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Transportation and members from a private rafting company.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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