



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF  
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

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## KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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**KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
MEDIA RELEASE  
MAY 12, 2008**

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department is pleased to announce the formation of its new Back Country Patrol Unit. This unit will emphasize patrols in the nearly quarter million acres of National Forest in Kootenai County. The two deputies assigned to this unit have been transferred from the regular patrol duties to emphasize on this high use and low enforcement area. Deputies Jeff Burns and Will Klinkefus were selected by a panel of assessors that included representation from local ATV and Snowmobile clubs, the U.S. Forest Service and Sheriff's Department Supervisors. Deputy Burns has been with the Sheriff's Department for 13 years and in law enforcement for 18 years. Deputy Klinkefus has been with the Sheriff's Department for 11 years.

Duties of the two-man unit will use non-traditional vehicles such as ATV's and Snowmobiles to conduct proactive patrols, accident investigation, search and rescue operations and criminal investigations in the backwoods parts of Kootenai County. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Sheriff's Department at 446-1300.

The Back Country Unit wants to remind people that traveling in the back country this time of year can be very treacherous. Most roads in higher elevations are impassable due to heavy snow. Rivers and streams are nearing flood stage and will continue to rise with the forecast warmer weather this week.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger