

# Priest River couple rescued at Priest Lake

PRIEST RIVER - The Bonner County Sheriff's Office issued a press release yesterday reporting the rescue of a Priest River Couple in the Priest Lake area on Feb. 13.

According to the release, the couple tried unsuccessfully to drive their 1997 GMC pickup around Priest Lake.

The male, Tom Porinchock used his cell phone to contact Bonner dispatch at 4:30 p.m., reporting he was broke down and walking out from the backside of Priest Lake.

The cell phone connection was then lost.

Bonner County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services, District-1 SAR was contacted and initiated a search for the lost couple.

Teams in four-wheel-drive vehicles checked the side roads north and east from Coolin to Lion Head State Park.

Snowmobile teams were dispatched to follow up on areas where vehicle tracks had been located on groomed snowmobile trails. (The release noted wheeled vehicles are prohibited from travel on groomed snowmobile trails.)

Shortly before midnight, the release reported, the pickup was found at 19.5 mile on Priest Lake State Road One.

The snowmobile teams soon located the couple who had hiked toward Nordman before attempting to return to their vehicle.

They were transported to the Sheriff's Priest Lake Substation where they were reunited with family and friends at about 1:45 a.m. Friday.