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Search continues for missing man

By Rose Brown - Enterprise Staff Writer

Searching continues in the George Lake area for missing Livingston man Brad Spalding with no new leads.

"I know we've searched a lot of country up there, and we've searched it very thoroughly, and we're continuing today," Park County Undersheriff Scott Hamilton said Friday morning.

"It's not over yet," he added.

This is the fifth day search and rescue operations have scoured the wilderness, utilizing search dog teams and a helicopter spotting crew, according to a June 21 press release from the Park County Sheriff's Office.

Searching began Monday after 27-year-old Spalding's car was found at the George Lake trailhead. He has been missing since Thursday last week.

There is no end date set for the search, Hamilton said. It will continue as long there are good clues and areas that need to be searched more thoroughly.

But search efforts do start to lose resources as people wear out, he said. Many SAR crews are comprised of volunteers who eventually become exhausted.

The operation's cost to date has not been calculated, but the expense of the first three days was around \$25,000, Hamilton said.

The Park County Sheriff's SAR fund budgets \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year, and there is also a separate SAR emergency account with \$80,000 to \$100,000 that has been reserved for situations like this one, he said.



"We haven't had to tap into that for quite some time," he said.

State reimbursements and federal funds are also available to help local departments with emergencies like this one, Hamilton said.

Contact The Livingston Enterprise: 401 South Main St. Livingston, Mt. 59047 (406) 222-2000

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