



# Mt. Crested Butte Police Department

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BODY RECOVERED AFTER AVALANCHE  
Crested Butte, Gunnison County, Colorado**

On 02-10-2014, at approximately 1:20 pm, an avalanche occurred in the Gunnison National Forrest near Crested Butte, Colorado, specifically just off of County Road 12 (AKA: Kebler Pass) just North of the Splain's Gulch intersection. Reportedly, three snowmobilers were riding in the area where the avalanche was triggered. The three male riders were not local to the area, but vacationing from out of state. Local authorities including Mt. Crested Butte Police and Crested Butte Search & Rescue responded to the scene and assisted with the recovery.

Two riders were initially trapped by a 600' wide slide. Ian McCullough, age 28 of Omro, WI, was buried low on the slide path and was able to dig his way out of the snowpack. Joshua Lesniak, age 26 of Berlin, WI, was trapped by the slide and buried. The third rider, Andrew Busse, age 34 of Berlin, WI, was not caught in the slide. Busse and McCullough, along with other bystanders, were able to identify Lesniak's location using avalanche beacons and probes. Lesniak's body was estimated to be buried 15 to 20 feet below the slide surface. Once uncovered, CPR was attempted on Lesniak, but no pulse was located.

Crested Butte Search & Rescue arrived at the trailhead location shortly after the slide occurred. By approximately 3:00pm Lesniak's body had been recovered and turned over to the Gunnison County Coroner.

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