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**SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO**  
**GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

July 14, 2013  
7:45 PM

### **Human Remains Found in Garfield County**

**IMPORTANT:** Please direct any media requests to the contact above. Do not contact the Garfield County Emergency Communications Center or Patrol staff for media requests.

GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo. –

On Friday July 12, 2013 area hikers discovered and reported what they believed to be human remains a short distance off County Road 309. A patrol officer from the Garfield County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) was dispatched to the scene and confirmed that the remains appeared to be human. The area was secured for the night. Officers from both Patrol and Investigations worked through the night to coordinate efforts with CBI to begin the investigation process.

According to spokesperson Susan Alvillar, with WPX Energy the site was on the Forshee Property, approximately one fourth of the way from Battlement Mesa to Rulison, on the south side of the Colorado River. The appropriate warrants were obtained by the Sheriff's Department, with the cooperation of WPX Energy, and the necessary equipment mobilized for the investigation.

On Saturday morning at 9:00 AM Investigators from the GCSO and CBI met at the site to begin collecting evidence. Area Security was provided by patrol officers from the GCSO. Coroner Bill Hogden was notified and the work began. By 6:00 PM the evidence had been collected and this phase of the investigation was over.

CBI will utilize the DNA retrieved from the site to identify the remains. Commander Middleton expects this to happen by the end of next week. This is an active investigation and further information will be provided through the coroner's office when the lab analysis has been completed.

**More information will be released as it becomes available.**

*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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