

Search & Rescue Success in Colorado



Diving at altitude is dangerous, we can't stay down for more than 15 – 20 minutes at a time. By having a tool like this available, we can quickly zero in on a body and spend more time on the recovery and less time searching.

- Drew Fontana, Summit County Water Rescue Team President

ABOUT THE CUSTOMER



The Summit County Water Rescue Team was established in 1986 in response to the increasing amount of recreational activity on Dillon Reservoir and Green Mountain Reservoir. Around the same time, the Summit County Sheriff's Office Boat Patrol Unit was established with the primary responsibilities being education and enforcement during summer months, seven days a week on Dillon Reservoir.

SUMMARY

The Summit County Water Rescue Team (SCWRT) operates under the statutory authority of the Summit County Sheriff's Office. The team is comprised of eight volunteer members that provide approximately 2,000 man-hours each year in missions throughout Summit and the surrounding counties. In 2010, thanks to a donation from the Adam Brown Memorial Fund, the team procured Side Scan Sonar. In 2018 after two years of research the SCWRT was able to raise enough money through a Grant from Dillon Reservoir Recreation Area Board, Summit Foundation (Breck Gives) and several private donors to purchase the much-needed complementing piece of equipment for the SCWRT which was VideoRay Pro 4 remotely operated vehicle (ROV), making them the only team in the state with this capability.

CHALLENGE

The Dillon Reservoir is at 9000 ft elevation, its surface area is over 3,200, acres with 27 miles of shore line and some depths up to 300ft which adds many challenges and safety concerns for any diver.

The Summit County Water Rescue Team (SCWRT) commits approximately 2,000 man-hours a year to training for a variety of aquatic responses, including swift water rescue, ice rescue, body and recovery and underwater investigation.

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SOLUTION

A VideoRay dealer, Crossmon Consulting, suggested the use of a VideoRay Pro 4 Plus BASE with 390 feet (one 250' length of standard neutral tether and one 130' length of professional performance tether (PPT)) tether, forward looking sonar, manipulator, and an ROV recovery and retrieval kit. The Pro 4 is a light weight easy to use ROV that allows for rapid deployment and intuitive piloting making new users successful operators. The total system weighs 38.5 kgs. (85 lbs.), making it easy to transport to the incident area. The submersible itself weighs only 6.1 kgs. (13.5 lbs.), making deployment and recoveries effortless for the customer.

RESULTS

The Summit County team assisted 3 other neighboring counties making four successful underwater drowning victim recoveries in three months since the purchase of the Pro 4 ROV with sonar in May 2018. The dive team had been put on standby for recovery, but in all 3 cases did not dive as the ROV was able to locate and recover all 4 victims ranging from 8ft – 80ft.

