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Body of missing kayaker in South Platte River recovered

A missing kayaker's body was recovered by authorities after a search Friday extended into Saturday morning. (Photo: Morgan Co Sheriff's Office)

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MORGAN COUNTY, Colo. — The body of a kayaker who was thought to have drowned Friday in the South Platte River has been recovered, the Morgan County Sheriff's Office said.

The [kayaker was reported missing](#) after going over a low-head diversion dam and disappearing from sight near Dodd Bridge. His body was located by searchers Saturday morning approximately two miles downstream.

The victim was initially thought to have been caught within the hydraulics caused by the high water flowing over the dam, the sheriff's office said.

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The man was wearing a personal flotation device and a helmet, but authorities said the force of the water created by the dams, especially because of recent rainfall and snowfall that increased the river’s water levels, made it nearly impossible for anyone to self-rescue after being caught in that situation.

The man’s kayak floated downstream and he was last seen struggling in the hydraulic created at the base of the dam before he went under and was not seen again.

Personnel from multiple agencies responded to the initial call for help. About 40 personnel were on the scene until after 8 p.m. Friday when the search was suspended.

The search resumed about 9 a.m. Saturday with about 20 personnel and the body was found by Platte Valley/Evans firefighters in the river between Morgan County Roads 25 and 26 just after 10:30 am.

The name of the victim, a 23-year-old Fort Morgan resident, is not being released, pending family notifications and positive identification by the Morgan County Coroner’s Office.

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