



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 29, 2022**

**CONTACT: MHA Emergency Operations Center  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER PHONE: 701-421-2954**

**Search and Rescue Information:**

Charles Hines Bearstail of New Town, North Dakota was reported missing by family to TAT Law Enforcement around 10:37 am on April 27, 2022.

Mr. Bearstail is described as a 64 year old male, 5'10", 190 lbs., slender build, brown eyes, short silver hair, wears eyeglasses, Native American. He has been described as physically fit, and had a regular habit of engaging in outdoors activities, such as hiking, camping, kayaking.

His vehicle, a silver 2007 Chevy Silverado was found at the Four Bears Park Point on April 27, 2022. TAT Law Enforcement investigations has led to the possibility that Mr. Bearstail may have gone out onto Lake Sakakawea with his green kayak on or around April 24, 2022 during the afternoon or early evening hours.

Mr. Bearstail has not contacted family or friends since April 24, 2022. His cellphone was last in use until 11:15 am that day and in the Four Bears area near where his vehicle was found according to cellphone tracking.

A tribal initiated Search and Rescue Incident Response was immediately coordinated by the MHA Emergency Operations Center and an Incident Command Post for responding personnel established around 1:00pm on April 27, 2022. Around 1:45 pm, search operations began.

An area of focused search was designated around the Four Bears Park peninsula, Lake Sakakawea west of New Town (east and west shorelines) and South of New Town and areas north of Bear Den Bay. A Missing Person's Advisory was issued by the MHA Emergency Operations Center at the request of TAT Law Enforcement, with a Missing Person's Flyer and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) was sent out reservation wide on April 27, 2022.

Mr. Bearstail may be wearing a forest green collar sweater, and white or light grey colored pants. It is not known if he had any other items with him or if he was with any other individual. It is also not known if he was dressed for weather conditions at the time of his last contact, which were still considered hazardous due to the recent high impact blizzard in Western North Dakota.

TAT Law Enforcement requested a Silver Alert be sent out statewide for Mr. Bearstail in the afternoon hours on April 27, 2022 and was denied by State Radio because Mr. Bearstail did not meet their Silver Alert criteria.

On April 26, 2022 A green kayak matching the general description of the kayak that Mr. Bearstail is known to have was found on the east lakeshore of Lake Sakakawea, about a mile south of the Four Bears Bridge.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, an aluminum double paddle oar matching the general description of the kayak oar Mr. Bearstail is known to have was found on the west lakeshore of Four Bears Point.

Search and Rescue operations are continuing today, with a total of 165 square miles searched by land, air, and water. Due to incoming weather that will cause safety concerns for field teams, search operations will be scaled back this weekend. Water operations will continue through the weekend, if weather conditions permit safe water travel.

Incident Commander Marle Baker wishes to acknowledge on behalf of MHA Nation the cooperation and immediate assistance provided by all responding agencies, on and off the reservation.

**The public is asked to report any information on Mr. Bearstail's whereabouts to Heather Baker, BIA Special Agent 701-627-3617 or 701-550-5646.**

**List of Responding Agencies: (19 as of 4/29/22)**

Three Affiliated Tribes Law Enforcement  
MHA Emergency Operations Center  
TAT Fire Management  
MHA Drug Enforcement Agency  
Air Force Rescue Coordination Center  
New Town Volunteer Fire Department  
Bureau of Indian Affairs-Investigations  
TERO  
TAT Fish and Game  
MHA DOT  
Four Bears Casino Security and Surveillance  
TAT Security  
Burleigh County Water Rescue & Recovery Team  
Mountrail County Sheriff's Office  
Mountrail County Emergency Management  
North Dakota BCI  
McKenzie County CERT  
United States Attorney's Office-District of North Dakota (T. Van Horn)  
Parshall Segment Dive Team

**Supporting Agencies: (6 as of 4/29/22)**

Four Bears Segment  
North Segment  
TAT GIS Department  
COVID-19 Task Force  
National Weather Service-Bismarck Office  
McKenzie County Emergency Management

**Resources:**

(3) Helicopters  
(2) Boats  
(2) Air Drones  
(2) Cadaver K-9s  
(1) Water Sonar Drones  
(8) OHVs  
(8) Division Search Teams totaling (62) Field Personnel  
(5) Command and General Staff

**Incident Commander:** Marle Baker, TAT Fire Management Officer

**Deputy Incident Commander/Public Information Officer:** Emily Sitting Bear, MHA Emergency Operations Center Director

**Deputy Incident Commander:** Marty Foote, TAT Law Enforcement Chief of Police

**Liaison Officer:** Heather Baker, BIA Special Agent