

BOARD OF REVIEW REPORT



Fatality of Anthony Pollio from a grizzly bear attack in Glacier National Park on May 3, 2026

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ANTHONY POLLIO

- From Davie, FL
- 33 years old
- On a multi-day road trip across the country with a friend.
- Parted company with his friend on 5/3/2026 in Wisdom, MT.
- He continued on to Glacier National Park, entering at ~4:45 pm.



LAKE MCDONALD LODGE

- After entering the park, Mr. Pollio drove to Lake McDonald Lodge, the furthest point into the park that you could drive at that time.
- Sometime after 6:00 pm, Mr. Pollio decided to hike up to the Mt. Brown lookout.



MT. BROWN LOOKOUT

- The lookout is 5.1 miles from the trailhead at the Lake McDonald Lodge.
- The trail starts at 3,227 ft and ends at the lookout at 7,467 ft, a 4,240 ft gain.
- On May 3rd, the upper portions of Mt. Brown above 6,000 ft were snow covered.



- Mr. Pollio began his hike at about 6:30 pm.
- Mr. Pollio was in intermittent communication with friends and family.
- He communicated his intention to hike to the lookout to view the sunrise, then return in the dark.
- There is some cell coverage along the Mt. Brown trail.
- The weather was clear and mild.

Glacier National Park News Release

For Immediate Release: May 5, 2026

Contact: GLAC_News_Releases@nps.gov

Search Underway in Glacier National Park For Missing Hiker

WEST GLACIER, Mont. [May 5, 2026] – Search efforts are underway in Glacier National Park for Anthony Pollio, a 33-year-old man from Fort Lauderdale, Florida who has been missing since Sunday evening.

Pollio's vehicle was located at Lake McDonald Lodge. Pollio had communicated plans to hike toward the Mt. Brown Fire Lookout. The last known message was sent at approximately 8:20 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. The park was notified of the individual's disappearance on Monday afternoon.

Anthony is a 33-year-old 5' 11" Caucasian male, with short brown hair and brown eyes, who weighs about 180 lbs. He may be wearing jeans, boots, a black backpack, and a blue or grey jacket.

Rangers are concentrating search efforts in the Mt. Brown and Snyder areas, as well as adjacent trail corridors. Flathead County Search and Rescue is assisting. Aerial resources are also being used to support the search.

The Sperry Trail has been closed as search efforts continue in the Mt. Brown area.

Anyone that may have information or was in the area and saw an individual that fits the description is encouraged to contact the park tip line at 406-888-7077.

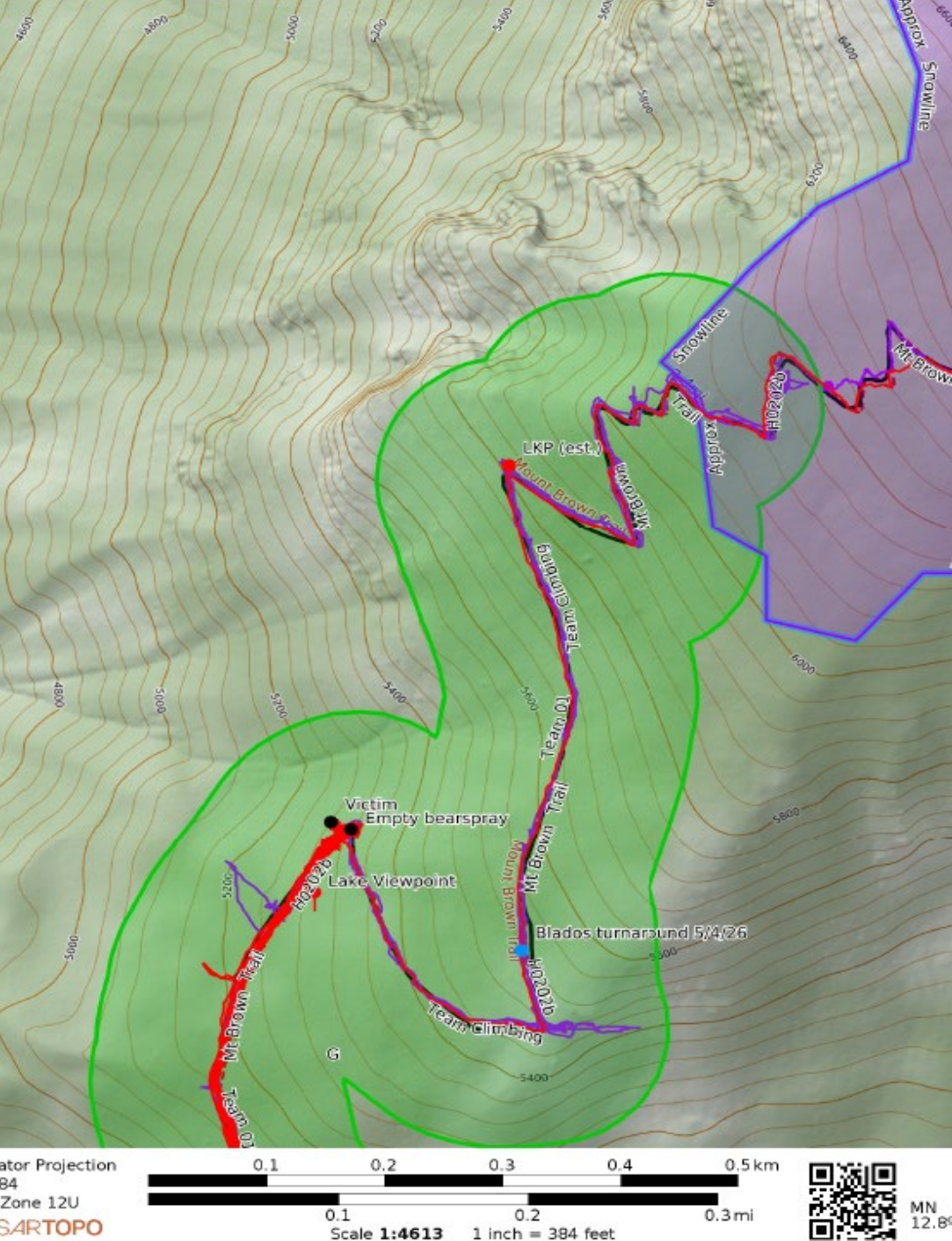
www.nps.gov

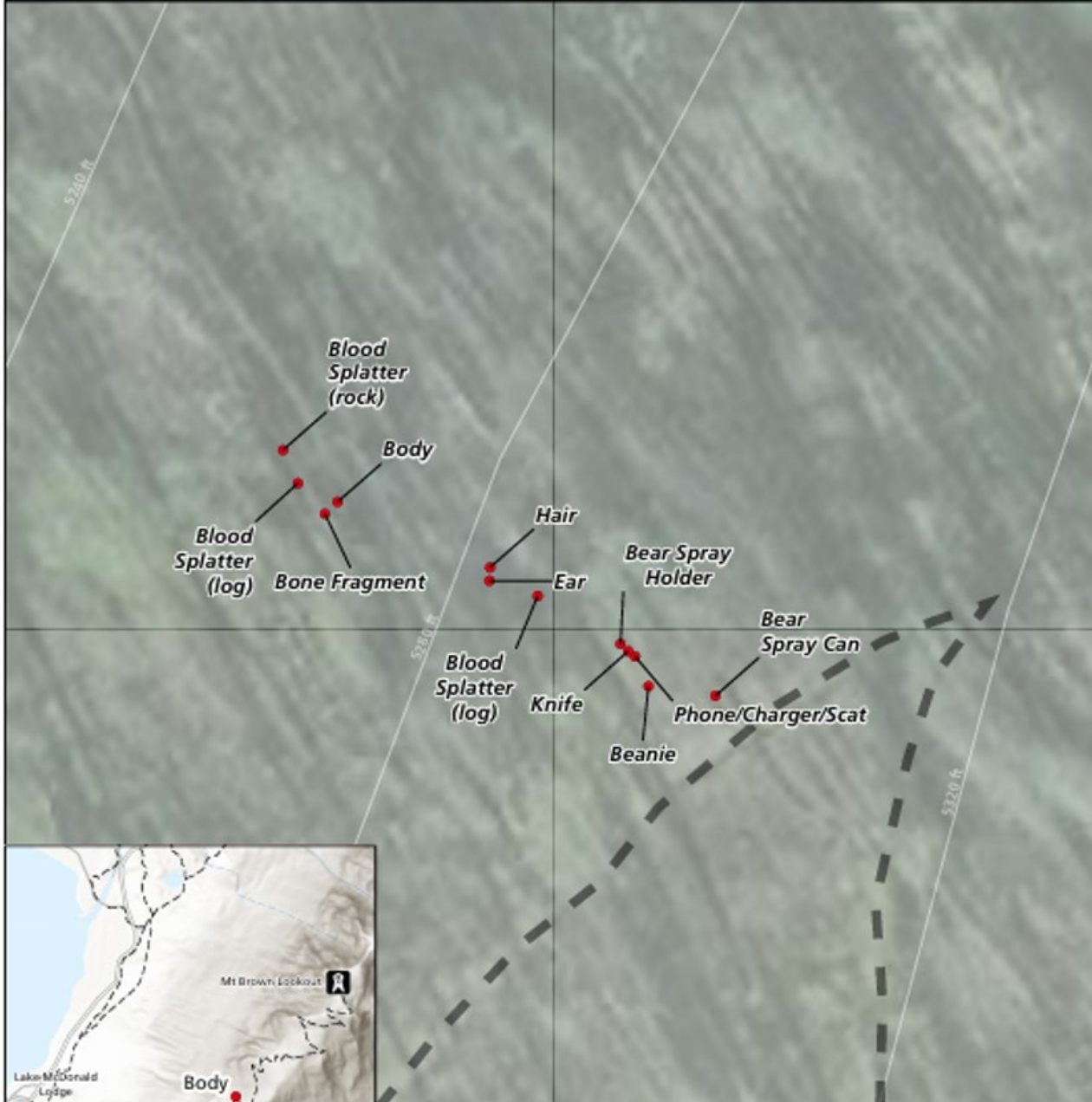
SEARCH

- Mr. Pollio never returned from his hike and was reported missing the next afternoon, May 4th.
- An initial search located his car parked at the Lake McDonald Lodge.
- His car was still there early on May 5th so search efforts intensified with large teams of ground and air searchers deployed.
- His last known position was estimated from a text message sent at 8:20 pm from ~ halfway up to the lookout.

INVESTIGATION

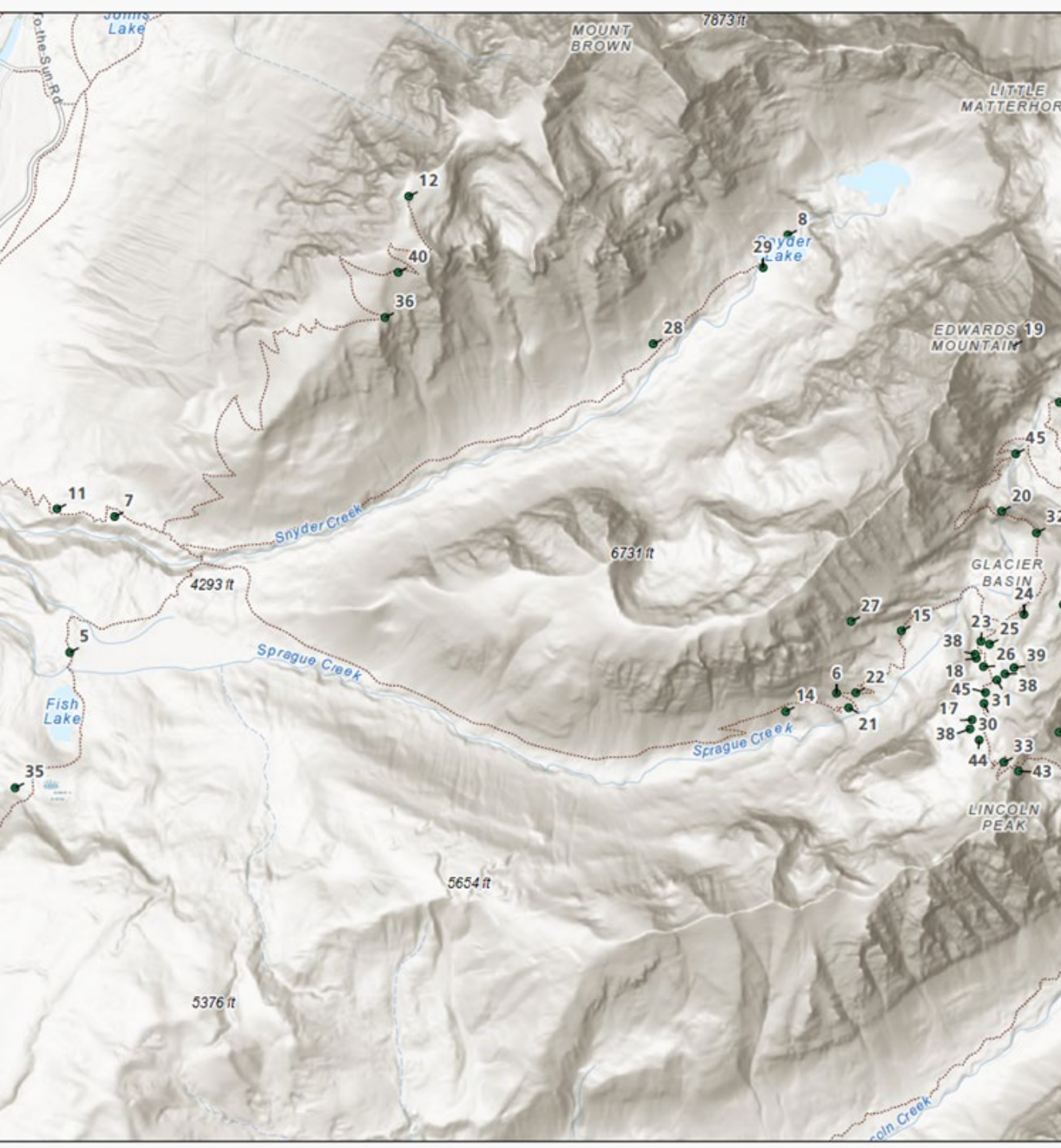
- Mr. Pollio's remains were discovered by searchers about noon on May 6th.
- His body was lying on a 60% slope 69' below the trail amongst scattered deadfall.
- Wounds on his body were consistent with those of a bear attack.
- Hair and scat samples were collected from the body and the surrounding area for DNA analysis.





INVESTIGATION

- A discharged can of bear spray was found close to the trail.
- There was no evidence of predation or scavenging.
- There was no caching or covering of the victims remains with dirt or debris.
- No bears were observed or detected in the vicinity during the search or during this investigation.



INVESTIGATION

- We reviewed our bear sighting database to identify any records of grizzly bears on Mt. Brown the previous year.
- Only 1 male grizzly was reported on the Mt. Brown trail last year and was not a management concern.



FINDINGS

- DNA results came back to a male grizzly bear previously identified from a rub tree sample collected in 2011. His parents were also in the database.
- The grizzly does not have any history of capture or conflict with people.
- The Mt. Brown trail was littered with deadfall trees making travel arduous.
- Our best guess, based on cell phone data, is that Mr. Pollio was descending Mt. Brown in the dark.
- Darkness and deadfall likely prevented Mr. Pollio and the bear from seeing each other until they were very close.



FINDINGS

- Claw marks on a tree and a displaced rock suggest the bear launched itself at Mr. Pollio from a point immediately below the trail close to a dead fall across the trail, 43' below a switch back on the trail.
- Mr. Pollio managed to use his bear spray, but we don't know if or where it contacted the bear.



FINDINGS

- Based on realistic travel speeds and estimated turn around point, our best estimate of time of death is ~9:30 pm.

CONCLUSIONS

- Mr. Pollio, while hiking alone, surprised an adult male grizzly bear on the Mt. Brown Lookout trail.
- He was most likely descending the trail in darkness which would have prevented the bear and Mr. Pollio from seeing each other until they were very close.
- We don't know if Mr. Pollio was making any noise or using his cell phone flashlight.
- Mr. Pollio used his bear spray, but it is unknown if and where the spray contacted the bear.
- There was no evidence of predation or prior conflict history with the bear.
- There was no evidence that Mr. Pollio was fighting back.
- The attack was likely short and intense and not prolonged.
- Mr. Pollio appears to have been the victim of a defensive attack by a surprised grizzly bear.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To avoid surprise encounters with bears, follow these Recommendations:

- Stay alert and use all your senses to detect bear activity, especially where visibility or hearing is limited (woods, bushy areas, streams, poor light).
- Make noise by talking, singing or clapping. This may not be necessary continuously but is critical when visibility and hearing are limited. Do not scream or shriek, as this may startle or confuse a bear.
- Travel in a group. Groups of people are usually noisier and less likely to surprise bears. Don't let your group get spread out. Stay close to each other so everyone is visible and can gather even closer together if a bear is encountered.
- Carry bear spray close in an immediately accessible place and know how to use it.
- Avoid traveling at night, dawn, or dusk when bears are most active. If you do, use a good flashlight or headlamp.
- During an encounter with a bear: If a bear charges you and is going to make contact with you, go face down on the ground, cover your neck and head as much as possible, and deploy your bear spray in the bear's face. If you are unsure of the species, but you recognize it is defensive, play dead. If the attack is prolonged and no longer defensive, fight back!
- Let others know your detailed plans before you start your hike.