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February 5, 2024
Press Release
Immediate dissemination

RE: State v. Snodgrass
Grant County Circuit Court, case no. 24CR06021

The Grant County Sheriff, Todd McKinley, arrested Rick Snodgrass, a USFS employee and prescribed burn crew boss, on Oct. 19, 2022, for reckless burning. On that day, the USFS was conducting a controlled burn that escaped the prescribed burn area. Several acres of timbered ground belonging to an adjacent private ranch were burned before the fire could be put out.

Many factors hindered the investigation. However, Sheriff McKinley was able to complete the investigation and present it to the DA's office for review.

On February 2, 2024, the case was presented to a grand jury for consideration. The grand jury returned an indictment against Ricky Snodgrass for Reckless Burning, ORS 164.335, a class A misdemeanor.

Arraignment is scheduled for March 4, 2024 at 1:00pm.

Per Carpenter, "It is anticipated that this case will proceed through the court system like any other class A misdemeanor. While this case remains pending, the State will have no other comment on the matter."