



GRANT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Press Release

Immediate dissemination

RE: State v. Snodgrass: Arrest for Reckless burning

The Grant County Sheriff, Todd McKinley, arrested Rick Snodgrass, a USFS employee and prescribed burn crew boss, on Oct. 19, 2022, for reckless burning. ORS 164.335. It is anticipated that this matter will be referred to the Grant County District Attorney, Jim Carpenter, for a charging decision when the investigation of the matter is final.

Carpenter, as a representative of the State, is committed to allowing the investigation to move forward as due diligence requires. In this instance, there is no hurry to make a charging decision. While the Sheriff briefs the District Attorney from time to time about the investigation, the District Attorney does not have an investigative function, and is not actively involved in the investigation of this matter.

Per Carpenter, "The investigation in this matter is ongoing and will be completed in due course. Investigations of this type may take several weeks, or even months to complete. Once the investigation is complete, it will be reviewed and a decision will be made as to whether a charge will be made or not. There is no need to rush to judgment and doing so would not result in a just outcome for anyone."

Additionally, "I respect the Sheriff's discretion and decision to make an arrest in this case. I have no reason to doubt that the pending investigation will be conducted in a fair and professional manner and that the result will be thorough, comprehensive and complete."

Jim Carpenter
Grant County District Attorney