

On Friday, January 22, 2010, at approximately 1900 hrs Sgt. James Savage called to notify me of a stranded couple in the mountains. Mr. Mike Ridgway, his girlfriend and their three dogs were stuck in their Toyota pickup truck in the snow approximately 30 miles north of Prineville on USFS Road #27. Officer Mark Ditzel from the US Forest Service and Sgt. Savage both tried to drive to them, but were unable to reach them because of deep snow. I immediately called Deputy Brandi Lange to start the callout procedure. I met with Officer Ditzel and Sgt. Savage at the Sheriff's Office to get the information on the case. I then met with 6 CCSSAR volunteers at the SAR Warehouse to plan the rescue. At approximately 9 pm we arrived at the junction of USFS Roads #27 and #33. We unloaded 2 snowmobiles and proceeded with them and the Excursion on USFS Road #27 to McKay saddle. SAR 137 and I stayed with the Excursion at McKay saddle while SAR 120 and SAR 139 proceeded on USFS Road #27 to the stranded vehicle. We were in radio contact at all times with the rescuers and the temporary IC base that was set up at the lower road junction. At approximately 2200 hrs SAR 147 joined the rescue on his personal snowmobile. At approximately 2230 hrs the rescuers radioed that they had retrieved the couple and three dogs, they were all in good condition and were returning to McKay saddle with them. The couple, although cold and hungry were in good physical and emotional condition. Upon their return, we loaded the couple and the three dogs into the Excursion and began our descent to the temporary IC base at the junction of USFS Roads 27 and 33. SAR 137 and I continued in to Prineville to take the couple home, while the rest of the crew loaded the equipment and returned to the SAR Warehouse. We returned to the SAR Warehouse, put our equipment away and debriefed everyone. I returned to the Sheriff's Office and debriefed Sgt. Savage. Case was closed at approximately 0030 hrs January 23, 2010.

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