



United States Department of Agriculture

National/Region 6 and 10 Aviation Safety and Management Plan

2016



Forest Service

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Digest

The table below provides a list of changes made from the 2015 National Aviation Safety and Management Plan (NASMP). *Note:* This list is not inclusive of all changes made in the 2016 NASMP.

Section	Description of Change
1.1	Updated last sentence of first paragraph: While the information contained within this plan references policy, this document neither establishes policy nor does it change existing policy. (WO)
1.2 & 1.3	Aligned section with 2014-18 USDA FS Aviation Strategic Plan (WO)
1.4	Aligned with our requirement to use Small Businesses in our contracting process (R6)
1.5	Aligned section with 2014-18 USDA FS Aviation Strategic Plan (WO)
2.1	Changed end of sentence (description of organization) (WO)
2.2	Modified language, updated program manager titles, added Aviation Program Support position (WO)
2.6	Updated language, removed NAT Branch Chief's Committee, and removed AFF Subcommittee (WO)
2.7	Updated language/information about FS Aviation Program (WO) (R3)
3.0	Removed link to PASP until there is a national standard which can be provided as an example (WO)(R3)
3.11	Changed title and updated all language in aircraft acquisition section (WO)
3.20	Removed aircraft from New Project/Program/Issue Requests section (WO)
3.3	Retitled plans, added language, and broke out Scooper operations in Aviation Plans section (WO)
3.6	Modified budget language (WO)
4.5.1	Removed 'Technical' from Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team / Entire paragraph updated and reworded (R6)(WO)
4.5.3	Added Aircraft Accident Investigation Guide and created intra-document link to 5.2.3/FS Guides (WO) (R9)
4.5.5	Added 'prior to commencing non-emergency flights or flights outside the scope of an approved training program' language (R5)
5.2.1	Added rotorcraft flight manual and Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards (R5)
5.2.3	Removed Management Review and Quality Assurance Guide (WO)
5.2.3	Added Operations and Safety Procedures Guide for Helicopter Pilots (R5) / Added UAS Guide (WO) / Added Aircraft Accident Investigation Guide and description of current and future locations (R9) (WO)
5.2.4	Removed UAS Operating Plan (WO) and added Airtanker Ops Plan, Aircraft Coordination Ops Plan, and National Rappel Ops Guide UAS Operating Plan to the Forest Service Aviation Operations Plans section (WO)
5.3	Removed 'exception not the rule' statement (R5)(WO)
5.5	Updated Aviation Emergency Response title and revised language (WO) / Further modified language and provided link to an aviation risk assessment (R3)

Section	Description of Change
5.6	Inserted Fight Hazard Map information and guidance information for GIS Specialists
5.7	Updated/revised AFF language (WO)
5.9	Replaced first paragraph concerning aviation standard for communication location coordinates and added FS bulletin # (WO)
5.13	Inserted additional public aircraft language and updated hyperlinks (R5)
5.17	Updated language and added FS A/t Ops Plan (WO)
5.17.1	Removed operational considerations for Very Large Airtankers and Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide (IASG) reference (WO)
5.20.4	Differentiated short-haul missions by listing emergency short-haul independent of LEI short-haul and then inserted hyperlink to the Emergency Medical Short-Haul Operations Plan (WO/R6)
5.20.8	Changed board to subcommittee and then changed the subsequent acronym (WO)
5.25.1	Inserted ram air parachute system language and a hyperlink to the associated CMIP (WO)
5.25.2	Changed evaluation 'board' to 'subcommittee' and then changed the subsequent acronym (WO)
5.26.2	Paragraph removed SE Airplane IMC at night paragraph (it's now policy) (WO)
5.27.3	Updated Aviation Emergency Response title (WO)
5.27.5	Updated and reworded entire DHS paragraph + updated intra-document link to Appendix 10.3
5.28	Updated and reworded entire Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) paragraph (WO)
5.29	Removed last paragraph from the Forest Health Protection section (WO)
5.30	Inserted information about the Aerial Firefighting Use and Efficiency Study Operations (WO)
6.6	Updated aviation training language (R3)
6.9	Modified Crew Resource Management (CRM) Training language/ <i>reduced verbiage</i> (WO)
8.1 & 8.3	Changed National Terrorism Alert System to Advisory System to reflect actual title(R3)
9.4	Removed second sentence for efficiency (in order to not parrot policy which is referenced) (WO)
10.4 (Appendix)	Removed "aircraft" from General Process Information section (WO) / Added "Program" and provided example to General Project Process section (R3)
1.5	Added link to AK MOB guide
2.3.5	Replaced outdated table with link to Org Chart.
2.6.3	Fixed link to PNWCG charter. Updated ALT members' positions.
5.19	Added Medford, OR; Deer Park, WA. Changed "neighboring agencies" to "neighboring units."
5.20.4	Added supplement in reference to Short Haul including links.
5.20.5	Deleted supplement in reference to Short Haul.

Section	Description of Change
5.26	Copied language from 5709.16 (33.1 #5) Copied language from 5713.4 Changed language on item #2
5.31	Created 5.31, copied language from 5716.31, minus "leather" in #2.
5.7.1	Copied language from 5709.16 (33.11) and 5716.5 (paragraph 1 only)
6.1	Copied language from 5716.3
6.3	Added "Personnel serving in IAT Instructor positions will meet qualification and currency requirements in the Interagency Aviation Training Guide ."
5.20	Added R 10 supplement.
10.1	Added Cooperator letter.

1.0 Aviation Management Plan

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Forest Service National Aviation Safety and Management Plan (NASMP) is to describe Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) leader's intent, authority, roles and responsibilities, programs, activities, and to provide strategic and operational direction and operational guidance to each organizational level. While the information contained within this plan references policy, this document neither establishes policy nor does it change existing policy. Individual Regions and Units may supplement this plan when needed.

The USDA Forest Service must endeavor to place the safety of employees above all else and ensure recognized hazards are mitigated. The Forest Service's goal is to develop a culture that achieves and maintains a zero accident rate. Prior to conducting any work projects, all risks should be mitigated to the lowest acceptable level. Incorporating [FS Aviation Safety Management System \(SMS\) Guide](#) with a strong Quality Assurance (QA) component will improve the operating model for safety, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Regional Supplement

The Alaska (AK) and Pacific Northwest (PNW) Regional Aviation Safety and Management Plan (RASMP) set forth Regional supplements and define the aviation program within the two Regions.

Each Forest/Unit/Station/Forest Health Protection and Law Enforcement and Investigation should supplement the NASMP and RASMP with specific information relevant to their location. Any section of the National and Regional Aviation Safety Management Plan may be supplemented, when needed. Supplements will not replace any part of the NASMP or RASMP.

Forest/Units/Station supplements will be marked in green text (Forest Supplement) to differentiate between the Regional and National information while the Forest Health Protection and the Law Enforcement supplements will be marked in brown text.

Forest Supplement

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Aviation Safety and Management Plan (FASMP) is designed to supplement the National and the Regional Aviation Safety and Management Plan and function as the third tier within one master document. This plan complements the integration of *Safety Management Systems (SMS)* at the National and Regional level, and serves as the foundation for the management of the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF aviation program. The plan provides guidance and direction to assist with safe, efficient, and effective use of aviation assets on the forest.

1.2 Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Forest Service Aviation Mission. To provide safe, efficient, and coordinated aviation support for agency operations; to support partnership agreements; and to meet current and future needs through innovation and technology in order to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands.

Forest Service Aviation Vision. Lead the world in aviation, supporting natural resources and wildland firefighting.

Fire and Aviation Management Core Values. Safety, integrity, treating people with mutual respect, and land stewardship.

Forest Service Aviation Core Values. To succeed in our mission as a public service organization, we believe that:

- Uncompromising integrity is a nonnegotiable part of our daily work activities.
- Excellence is expected.
- Proactive safety is a condition of employment.
- Disagreement does not equal disrespect.
- Everyone is accountable for his or her actions.
- Honest mistakes are expected.
- We can overcome challenges through innovation, collaboration, and hard work.

Regional Supplement

The Regional Aviation Program's philosophy is to use thorough risk assessment, planning, and management to provide a safe, effective, and efficient aviation program. We have adopted the following as our guiding principle:

VISION-MISSION STATEMENT: PNW / AK AVIATION PROGRAM

We strive to be a High Reliability Organization in all aspects of safety, flight operations, and aviation services.

We are cohesive and supportive. Our work capitalizes on the strengths and expertise of our team and embodies the highest levels of trust, cooperation and leadership. Through oversight and direct actions, we provide superior customer service across all areas of our responsibilities.

Forest Supplement:

The forest is aligned with National and Regional mission. The Okanogan-Wenatchee Aviation Program is committed to provide safe, efficient and economic use of aircraft in conjunction with land management and fire suppression activities.

1.3 Leader's Intent

The Forest Service's aviation program goal is to provide aviation tools that safely and efficiently accomplish missions related to the task of managing national forests. Aircraft are dynamic and high impact resources that can be both expensive and unforgiving when used carelessly. These resources require competent operational oversight; and appropriate utilization of aviation resources can drastically improve operational effectiveness and efficiency, while reducing cost and overall risk. Aviation management requires balanced and pragmatic consideration of multiple complex factors, including safety, the environment, costs and mission goals.

Goal 1: Zero Accident Organization. Become a zero-fatality and zero-accident organization by implementing a Safety Management System (SMS) agency-wide approach to management and operations that includes safety management policy, safety risk management, safety assurance and safety promotion.

Goal 2: Take Care of Our People. Recruit and maintain a sufficient number of highly qualified, trained and motivated workforce members.

Goal 3: Organize for Success. Align the Forest Service aviation program and organization to meet the needs of current and future operations.

Goal 4: Take Advantage of Technology. Where feasible, deploy technologically advanced and cost-effective aircraft, equipment and infrastructure to meet the agency's current and future mission.

Refer to the [USDA Forest Service Aviation Strategic Plan 2014-2018](#) for additional information.

Regional Supplement

In addition to the roles and responsibilities identified in NASMP, all AK/PNW Regional Fire and Aviation program managers strive to achieve the following objectives:

- To provide leadership, direction, service, support, and assistance at the geographic level that promotes cost-effective interagency coordination and cooperation.
- To provide a learning environment for professional aviators and aviation management personnel and to promote open communications with line officers.
- To strive towards zero aircraft accidents and a reduction of serious incident rates through emphasis on the human factors and Safety Management Systems (SMS).
- The AK/PNW is committed to maintaining interagency "Service First" relationships with a focus on "mission over agency."

Forest Supplement

In addition to the objectives stated in the National and Regional Plans above, the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF is committed to integrating its aviation resources and activities to:

- Provide a safe work environment for all employees including contractors, volunteers and cooperators.
- Protect forest lands in accordance with established resource management objectives.

1.4 Aviation Doctrine

Management has defined policy and doctrine in [FSM 5700](#) that conveys aviation safety expectations and objectives to employees. Aviation safety policy in [FSM 5700](#) addresses roles, responsibilities, and authorities regarding aviation safety at each organizational level.

This process starts with a clear value-based philosophy of what the organization and its business model should be and what it is about. The relevance of safety principles to Forest Service doctrine for aviation management cannot be overstated. These principles permeate the aviation management business model and drive SMS program design.

“As an organization our commitment is to manage risk to the lowest practical level.” This effort is an iterative process that requires diligence in the following principle areas:

- Develop and maintain a safety culture that recognizes the value of safety management systems;
- Clearly define the duties, responsibilities, and accountabilities for all employees;
- Provide all employees with adequate training and information to enhance performance;
- Comply with or exceed all regulatory and agency specific requirements;
- Proactively manage the risks associated with our operation;
- Standardize risk management as a part of the aviation operations planning process such that all deliberate/strategic risk assessments follow the general format found in section 3.5 of the [SMS Guide](#).
- Ensure externally supplied services and materials meet or exceed all regulatory and agency specific requirements;
- Determine specific performance goals and consistently measure performance against those goals;
- Conduct internal management and safety reviews to improve performance;
- Encourage all employees to report errors and safety issues in the spirit of a just culture.
- To formalize risk management as a part of the planning process, risk assessments should follow the format found in section 3.5 of the [FS Aviation Safety Management System \(SMS\) Guide](#).

1.4.1 Quality Principles

Top management shall ensure that quality policies and procedures are consistent with [SMS](#) requirements defined in this manual. [SMS](#) quality management (assurance and control) processes shall be consistent with agency to improve the efficiency of the entire organization.

1. "Create a constancy of purpose." Replace short-term reaction with long-term planning. This applies to action plans that make adjustments for weaknesses and deficiencies.

- Avoid reactive fixes to organizational problems.
- Define the problems of today and the future.
- Allocate resources for long-term planning and plan for high quality services.
- Constantly improve product and service.

2. "Adopt a new philosophy." Meaningful change can only take place from within the organization. Change focus from operations output to quality service.

- Quality costs less not more.
- The call for major change comes from the top.
- Stop waiting for direction from upper management and instead seek direction by evaluating field customer needs.

3. "Cease dependence on inspection to achieve quality." Quality does not come from inspection alone. If quality is designed into the process, and standards are fully implemented, then variation is reduced, and there is less need to inspect operations for defects.

- Inspections should be used to collect data for process control and to provide input to guide management decisions resulting in a reduction in potential errors.
- Quality cannot be achieved through reactive identification and elimination of errors because it perpetuates the fly/crash/fix/fly cycle.

4. "Do not award business based on price tag alone." Our actions should be focused on the detection of variations between vendors' performances to identify the best service providers. Contract language should be consistent and clear so vendors understand our requirements.

- Price alone has no meaning: change focus from lowest cost to best value/cost.
- Develop a longer term relationship (contract) between the operation and vendors.

5. "Improve constantly the system of production and service." Each new action must constantly strive to reduce variation and introduce mitigations that reduce mishaps and improve effectiveness.

- Quality starts with the intent of management, which is found in directives.
- Design Quality into the system with a fundamental focus on team work in design.
- Constantly maintain awareness and continue to reduce waste.
- Constant improvement of the system requires greater efforts than reactively responding to errors and issues.

1.4.2 Aviation Promotion Principles

Management must be committed to the implementation of SMS as their highest priority: to provide safety resources, to continuously improve safety practices, and to provide a framework for responsibility and accountability.

1. "Institute a program of education and self-improvement." Personnel need a thorough grounding in the principles, tools, and techniques of SMS. People must learn new ways of working together as teams and adopt new behaviors that support the new management philosophy.

- Educate for higher awareness in management and in customers.
- Develop team-building skills in employees.

2. "Break barriers among staff areas." Another idea central to QA is the concept of the 'internal customer,' which in our case may mean that management processes, antiquated policies, budget allocations, and hiring restrictions are the barriers to our success. We need to act to correct such inefficiencies.

- Promote team work to identify internal barriers and satisfy the internal customer.
- Know your inefficiencies as well as those of your suppliers and customers.

3. "Adopt and institute leadership." Leadership means designing the system around high standards, building a quality culture, and modeling behavior that exemplifies the values to support such a culture.

- Remove barriers to foster pride of workmanship and recognize positive outcomes.
- Leaders must know the work they manage and supervise.

4. "Take action to accomplish the transformation." Everyone in the organization must work together to facilitate change management. Forest Service Aviation Managers at all levels in the program should:

- Be proactive within the implementation of the change management process.
- Take pride in the new doctrine and the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP).
- Include a cross section of people to implement the change from the top to the bottom.

1.5 USDA Forest Service Aviation Strategic Plan 2014–2018

The [Aviation Strategic Plan](#) provides an outline of how the agency will use aviation assets to accomplish the Forest Service mission: "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Aviation Strategic Plan defines Aviation Management's vision, mission, values and goals. To accomplish the Forest Service Aviation mission, "To provide safe, efficient, and coordinated aviation support for agency operations; to support partnership agreements, and to meet current and future needs through innovation and technology in order to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands," Aviation goals are

focused on safety, people, organization, and technologically advanced assets. These goals are characterized by specific objectives. Performance measures are used to define how well the agency has advanced toward accomplishing each objective. Strategies define the method or approach taken to accomplish the objectives and are reflective of opportunities and threats. Action plans will move the strategies forward and will be specific, measurable, and attainable. Progress will be reported in our annual aviation program report to assist the Forest Service with monitoring performance.

The Aviation Strategic Plan is the umbrella document that provides strategic context for all aviation activities. The plan is not a stand-alone document, but rather it complements, enhances, and guides other plans and strategies. The plan is tiered to higher level documents such as the Forest Service Strategic Plan. It is the long-term framework for guiding future Forest Service Aviation activities.

Regional Supplement

The aviation program within the AK/PNW Region involves planning for contracting and maintaining the appropriate mix of fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft and aviation expertise to support fire and resource aviation missions. In order to determine the direction of the Region and States, it is necessary to understand its current position and the possible avenues through which it can pursue a particular course of action. The course of action will be defined in the five year AK/PNW Aviation Strategic Plan that is currently being developed.

The Alaska and Northwest Coordination Centers, Forest Dispatch Centers, and local/state/regional agency managers can pre-position and mobilize aviation resources within the geographic area in accordance with established mobilization protocols and procedures.

All-Risk activities will be conducted in accordance with established mobilization procedures as outlined in the National and Geographical Mobilization Guides:

- [National Mobilization Guide](#)
- [PNW Mobilization Guide](#)
- [AK Mobilization Guide](#)

Forest Supplement

The Okanogan-Wenatchee fire and aviation managers acknowledge the benefits of rapid mobility of aerial resources and work closely with interagency partners and neighboring forests to share aviation assets.

The Forest, through the Pacific Northwest Region, are signatory to the “British Columbia & NW United States Wildfire Response Border Arrangement”.

1.6 Authority

This plan fulfills the requirements outlined in [FSM 5700](#). This plan sets the standard that will be aviation policy and has been developed to provide standardization and policy for aviation programs. While this document is Forest Service specific, it does incorporate interagency standards.

Regional Supplement

The Regional supplements apply National direction at the Regional level. The Forest/Unit/Station/FHP and LEI supplements apply National and Regional policies and are implemented at the local level. It is expected that different areas have unique procedures for managing aviation commensurate with their workload and staffing capabilities.

This plan shall be approved annually. This plan and the Forest/Unit/Station/FHP and LEI plans shall updated, reviewed, and submitted to the Assistant Fire Director, Aviation for signatures by May 1.

Forest Supplement

This plan has been developed to provide standardization for all Forest Service aviation operations on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. All forest aviation operations will be planned and conducted under applicable direction specified in the Forest Service Manual (FSM 5700), and the National and Regional plans.

1.7 General Policy

The policy of the Forest Service requires employees to follow the direction in aviation manuals, handbooks, and the aviation guides as listed in this chapter, under [FSM 5706](#).

Aviation operations require regulations, manuals, guides, and checklists to execute and coordinate operations in a safe and effective manner. Where the terms “shall” and “must” are used in manuals, handbooks, or guides, compliance with those items is mandatory and not discretionary ([FSM 1110.8 – Exhibit 01 Degree of Compliance or Restriction in Directives](#)). These principles should guide employees; they are authoritative, but require employees to apply their judgment in order to solve problems.

Regional Supplement

Refer to Chapter 5.2 of this document for links to Regional manuals, handbooks, and guides.

Forest Supplement

Refer to Chapter 5.2 of this document for links to Regional manuals, handbooks, and guides.

2.0 Aviation Management Organization

2.1 Organization

The Washington Office (WO) Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) is located at the USDA Forest Service National Headquarters in Washington D.C. and at a Washington Office detached unit in Boise, ID.

The Forest Service has nine Regional Offices and the North East Area located throughout the United States.

Region 1: Missoula, MT

Region 2: Golden, CO

Region 3: Albuquerque, NM

Region 4: Ogden, UT

Region 5: Vallejo, CA

Region 6: Portland, OR

Region 8: Atlanta, GA

Region 9: Milwaukee, WI

Region 10: Juneau, AK (Fire and Aviation are combined with Region 6, Portland, OR)

Northeast Area: Newtown Square, PA

There are five (5) Research Stations, one (1) Institute, and one (1) Laboratory.

Pacific Northwest Research Station: Portland, OR

Pacific Southwest Research Station: Berkeley, CA

Rock Mountain Research Station: Ft. Collins, CO

Northern Research Station: Newtown Square, PA

Southern Research Station: Ashville, NC

International Institute of Tropical Forestry: San Juan, PR

Forest Products Laboratory: Madison, WI

Each Region/Station/Area has several Forests/Units located within their geographical location or area of responsibility.

2.2 Washington Office (WO) Headquarters Staff

2.2.1 Director, Fire and Aviation (FAM)

The Director, FAM, is responsible to the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry. The Director, FAM's responsibilities are located in the [FSM 5704.2](#), [FSM 5720.43](#), and the [FSH 5709.19, Chapter 10](#).

2.2.2 Deputy Director, Aviation, Operations and Risk Management

The Deputy Director, Aviation, Operations and Risk Management responsibilities are located in the [FSM 5704.21](#) and the [FSH 5709.16, Chapter 50](#).

2.2.3 Assistant Director, Aviation

The Assistant Director, Aviation responsibilities are located in the [FSM 5704.21](#). The Assistant Director, Aviation provides national program direction, leadership, and management of the Forest Service aviation program, including coordination of aviation activities with other staffs, agencies, and groups, with an emphasis on aviation planning, budget, policy, operations, aircraft airworthiness, pilot standardization, aviation training and quality assurance. The Assistant Director, Aviation supervises:

- Branch Chief, Aviation Business Operations – Washington D.C.
- Branch Chief, Aviation Operations – Boise, ID
- Branch Chief, Airworthiness – Boise, ID
- Branch Chief, Pilot Standardization – Boise, ID
- Branch Chief, Aircraft Program Management – Washington D.C.
- Branch Chief, Aviation Strategic Plans – Washington D.C.

2.2.4 Branch Chief, Aviation Business Operations (ABO)

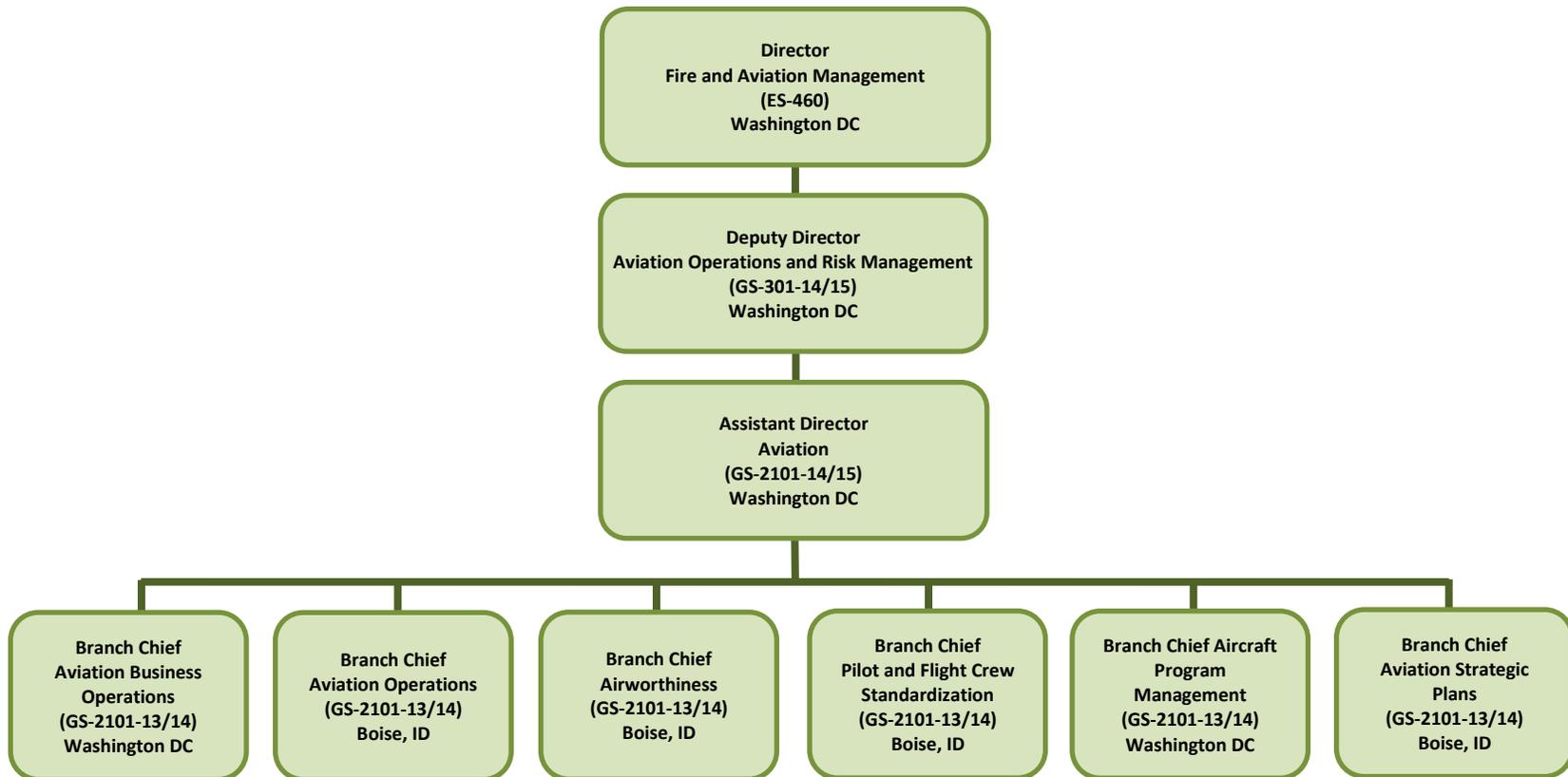
The Branch Chief, Aviation Business Operations provides oversight, planning, coordination, and direction for aviation policy, budget, reporting, and analysis. The Branch Chief ABO supervises three Aviation Management Specialists.

2.2.5 Branch Chief, Aviation Strategic Plans

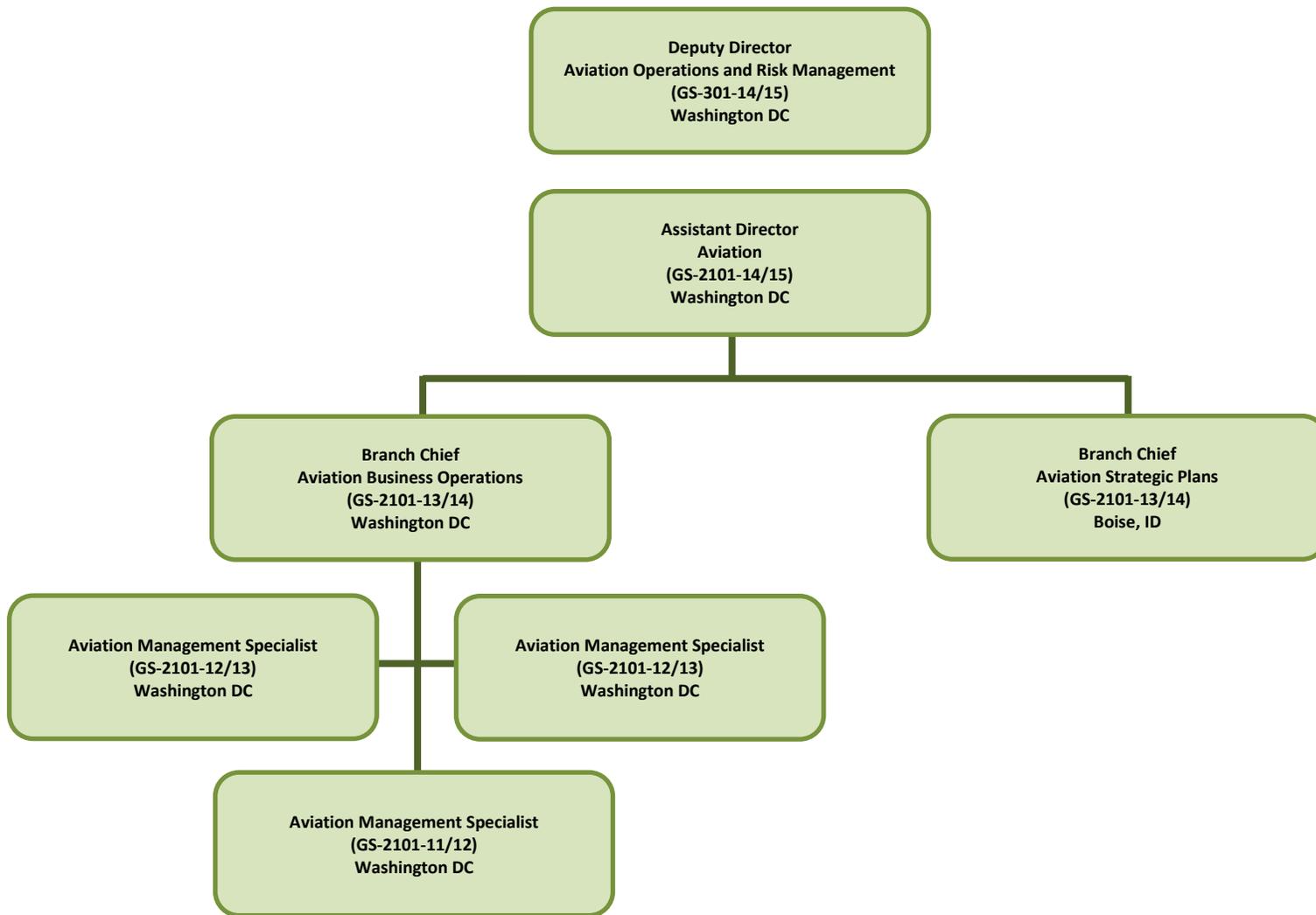
The Branch Chief, Aviation Strategic Plans develops aviation strategy for the Forest Service.

FIRE and AVIATION MANAGEMENT

Washington Office Headquarters and Washington Office Boise Aviation



FIRE and AVIATION MANAGEMENT Washington Office Headquarters Aviation Operations



2.2.6 Branch Chief, Aircraft Program Management

The Branch Chief, Aviation Program Management manages aircraft fleet programs.

2.2.7 Branch Chief, Aviation Operations

The Branch Chief, Aviation Operations provides oversight, coordination, and direction of aviation operations conducted by the National Office and Regions. The Branch Chief supervises the National Helicopter Program Manager, National Airtanker Program Manager, National Aircraft Coordinator, National Aerial Supervision Program Manager, National Helicopter Operations Specialist, National Smokejumper Program Manager, and National Rappel Specialist. The Branch Chief's responsibilities are located in the [FSM 5704.22](#) and [FSH 5709.16, Chapter 10, 10.41c](#).

National Helicopter Program Manager

The National Helicopter Program Manager:

- Provides oversight for the helicopter program.
- Serves as principal helicopter program advisor to National Contracting, Fire and Aviation HQ staff and the Regions in the development and implementation of policies, programs, and standard practices for helicopter programs and specialized projects.
- Responsible for performing contract helicopter inspections and pilot approvals.
- Serves as the contact and coordination point for industry groups and cooperating agencies regarding contract helicopter approvals and operations.

National Airtanker Program Manager

The National Airtanker Program Manager provides national airtanker program leadership, coordination, oversight, and interagency cooperation.

National Aircraft Coordinator

The National Aircraft Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the efficient use of airtankers, helicopters, lead planes and ASMs, and other aircraft as assigned. Movement of aircraft is coordinated with the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- Manages the Defense Logistics Administration fuel program
- May provide technical oversight, reporting and Contracting Officer Technical Representation (COTR) support for nationally contracted aircraft

National Aerial Supervision/Light Fixed Wing Program Manager

The National Aerial Supervision/Light Fixed Wing Program Manager provides national program leadership, coordination, and interagency cooperation for the aerial supervision program and advisor to Contracting, Fire and Aviation HQ staff and Regions in the development and implementation of policies, programs, and standard practices

for the light fixed wing aircraft and programs. The aerial supervision program consists of air tactical, lead plane, aerial supervision module and helicopter coordinator operations.

National Helicopter Operations Specialist (NHOS)

The National Helicopter Operations Specialist is responsible for the oversight, coordination, and direction of helicopter operations activities conducted by the National Office. The NHOS:

- Provides primary technical oversight and support for WO contracted helicopters.
- Provides oversight and assistance to regional helicopter program managers.

National Smokejumper and Large Fixed Wing Program Manager

The National Smokejumper and Large Fixed Wing Program Manager provides national program leadership, coordination, and interagency cooperation in the smokejumper program and is program advisor to Contracting, Fire and Aviation HQ staff, and Regions in the development and implementation of policies, programs, and standard practices for large fixed wing aircraft and programs.

National Rappel Specialist (NRS)

The NRS is responsible for the oversight in developing, recommending and implementing rappel standards, objectives, plans, and policies for the national rappel program.

The NRS:

- Provides oversight and continuous coordination of the national rappel program
- Assures standardization, quality assurance, integration and coordination among the rappel program to ensure that the program and equipment reflect aviation management policy direction, objectives, and regulations.

2.2.8 Branch Chief, Airworthiness

The Branch Chief, Airworthiness supervises Aviation Maintenance Inspectors (Airworthiness), Aviation Safety Inspectors (Avionics), Aeronautical/Aerospace Engineer, and an Aviation Budget Analyst. The responsibilities of the Branch Chief are in the [FSM 5704.23](#).

Aviation Safety Inspectors–Airworthiness (5)

The Aviation Safety Inspectors – Airworthiness:

- Provide oversight for delegated National/Regional program areas.
- Perform National and Regional Aviation program quality assurance, inspections and evaluations to support Forest Service.
- Establish work programs for inspection, monitoring, audits and surveillance.

- Evaluates compliance with Forest Service policy and [Federal Aviation Regulations \(14 CFR\)](#) with respect to airworthiness, maintenance, preventive maintenance, and alteration programs.
- Provides expert technical representation on agency and interagency working groups.
- Prepares and reviews technical specifications for aircraft, aircraft equipment/modifications, maintenance, and inspection requirements

Aviation Safety Inspectors–Avionics (2)

The Aviation Safety Inspectors – Avionics:

- Performs National and Regional aviation avionics program management, including planning, organizing, implementing, and controlling the aviation avionics program.
- Accomplishes equipment, aircraft, and operator inspections and evaluation to support the Forest Service.
- Evaluates compliance with Forest Service policy and [Federal Aviation Regulations \(14 CFR\)](#) with respect to avionics, avionics maintenance, avionics installations, and alteration programs.
- Inspects the avionics of multi-engine piston, or twin-engine turboprop aircraft as well as various fixed and rotor wing aircraft owned, contracted by or cooperated with by the Forest Service.
- Prepares and reviews technical specifications for avionics and inspection requirements, contract rewrite evaluations (e.g., Subject Matter Expert) and contract pre-award evaluation.
- Submits findings and recommendations to the National and/or Regional office which result from surveillance and inspections of aircraft.

Aeronautical/Aerospace Engineer (1)

The Aeronautical/ Aerospace Engineer:

- Provides oversight of Forest Service owned Type Certified Data Sheets (TCDS) and Supplemental Type Certificates (STC), and the Forest Service Operational Loads Monitoring (OLM) Program.
- Assists in the evaluation of proposed new equipment and aircraft modifications.
- Member of the Forest Service Airworthiness Working Group and/or the Interagency Airworthiness Practices Board.
- Interfaces with engineering representatives from aircraft and equipment manufacturers.
- Makes up a part of the airworthiness approval process for UAS utilized by the Forest Service.

Aviation Budget Analyst (1)

The Aviation Budget Analyst is responsible for analyzing and evaluating aviation cost and use data for aviation plans and reports; aviation business cases; managing projects; financial analysis and assessment of compliance with laws and regulations. The Aviation Budget Analyst also completes the Federal Aviation Information Reporting Systems reporting and working capital fund analysis and reports.

2.2.9 Branch Chief, Pilot and Flight Crew Standardization

The Branch Chief, Pilot and Flight Crew Standardization supervises a National Fixed Wing Standardization Pilot, a National Helicopter Standardization Pilot, and National Helicopter Inspector Pilots. The Branch Chief, Pilot Standardization:

- Identifies and approves qualified pilot instructor, check, and inspector pilots.
- Maintains current listings, including all mission and aircraft authorizations, of all qualified instructor, check, and inspector pilots.

National Fixed-Wing Standardization Pilot (1)

The National Fixed-Wing Standardization responsibilities are in the [FSH 5709.16, Chapter 20, 20.42](#).

National Helicopter Standardization Pilot (1)

The National Helicopter Standardization responsibilities are in the [FSH 5709.16, Chapter 20, 20.44](#).

National Helicopter Inspector Pilots (4)

The National Helicopter Inspector Pilots:

- Provides leadership and oversight for the development and implementation of a national helicopter pilot and training program.
- Provides expertise necessary to support the USFS National Standardization and Quality Assurance initiative for oversight of national contract operations.
- Administers pilot evaluations for the purpose of determining an individual's suitability to perform special use missions typical of natural resource operations.
- Provides technical oversight of pilots, aircraft, and equipment used in support of agency missions.

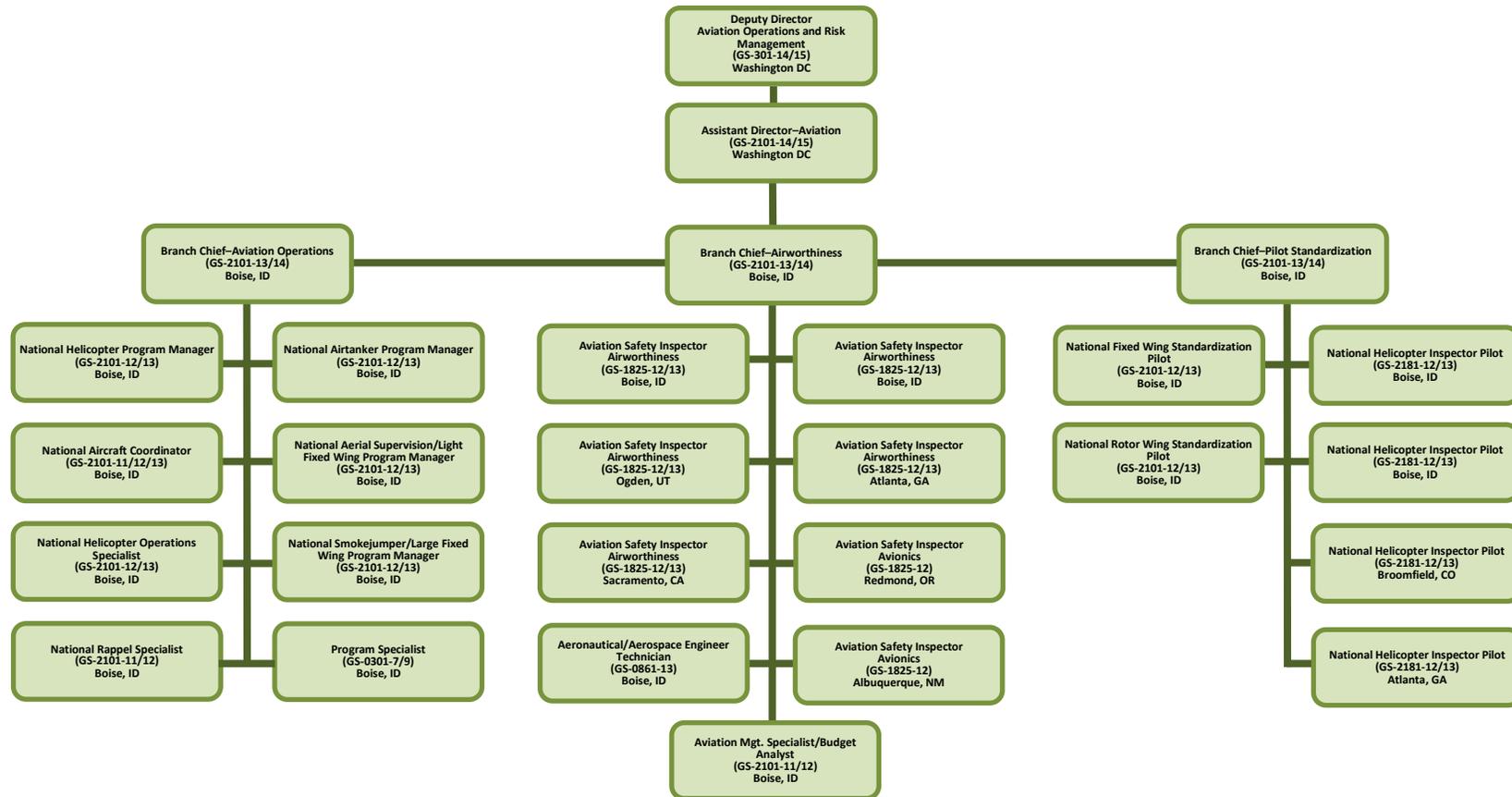
Two NHIPs are stationed in Boise, 2 virtual (Colorado and Georgia).

2.2.10 Assistant Director, Risk Management

The Assistant Director, Risk Management supervises one Branch Chief, Aviation Safety Management Systems

RE and AVIATION MANAGEMENT

Washington Office Boise Aviation Operations, Air Worthiness, and Pilot Standardizations



2.2.11 Branch Chief, Aviation Safety Management Systems

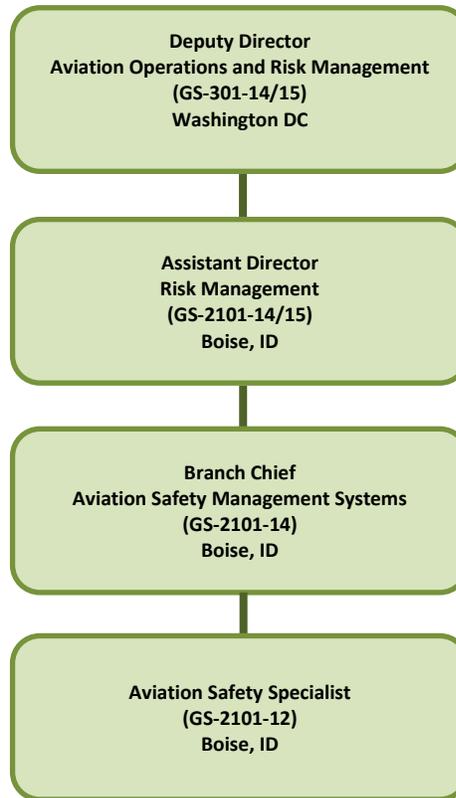
This position has the operational responsibility for development, implementation, and monitoring of the Aviation [Safety Management Systems](#), including oversight of the following key SMS components:

- Policy, including managing and coordinating implementation of the National Aviation Safety Management Plan.
- Risk management.
- Safety Assurance.
- Safety Promotion, including training programs.
- Reporting accidents and incidents to the Director, Fire and Aviation Management Staff, Washington Office and to Forest Service and Department Safety and Health officials.
- Determining the classification of mishaps as accidents, incidents with potential or incidents.
- Management and oversight of Aviation Safety Systems including; National Aviation Safety Center, System Safety Enterprise Team, National Aviation Safety Council, [SAFECOM](#) reporting system, aviation safety training and education.
- Maintains a process for data collection and analysis as well as evaluation of aviation risk management and operational safety.
- Establishes safety criteria and standards for National aviation contracts.
- Coordinates with the National Aviation Officer, Logistics, to assure aircraft airworthiness standards and aircraft selection in Agency and service provider aircraft types and provides guidance for final fleet composition.
- Provides program oversight and direction for aviation education and training, including interagency aviation training (IAT), Advanced Aviation Management Training (AAMT) and Lessons Learned.

National Aviation Safety Specialist

The National Aviation Safety Specialist is responsible for service-wide programs involving the development and implementation of plans and programs in aviation safety and standardization for aviation safety programs.

Washington Office Boise Fire and Aviation Risk Management



2.2.12 National Forest Health Protection Aviation Manager

The National Forest Health Protection Aviation Manager (NFHPAM) is responsible for coordinating forest health aviation safety and operations with the appropriate Regional Aviation Safety Manager, Regional Aviation Officer or Unit Aviation Officer.

2.3 Regional Office (RO) Staff

Regional level aviation organizations vary based on workload and overall organization. The Regional Aviation Officer and Regional Aviation Safety Manager are the two consistent positions.

2.3.1 Regional Forester

Regional Forester responsibilities are located in [FSM 5704.3](#).

2.3.2 Regional Aviation Officer (RAO)

The RAO is responsible for the oversight, coordination, and direction of aviation operations activities conducted by the Regional Office. The RAO responsibilities are located in the [FSM 5704.3](#), [FSH 5709.16, Chapter 10, 10.42b](#) and [FSM 5720.48b](#).

2.3.3 Regional Aviation Safety Managers (RASM)

The RASM reports to the Director or the Deputy Director and is responsible for implementation, fostering and promoting SMS, including Policy, Risk Management, Assurance and Promotion. Their responsibilities are located in the [FSM 5720.48d](#).

2.3.4 Regional Aviation Safety Inspector (ASI), Airworthiness / Regional Aviation Maintenance Program Manager

The ASI, Airworthiness is responsible for the maintenance and airworthiness program conducted by the Regional Office. The ASI responsibilities are located in the [FSH 5709.16, Chapter 40, 40.44, 40.45](#) and in the [FS Aircraft Inspection Guide \(AIG\)](#).

2.3.5 Regional Aviation Safety Inspectors – Avionics

The ASI, Avionics, performs Regional aviation avionics program management, including planning, organizing, implementing and controlling the aviation avionics program. The ASI accomplishes equipment, aircraft, and operator inspections and evaluation to support the National and Regional Forest Service.

Regional Supplement

Regional Director, Fire, Fuels and Aviation Management

The primary aviation role of the Regional Director, Fire, Fuels and Aviation is to provide overall leadership to the Regional and Forest fire and aviation organizations.

The AK/PNW aviation management organization and responsibilities can be found in the AK/PNW Regional Aviation Group Operation Plan.

See a current Table of Organization of the AK/PNW Fire, Fuels, and Aviation organization [here](#).

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

2.4 Forest Staff

2.4.1 Line Officer

Line Officer responsibilities are located in [FSM 5704.6](#), [FSM 5711.04](#), and [FSM 5720.48a](#).

Forest Supplement

The Forest Supervisor is responsible for all aviation activities on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF and the Pacific Northwest Forest Sciences Lab. Responsibilities outlined in FSM 5704.6 have been delegated to the Unit Aviation Officer (UAO).

District Rangers are responsible for designating a District Aviation Officer for their respective District.

2.4.2 Forest Aviation Officer/Unit Aviation Officer (FAO/UAO)

The FAO/UAO manages the forest aviation program by providing technical and management direction of aviation resources to support Forest programs. The FAO/UAO should meet the Aviation Manager qualifications in [IAT Guide](#). The FAO/UAO responsibilities are located in the ([FSM 5704.61](#)). Some forests employ “service-first” positions to fulfill the FAO/UAO responsibilities. On those units, the position is referred to as a UAO.

Forest Supplement

The UAO serves as the focal point for the Forest and Wenatchee Lab Aviation program by providing technical and management direction of aviation resources to support forest programs. The UAO monitors aerial activities for compliance with policy. The Forest Supervisor delegates the following functional responsibilities of daily operations to the UAO:

- Chairs the Forest Aviation Management Team (FAMT).
- Ensures compliance with aviation management safety policies and procedures.
- Developing and implementing forest aviation policies and procedures.
- Ensures that all Forest Aviation Plans and Project Aviation Safety Plans are updated and reviewed as necessary and approved at the appropriate management level.
- Coordinates with dispatch on planned administrative aircraft use on the forest.
- Coordinates activities with the local FAA, military and other agencies that may operate on, over or near the forest.
- Coordinates with the Regional Aviation Group and management as necessary.
- Reviews SAFECOM's and makes recommendations to the Regional Aviation Safety Manager when appropriate.
- Develops and or edits and reviews all non-fire Programmatic Project Aviation Safety Plans (PPASP) and Project Aviation Safety Plans (PASP).

2.4.3 All Employees

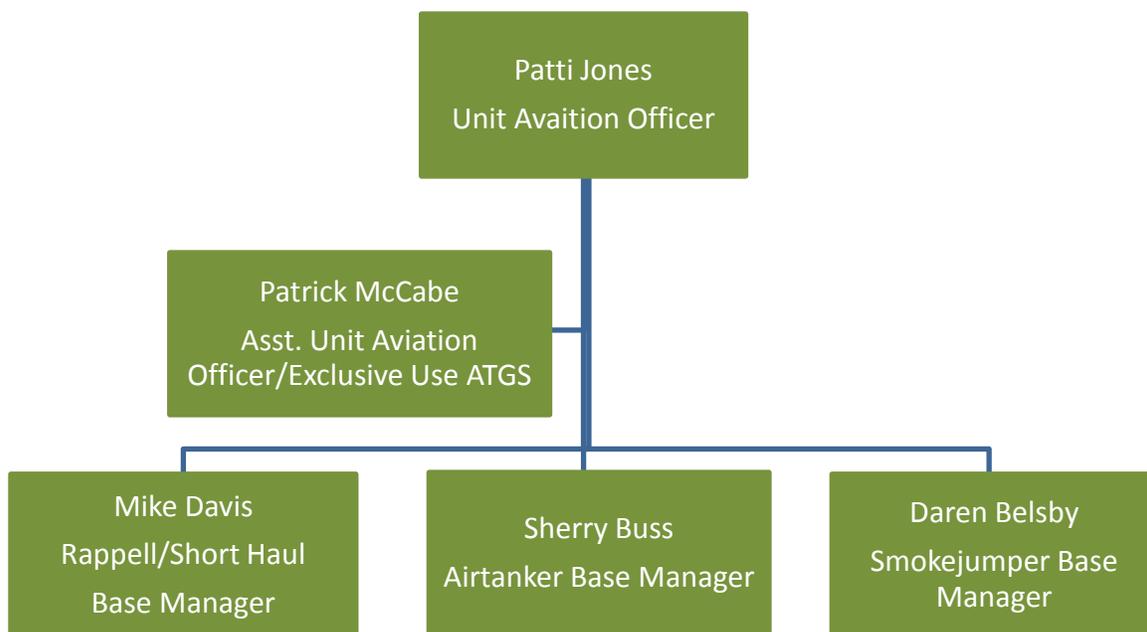
All employees involved in aviation activities are responsible for acquiring, knowing, and following aviation policy and regulations ([FSM 5704.09](#), [FSM 5720.46](#)). Forest Service employees shall fly only in approved government (refer to Government Aircraft definition in [FSM 5705](#)) aircraft flown by an approved pilot(s). Approvals are specified in [FSM 5703.1](#), [5712.3](#), [5712.4](#) and [5713.4](#). Employees are empowered and expected to manage the risks of aviation operations, and make reasonable and prudent decisions to accomplish the mission. Employees shall use an operational risk management process to evaluate the risk and hazards prior to every flight. Individuals will be held accountable for their decisions, which should be based on policy, principles, training, experience, and the given situation.

Forest Service employees have the responsibility to immediately report to the appropriate official any instances of unsafe equipment or aviation operations ([FSM 5723.1](#) and [5720.46](#)).

Regional Supplement

For the purpose of Regional Supplements included within this document, the term UAO is synonymous with any of the following: Forest Aviation Officer (FAO), Unit Aviation Manager (UAM), and/or Unit Aviation Officer (UAO).

Forest Supplement



2.5 Additional Aviation Positions

2.5.1 Station Aviation Officer (SAO)

The SAO coordinates the station aviation activities with the appropriate FAO/UAO and/or the RAO. The SAO may provide general aviation oversight and technical advice under the guidance of the FAO/UAO or RAO. The SAO will meet the Aviation Manager qualifications in [IAT Guide](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

Assistant Unit Aviation Officer/Air Attack Program Manager

The assistant UAO assists the UAO in the supervision of aviation program by providing technical and management direction of aviation resources to support forest programs.

- Attends FAMT meetings.
- Initiates the annual review and updates of the Forest Aviation Safety and Management Plan.
- Coordinates the annual updates of the Forest aviation hazards maps.
- In coordination with the Assistant Dispatch Center Manager/Aviation, provides helibase plan updates.
- Provides oversight of the light fixed-wing detection and air tactical programs, its personnel and its contract aircraft and pilots.

During the core fire season the Assistant UAO functions as the forest's exclusive use Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS).

Assistant Dispatch Center Manager/Aviation

The aviation assistant center manager is a member of the FAMT and will have thorough knowledge of aviation operations to include: aircraft capabilities and limitations, Forest Service aviation policy, aircraft rental, contracting, administration procedures, and payment procedures. The following duties are will be completed by the Assistant Dispatch Center Manager/Aviation:

- Attends FAMT meetings.
- Coordinates updating the flight planned administrative aircraft use on the Forest.
- Reviews flight requirements for aircraft and provides a cost comparison of aircraft types to enable the user to determine if chartered flight is the most efficient mode of transportation.
- Initiates aviation related search and rescue operations as outlined in the Okanogan-Wenatchee Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist. Ensures the guide is updated with current phone numbers and contacts.
- Verifies that a qualified flight manager, according to existing policy, is assigned for all flights.

District Aviation Officers

District Aviation Officers are members of the FAMT. DAO's should be operationally involved in aviation or be qualified as a project aviation manager. Minimum training requirements should follow policy guidelines. The following duties are assigned to the DAO's:

- Attend FAMT meetings.
- Provide aviation advice, technical expertise, and information on processes and procedures to district personnel.
- Assist in the preparation of PASP's.
- Provide annual review and input of the Forest Aviation Hazard Map to the assistant UAO.
- Provide helibase plan updates to assistant UAO as needed.

Airtanker Base Manager (ATBM)

The ATBM's duties are the safety, management and supervision of the Air Tanker Base and its personnel. The ATBM's duties are listed in the Interagency Air Tanker Base Operations Guide.

Smokejumper Base Manager

The smokejumper base manager's duties are the safety, management and supervision of the Smokejumper base, its personnel and its contract aircraft and pilots. The smokejumper base manager's duties are listed in the Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide.

Wenatchee Airbase Program Manager

The airbase program manager's duties are the safety, management, and supervision of the rappel and short haul program, its personnel, its contract aircraft and pilots. The rappel program manager's duties are listed in the Interagency Rappel Operations Guide.

2.6 National Groups/Committees

2.6.1 National Aviation Team (NAT)

The National Aviation Team consists of all members of the Aviation Division, including the Assistant Director, Aviation; six Branch Chiefs; Program Managers and supporting staff.

2.6.2 Interagency Committee on Aviation Policy (ICAP)

This committee is chaired by the General Services Administration (GSA) and includes all federal agencies that own or hire aircraft. GSA established the committee at the direction of the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB). GSA publishes regulatory policy for aircraft management in [41 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 102-33](#), "Management of Government Aircraft," and [41 CFR 300-3; 301-10; and 301-70](#), "Travel on Government Aircraft."

[OMB Circular A-126](#), "Improving the Management and Use of Government Aircraft, provides the basic guidance for management of federal aviation programs and for travel on government aircraft."

2.6.3 National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)

The Committee is established to serve as a body of resident aviation experts, assisting NWCG with realizing opportunities for enhanced safety, effectiveness, and efficiency in aviation related operations, procedures, programs and coordination. [NIAC](#) is chartered under the Equipment and Technology Branch of NWCG.

Committee membership will reflect a mix of people who are knowledgeable in the subject area and who represent NWCG member agencies and organizations, including representation from Department of Interior (DOI) Office of Aviation Services (OAS).

The WO Branch Chiefs, Aviation Operations and Pilot Standardization are designated by the WO Assistant Director, Aviation as Forest Service representatives to NIAC.

NIAC Sub Committees include:

- Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee
- Interagency Airspace Subcommittee

- Interagency Airtanker Base Operations Subcommittee
- Interagency Airtanker Board (IAB)
- Interagency Aviation Training Subcommittee (IAT)
- Interagency SEAT Board
- Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Board (SASEB)
- Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOps)
 - o Aerial Capture Eradication and Tagging Animals Unit (ACETA)
 - o Interagency Aerial Ignition Unit
 - Helitorch Subunit
 - o Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide Unit (IHOG)
 - o Interagency Helicopter Rappel Unit
 - Rappel Equipment Subunit
 - o Helicopter Short Haul Unit

Regional Supplement

PNWCG Aviation Committee

Coordination and resolution of interagency aviation issues are accomplished via the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group's (PNWCG) Aviation Committee which is composed of senior level aviation managers from all Federal and State agencies in the PNW who provide aviation management oversight for all functional program levels for both Fire and non-Fire aviation users to support field operations. The Aviation Committee charter contains a more complete description of the group's functions.

See [Appendix 11.1](#) for PNWCG Charter

The Aviation Leadership Team (ALT)

The ALT is made up of aviation program managers who meet regularly to discuss aviation program direction and provide a means of sharing information on program issues. Concerns and recommendations are provided to the AD2 through the Assistant Fire Director, Aviation. ALT meetings are generally open to anyone who would like to attend, but may occasionally be closed to non-members at the discretion of the Assistant Fire Director, Aviation.

ALT Members:

- AK/PNW Assistant Fire Director, Aviation (provides leadership)
- BLM State Aviation Manager
- AK/PNW Regional Aviation Safety Manager
- AK/PNW Aviation Operations Division Manager
- Support Services Specialist
- AK/PNW Fixed-Wing Program Manager
- AK/PNW Chief Pilot
- AK/PNW Standardization Pilot
- AK/PNW Helicopter Program Manager

- **AK/PNW Aircraft Maintenance Division Manager**

Forest Supplement

The FAMT is made up of aviation personnel on the forest who meet on an annual basis to discuss the forest aviation program and provide a means to share information, coordinate aviation training, and standardize aviation activities across the forest.

FAMT Membership:

- UAO
- Assistant UAO
- District and Lab Aviation Officers
- Assistant Dispatch Center Manager-Aviation
- Airtanker Base Manager
- Airbase Program Manager
- Smokejumper Base Manager

2.7 Program Overview

The Forest Service aviation program is comprised of national, regional and forest organizations.

All agency-owned and operated (WCF) aircraft are registered to the Washington Office and hosted by regions or the national office. The WO is the lead for most of the contracted aircraft used by the interagency wildland firefighting community including Large Airtankers (LATs), smokejumper aircraft, Type I and II helicopters, Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) and lead plane aircraft, infrared (IR) airplanes, aerial supervision aircraft, water scoopers and other miscellaneous aircraft. These aircraft are acquired for the primary use of the Forest Service; however, they are available for use by other federal, state, and local partners and cooperators as specified in agency policy, agreements and procedures.

Regions and Forests also contract for aircraft including, but not limited to, Forest Health Protection (FHP) airplanes, Type III helicopters, aerial tactical airplanes, and other fire and resource management aircraft.

The majority of Forest Service aviation use is for wildland fire management and support. Other aviation uses include forest health protection, wildlife survey, law enforcement, and projects related to natural resource management and administrative flights.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest aviation program is comprised of national, regional and forest level programs and aircraft.

- Moses Lake Airtanker Base
- North Cascades Smokejumper Base

- 1 smokejumper aircraft based at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base (NCSB) (S52).
- Wenatchee Valley Rappel and Short Haul Base
 - 3-4 helicopters, (some combination of Type I, II and III), one type 3 is Short Haul capable, based in East Wenatchee at Pangborn Memorial Airport (EAT).
- Wenatchee Air Attack Base
 - 1 light fixed-wing aircraft for air attack and reconnaissance are located at Pangborn Memorial Airport (EAT) in East Wenatchee.
- Okanogan-Wenatchee detection program
 - 1 light fixed-wing Exclusive Use and On-demand Contract Aircraft

The Contracting Officer responsibilities remain at the National Interagency Fire Center for nationally contracted aircraft and at the Regional Air Group for regionally contracted aircraft. COR duties for the nationally contracted aircraft will be assigned by the National Aviation Contracting Officer. The Wenatchee Air Base Manager is the COR for the helicopters. The Smokejumper Base Manager is the COR for the smokejumper aircraft. The Assistant UAO/ATGS is the COR for the light fixed aircraft. The Air Tanker Base Manager and the Assistant Air Tanker Base Manager are COR's for specified national air tankers.

Non-Fire Uses: Non-fire uses of aviation resources on the Forest include; search and rescue, law enforcement, administrative flights, reconnaissance (other than fire detection flights), aerial ignition, aerial application, collection services, and special Regional flights. Non-fire projects, other than those covered in the Planned Aircraft Uses portion of this document will require an approved Project Aviation Safety Plan (PASP) before proceeding.

Ordering of aircraft, whether for fire or project work, will be through CWICC. Orders for aircraft for project work will be accompanied by an approved PASP.

3.0 Administration

3.1 General

The administration section establishes management responsibilities, policies, and procedures for the administration of the aviation program in the Forest Service.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

3.2 Reporting and Documentation Requirements

The Forest Service is responsible for providing for the following:

- Responses to Department of Agriculture [Office of Inspector General \(OIG\)](#) audits.
- Responses to Congressional inquiries.
- Meeting the requirement of the [Federal Requirement for Federal Aviation for Interactive Reporting System \(FAIRS\)](#).
- Approving and documenting senior executive travel in agency and agency-procured aircraft as required by [OMB Circular A-126](#).
- Retaining contract management records for 6.5 years.
- Complying as applicable with existing records holds and freezes for all records.
- Responding to [Freedom of Information Act](#) (FOIA) requests – All aviation records are subject to Freedom of Information Requests.

Regional Supplement

AK/PNW Aviation plans, guides, and reference materials will be posted on the Northwest Coordination website. Unit Aviation Plans shall be updated, submitted, and approved by June 1 each year and should use this three-tier plan format, if practical. The FS Assistant Fire Director, Aviation is responsible for annual updates to the AK/PNW Regional Aviation Safety and Management Plan.

Forest Supplement

Okanogan-Wenatchee NF aviation plan, guides and reference materials are available in the Aviation Section of the CWICC web page. The Unit Aviation Plan shall be up-dated, submitted and signed by June 1 each year and shall use the three-tier plan format. The UAO is responsible for annual updates.

3.3 Aviation Plans

All Aviation Management Plans must be approved by the appropriate line officer ([FSM 5711.04](#)).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

A link to the electronic copy of the OWF Aviation Response plan can be found in Chapter 10.

3.3.1 National Aviation Safety and Management Plan (NASMP)

The NASMP provides information regarding Forest Service aviation organization, responsibilities, administrative procedures, and policy and is intended to serve as an umbrella document that Regional and Forest Aviation Plans tier from. The Assistant Director, Aviation will maintain a National Aviation Safety and Management Plan ([FSM 5704.21](#)). The NASMP is approved by the Director, Fire and Aviation, annually.

3.3.2 Regional, Northeast Area or Station Aviation Management Plans (RAMP)

Each region, the Northeast Area (NA), and Stations shall publish a RAMP that implements national policy and describes protocols specific to each regional aviation program. The RAMP serves as an umbrella document for Forest Aviation Management Plans. The regional directors shall supplement and annually update the aviation management goals, objectives, programs and activities, and strategic direction at each organizational level ([FSM 5711.04b](#)). The RAMP is approved by Regional Foresters annually.

3.3.3 Regional and Northeast Area and Station Homeland Security Response Plan

Each Region, NA, and Station must develop a Homeland Security Response Plan that details the security actions that each Region, NA, and Station will implement, based upon the Homeland Security threat level. The Regional, NA, or Station Homeland Security Response Plan must be reviewed by the Fire and Aviation Management staff, HQ Washington Office ([FSH 5709.16, Chapter 60, 52.1](#)). The Regional, NA, and Station Homeland Security Response Plans are approved by the Regional Forester.

3.3.4 Regional and Northeast Area Aviation Safety Plan

The RASM has the responsibility to prepare the Regional Aviation Safety Plan ([FSM 5720.48d](#)). The Regional, NA Aviation Safety Plan is approved by the Regional Forester/Director NA annually. Regional FHP unit aviation officers and Station Aviation Officers have the responsibility to draft FHP/Station Aviation Safety Plans that either tier to the RAMP or appear as an appendix within the RAMP.

3.3.5 Regional and Northeast Area Aviation Mishap Response Plan

Regional Foresters and/or Area Director have responsibility to ensure that every Forest Service unit that utilizes aircraft develops and annually updates, an aviation mishap response plan ([FSM 5720.48a](#)). The Regional and NA Aviation Mishap Response Plan is approved by the Regional Forester/ Director NA.

3.3.6 Forest and Station Aviation Management Plans (FAMP/ SAMP)

Forests and Stations are required to maintain and update unit aviation plans annually, which implement national and regional policy and establish local procedures and protocol. The Forest Service and Station Directors shall supplement and update annually the aviation management goals, objectives, programs and activities, and strategic direction at each

organizational level ([FSM 5711.04b](#)). The FAMP / SAMP is approved by the appropriate Forest Supervisor/ Station Director annually.

Regional Supplement

A Forest Aviation Plan in AK (Region 10) and PNW (Region 6) is valid for one calendar year from the date it is signed and approved by a Forest Line Officer. Flight operations should not be conducted if there is not a current, signed Forest or Zone Aviation Safety and Management Plan in place (i.e. a signed supplement to this National/Regional plan). A waiver for extension may be granted by the Line Officer.

3.3.7 Facility Homeland Security Response Plan

Each aviation facility must develop a Facility Homeland Security Response Plan that is specific to that aviation facility and details the security actions the facility will take for each Homeland Security threat level. The Facilities Homeland Security Response Plan is approved by the appropriate Forest Supervisor annually.

3.3.8 Forest and Station Aviation Mishap Response Plan

Forest Supervisors, Station Directors, district rangers, and other officials designated with line authority have responsibility to ensure that every Forest Service unit that utilizes aircraft develops and annually updates, an aviation mishap response plan ([FSM 5720.48a](#)).

Forest Supplement

A link to the electronic copy of the OWF Aviation Response plan can be found in Chapter 10.

3.3.9 Project Aviation Safety Plans (PASP)

A PASP is submitted independent of a Forest, NA, or Station Aviation Management Plan. A PASP shall be developed and approved as required in the [FSM 5711.04](#) and [FSM 5711.1](#) for all non-emergency aviation projects.

Regional Supplement

Programmatic Project Aviation Safety Plans (PASP), or one that is developed for multiple mission flights that may occur numerous times during a field season, expire one calendar year after the date when it was signed by a Line Officer. A mission flight should not be conducted under a PASP that has expired or has not been signed within the past calendar year unless a waiver for extension has been granted by the Line Officer.

Forest Supplement

All approved PASP's will be saved on the O-drive and documented on the PASP summary. Prior to ordering any aircraft for projects requiring a PASP, dispatch shall confirm the existence of a current, approved PASP in the O-drive. Dispatch will notify the UAO any time an aircraft is ordered for a project on the forest.

3.3.10 Operations Plans

Operations Plans shall be developed and updated annually by the program managers. Specific Operations Plans will be developed for National Programs. Regions may supplement national operations plans as necessary. Aviation facility plans will be developed for national, regional, and forest aviation bases.

National Aviation Operations Plans will be approved by the Assistant Director, Aviation. Regional Aviation Operations Plans will be approved by RAOs. Forest/Unit Aviation Operations Plans will be approved by Forest Fire Management Officers or Fire Staff Officers.

Specific Operational Plans will be developed for national, regional or local permanent and temporary:

Airbase Operations

Helicopter operations (Exclusive Use)

- Helitack
- Rappel
- Tank/Bucket operations
- External Loads
- Night Air Operations
- Emergency Medical Short-haul

Smokejumper operations

Airtanker operations

- Very Large Airtanker
- Large Airtanker
- Scoopers
- Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs)

Scooper operations

Aerial Supervision

Light Fixed Wing operations

Law Enforcement & Investigation operations

Forest Health Protection (FHP)

Research

Natural Resource management and protection

These plans at a minimum should include:

- Authority
- Aircraft
- Aircraft Quantity
- Funding
- Contracts
- Sustainment
- Mission Requirements
- Facilities
- SMS
- Staffing

Operations Plans shall be approved by the appropriate line officer ([FSM 5711.04](#)).

Regional Supplement

None

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

3.4 Aircrew Orientation Briefing Package

All Forests that host permanent aviation bases shall create an Aircrew / Pilot Orientation Briefing Package. The Aircrew / Pilot Orientation Briefing Package serves as a source of information to provide visiting pilots, aircrews, and Incident Management Teams. Elements of the briefing package should include:

- Leader's intent
- Local frequencies and their use (to include map if available)
- Contacts, name title, phone (may include vendor information)

- Local sunrise/sunset charts
- Local airport information (to include a map)
- Local lodging information
- Local water sources/dip sites (name, latitude and longitude, ownership, hazards, elevation, contact information).
- Helispots (name, latitude and longitude, map or aerial photo)
- Map depicting MTRs and Special Use Airspace
- IA size-up card
- Local medical evacuation information (including nearest burn and trauma centers)
- Local hazards (map and description)
- Airport crash rescue procedures
- Map and description of jettison areas
- Local flight following procedures (AFF and/or radio contact)
- Aviation Operations Plan
- Special considerations (e.g., retardant avoidance areas)

Regional Supplement

The *Pacific Northwest Interagency Aviation Orientation Guide* is intended to provide useful information, orientation and standard operating procedures for flight crews, dispatchers and aviation managers. The purpose of the guide is to standardize procedures for interagency personnel assigned to aviation activities in the Pacific Northwest.

Forest Supplement

All aircrews assigned the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will be provided an initial and daily briefing on the current situation, mission, and or project utilizing the pertinent information for their area of operations. The PNW Aviation Orientation Guide provides a basis for briefings and is an excellent resource. This guide can be found electronically at the SORO library and also in chapter 10 of this plan. Specific program areas will provide detailed briefings and hazard maps to aircrews. Links to OWF hazard maps can be found in chapter 10.

3.5 Land Use Policy for Aviation Activities

The regulation of aviation activities on or over Forest Service managed lands is solely dependent on Land Management Plans (LMP) direction and any applicable [Federal Aviation Regulations \(14 CFR\)](#).

Temporary aviation operations on Forest Service lands may be restricted due to LMP direction. FAOs should coordinate with resource managers to identify areas of restriction when developing Operating Plans, Forest Aviation Management Plans, and [PASP](#). When identified by resource managers, FAOs should implement any invasive species control

measures for aviation activities. FAOs also coordinate reporting of any fire chemical aerial application in or near waterways.

Regional Supplement

For further information regarding Region-specific invasive species control measures, please refer to [Chapter 5.14](#) of this document.

Forest Supplement

Additional land use policies that affect aviation can be found in the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF Fire Management Plan (FMP) as well as the OWF Service and Support Plan. Current local information will be updated on associated regional FTP sites and provided to all incoming teams.

Additional information on Invasive Species and Retardant application can be found in Chapter 5.14 and 5.15 respectively.

3.6 Budget

Budgeting is completed on a three year cycle. Out year budget requests are submitted to Congress in the President's Budget in February, six months prior to the fiscal year for which they were submitted. The budget request is then vetted separately through the Department of Agriculture and [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\)](#). Finally, it is then aggregated with all other agency and program requests into the President's Proposed Budget. The current year budget is finalized after congress passes an Appropriations Bill.

WO Branch Chief's shall develop OTT program/project budget proposals in early 2nd Quarter for submission to the BC, Aviation Business Operations upon request.

Aviation programs and aviation contracts funded by the Washington Office shall be approved for commitment and obligation ([FS 6500-224](#)) ONLY by the Assistant Director, Planning and Budget. Aviation programs and aviation contracts that require requests for contract action (FS 6300-4) shall be approved by one of WO FAM Deputy Directors.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

3.7 Contracting

Reference the FAM Aviation Contracting Guide for contracting process and procedures.

Aircraft are acquired through different types of contracts, Exclusive-Use (Ex-Use), Call-When-Needed (CWN), Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantities (IDIQ), or End Product.

Exclusive-use contracts are generally used when the agency has a definite aircraft need for a specific period of time. Exclusive-use aircraft are guaranteed a minimum amount of use

through a Mandatory Available Period (MAP). Daily availability is usually cheaper with exclusive-use contracts since the vendor is guaranteed a minimum amount of work.

Call-When-Needed contracts are a way for the agency to have ready access to a pool of aviation assets that meet a minimum standard, usually used for non-recurring missions or during periods of surge activity often related to wildland fire suppression. The disadvantages are that the aircraft may not be available, the agency personnel and vendor personnel don't have the same opportunity for crew cohesion that an exclusive-use crew has, and that daily availability rates are generally higher since the vendor has no guaranteed work.

IDIQ and End Product contracts are often used for projects such as aerial application of pesticides or other types of work where: 1) the precise limits of the treatment area or quantity of material is uncertain or the contract may span multiple years (IDIQ) or 2) only the desired outcome is specified and/or specific area of treatment is known (End Product). Refer to Section 3.10 for End Product Contracts.

Regional Supplement

Aircraft contracting needs for light (Type III) helicopters and light fixed-wing aircraft can be obtained through the Regional Fire and Aviation Contracting Team. Most contract needs can be accommodated through the established Call-When-Needed/Blanket Purchasing Agreements. However, project-specific Flight Service contract needs and End Product contracts can be handled through local contracting officers with guidance of the local UAO and Regional Aviation Contracting Specialist to ensure compliance with the acceptable solicitation guidelines. Refer to section 3.8 for additional contract specifications.

Forest Supplement

Call-When-Needed contractors are a major supplier of aircraft services on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Light single and twin-engine fixed-wing aircraft are available through several vendors via the Region 6 CWN Light Fixed Wing Services contract administered by the Region 6 Aviation Contracting Officer. Services for light (Type III) helicopters are procured through the Region 6 Light Helicopter Contract. The Contracting Officer is located in Redmond, Oregon as a member of the Regional Aviation Group, and the Contracting Officers Representative will be designated by the Region 6 Aviation Contracting Officer.

3.8 Aircraft Contract Start/Modification/Extension

Aircraft contract start dates and MAP are a coordinated decision between the National Office and Regions.

Regional Supplement

Contract Services and contract information for medium and heavy (Type II and Type I) helicopters, large airtankers, and lead planes are procured through the [National Interagency Fire Center Contracting Office](#).

Contract Services for light helicopter (type III) and light fixed-wing aircraft can be obtained through the [Region 6 Fire and Aviation Contracting Office](#) for the PNW and in Alaska for Alaska operations.

Forest Supplement

Currently the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF hosts a variety of Exclusive-use, permanently funded aircraft:

- One, National, Type I helicopter
- One, National, Type II Rappel helicopter
- One, Regional, Type III short haul helicopter
- One, Forest, Type III helicopter
- One, National, Smokejumper Platform
- One, Regional, Type I (ATGS) Air Attack Platform

Additionally, the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF hosts an “On-Demand Use”, light fixed wing contract for the purpose of detection and recon work.

3.9 Contractor Performance

All CWN and exclusive-use contractor performance will be documented in accordance with [FSH 6309.11](#). Contract Officer Technical Representatives are required to complete contractor evaluations annually using the [Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System \(CPARS\)](#). It should be noted that [SAFECOMs](#) are not used to determine contract awards.

Regional Supplement

The standard contract specifications are minimum safety and performance requirements for mission-specific equipment and operations. The Contracting Officer (CO) is the legal authority for administration of the contract. Every employee using or managing contractor-furnished aviation services is required to immediately notify the CO through their chain of command when a contractor or a contractor’s employee engages in unsafe acts or violates a requirement of the contract. The Regional aviation staff shall also be notified and the occurrence reported on Form 5700-14.

Forest Supplement

The Okanogan-Wenatchee NF will follow contract procedure and communicate performance through the Acquisition Management Organization chain of command, specific to each contract.

3.10 End Product Contracts

An end-product contract is intended to efficiently and effectively accomplish certain projects with no internal operational controls or specifications from the Forest Service aviation personnel. Certain aviation operations, such as aerial application of herbicides and

insecticides, seed, fertilizer, prescribed burn projects, and some Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) projects may be administered in a more efficient and less expensive manner if contracted on an end-product basis, instead of through a Forest Service flight services contract. Refer to [FSM 5711.2](#) for more information on end-product contracts.

Regional Supplement

When an End Product contract is being developed for a project that might utilize aircraft, the UAO should review the solicitation to ensure there is no language that implies government operational control.

Forest Supplement

End product solicitations shall be reviewed by the Unit Aviation Officer to evaluate the language to ensure the agency will not intentionally or inadvertently impose any operational control.

A link to the worksheet can be found in chapter 10.

3.11 Aircraft Acquisition

Aircraft (including UAS) transfer, acquisition, and lease shall be approved by the Washington Office Director, Fire and Aviation Management (FAM).

The Washington Office Aviation Management shall initiate all aircraft transfers, acquisitions, and leases using an Office of Management and Budget, OMB Circular A-11, Business Case (Aviation Business Case).

An Integrated Project Team will be designated to develop Aviation Business Cases.

Aviation Business Cases will be recommended by the Director, FAM and approved by the Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

- a. Additional review and approvals may be required by the agency and the Department of Agriculture prior to submission to the OMB.

Aviation Business Cases for all Forest Service aircraft must be formally revalidated every 5 years.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

3.12 Cooperator Aircraft

Cooperative aircraft operations and partnerships are encouraged in order to increase efficiency and enhance procedure standardization. The Northeastern Area, Regional

Offices, and the States shall establish cooperative structures to increase capability and avoid duplication and conflicting procedures.

Use of state/local government, military, or other federal agency aircraft by Forest Service employees will require prior inspection and approval by Forest Service or OAS, usually in the form of a Cooperator Letter of Approval. Proposed use of these aircraft should be requested through the FAO to the RAO. Any employee wishing to ride on cooperator aircraft or work around a cooperator aircraft operation must consult their respective aviation manager.

Cooperator agreements for all aviation services provided to the Forest Service by other agencies and cooperators must specify levels of operational standards and safety comparable to those required of agency or contractor operations ([FSM 5710.35](#)).

When the Forest Service utilizes other governmental agency aircraft for non-fire missions, an agreement must be developed and approved to address at a minimum:

- Payment
- Operational Control
- Aircraft Management
- Performance Planning
- Mission Profile
- Landing Zones (When Applicable)
- Agreement Expiration Date
- [Public /Civil Aircraft Utilization Dispatch Work Sheet \(Public Law 103-411\)](#) (When Applicable)

Fire Missions:

- Create a resource order

Non-Fire Missions:

- Completed cost analysis
- Complete Project Aviation Safety Plan (PASP)

Military and cooperator aircraft approval shall meet the requirements in the [FSM 5713.43](#). National Guard pilots must meet the requirements identified in FSM 5712.34, 2.

See Appendix 10.1 for Sample Letter of Cooperator Approval. See Appendix 10.2 for Cooperator Approval Guide.

Regional Supplement

The AK/PNW currently utilizes National Guard aircraft, U.S. Coast Guard, WA-DNR and OR-ODF aircraft under Cooperator Aircraft/Pilot Letters of Approval which are disseminated to UAOs and maintained on file at the Regional Office. Cooperator aircraft which federal agencies wish to utilize require the pilot and aircraft to be approved by this letter which is

signed by the Assistant Fire Director, Aviation and is valid for one year. In most cases in the PNW, DOI approval is granted concurrently by issuing a letter on dual USFS and DOI-OAS letterhead with the West Region Director of OAS co-signing along with the RAO signature. Federal employees are not authorized to use or fly aboard unapproved aircraft. Dispatchers are required to order and utilize available fleet or contract aircraft with carded pilots on federal fires before considering the use of cooperator aircraft except when cooperator lands are immediately threatened and the cooperator agency chooses to take independent action. If there will be an exchange of funds for the flight, there must also be an agency-specific fiscal agreement signed and in place. The Pacific Northwest Operating Plan and the Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement are the documents which authorize the exchange of funds between multiple agency fiscal systems. When a federal agency uses a state or county government owned/operated aircraft and reimburses that entity for services, documentation of the circumstances that necessitated its use should be documented and records maintained in dispatch. See also [Chapter 5.17](#) of this document.

Forest Supplement

A list of approved cooperator aircraft and the associated letters of approval will be kept in dispatch and packets including this information will be provided to all incoming teams. Links to the letters of approval can be found in chapter 10.

3.13 Aircraft Administrative Use and Reporting

Utilize the Forest Service [Administrative Use of Aircraft Desk Guide](#) to provide guidance and clarify the administrative use of aircraft.

The [USDA Property Management Regulation \(PMR\) 110-33](#) supplements Federal Management Regulation 102-33 Management of Government Aircraft. Both documents are agency wide policy for the use of Government aircraft to accomplish official business. In coordination with the [Office of Management and Budget Circular A-126](#), they restrict the operation of government aircraft to defined official purposes: restricting travel on such aircraft, requiring special review of such travel on government aircraft by senior officials or non-federal travelers under certain circumstances, and codifies policies for reimbursement for the use of government aircraft. The transportation of passengers or cargo on Forest Service aircraft shall be limited in accordance with these Regulations.

[FSH 6509.33 301 Federal Travel Regulation](#) requires that all employees have a travel authorization for any official travel. Each instance of administrative use of a Forest Service aircraft to transport passengers must be justified, documented, and approved, and as such, will comply with the requirements contained in [FSM 5711.3](#). All documents pertaining to these flights must be maintained by Dispatch and on file for two years.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

The Agency has a variety of owned /leased aircraft within the Pacific Northwest Region. While these aircraft are primarily used for Lead/ASM operations, Smokejumper missions,

and Aerial Photography, they may be utilized for administrative point to point flights as determined by directed in the [USDA Property Management Regulation \(PMR\) 110-33; which supplements Federal Management Regulation 102-33 Management of Government Aircraft.](#)

Region 6 released a new GOV aircraft scheduling system called “Smokey Air Schedule” (SAS). This web based system allows Forest Service employees to request flights on one of our agency-owned aircraft. These aircraft are available to all employees, allowing you to schedule a flight much like with commercial airlines.

Users simply log into the following web site with their e-Authentication account and request access to SAS, www.fireportal.usda.gov. You can then follow a very simple process to enter SAS and request a flight on the calendar provided. Your request will be reviewed and you will be notified with flight details if the flight is approved. Approval is based on a cost analysis showing a savings over commercial flights or other travel.

These aircraft are operated and managed by the Regional Aviation Group. Contact the Central Washington Interagency Communication Center (CWICC), Aviation Desk, for assistance.

3.14 Dispatching

3.14.1 General

All flights (other than scheduled commercial air carrier flights) will be arranged by qualified aviation dispatchers and/or appropriate aviation manager and approved at the appropriate management level.

3.14.2 Administrative Use Flight Requests

Reference the Forest Service [Administrative Use of Aircraft Desk Reference](#).

3.14.3 Mission Flight Requests

All flight requests for mission flights shall follow the [National Mob Guide, Chapter 20](#).

3.14.4 Non-Incident Related Flight Requests

Follow local procedures.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

All Forest aircraft orders shall be processed by the CWICC Aircraft Desk.

The Project aircraft users will provide the CWICC Aircraft Desk with the following:

- An approved/current Project Aviation Safety Plan

- Anticipated flight date
- Anticipated location and time for aircraft arrival
- Accounting charge code with override

Flight orders should be placed at the earliest possible time frame. The CWICC Aircraft Desk will provide the ordering personnel with confirmation as soon as arrangements have been made.

3.15 Flight Use Reporting

3.15.1 Forest Service Aviation Business System (ABS) and Aviation Management Information Systems (AMIS)

Flight time, daily availability, and other authorized charges or deductions shall be recorded on a Flight Use Report in [Aviation Business System \(ABS\)](#) (FSM 5717.1). The data shall be entered and reviewed by the Government and the Contractor's Representative.

Working Capital Fund (WCF) aircraft use is entered into the [Aviation Management Information System \(AMIS\)](#) or [Aviation Business System \(ABS\)](#) as applicable.

For Administrative Use flight reporting reference the Forest Service [Administrative Use of Aircraft Desk Reference](#).

Forest Supplement

Each respective Aviation Unit on the Forest will keep detailed payment records specific to their operations. For the purpose of aerial reconnaissance, the OWF has developed an "Aircraft Flight Tracking Form". This form will be completed and returned to the CWICC.

3.15.2 Office of Aviation Services (OAS) Aviation Management Systems (AMS)

All Department of Interior (DOI) contracted aircraft will utilize the OAS Aviation Management System (AMS) web based flight reporting system. The AMS application will become available at <http://ams.nbc.gov>.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None.

3.16 Coding and Funding of Contract, Fleet, Severity Aircraft Availability

RESERVED

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

3.17 Working Capital Fund (WCF) (Fleet Aircraft)

All agency-owned and operated WCF aircraft are FAA registered to USDA Forest Service, Boise Idaho. WCF aircraft are hosted by regions, but national optimal use is the primary goal to increase use and lower overall costs.

The purpose of the WCF is to provide a sustainable funding mechanism for the operation and replacement of agency owned aircraft that support fire suppression and non-fire aviation activities. WCF aircraft are subject to the same regulations regarding capitalization, de-capitalization, and depreciation as other WCF non-expendable personal property.

The Working Capital Fund Accounting Operations Handbook, [FSH 6509.11f](#) provides greater detail on how to accomplish day-to-day management, operations, and tasks, and what the WCF Aircraft User Guide will provide more aircraft specific information. Additionally, for more information regarding WCF fleet aircraft, refer to FSM 5713.1.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

3.18 Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP)

The FEPP program refers to Forest Service owned property that is on loan to State Foresters for the purpose of wildland and rural firefighting. Once acquired by the Forest Service, it is loaned to State and local cooperators for firefighting purposes. Approximately 70% of FEPP is sub-loaned to local fire departments. For policy guidance regarding FEPP, refer to [FSH 3109.12](#) (aviation specific [FSH 3109.12, Chapter 40](#)), the [FEPP Desk Guide, Chapter 40](#).

The RAO may:

- Review all State aviation operations plans for compliance with Forest Service and State excess property direction.

- Help establish minimum standards for pilot qualifications and maintenance for excess property aircraft.
- Coordinate and/or establish an approved source of parts for excess property aircraft, such as the Department of Defense (DoD).
- Review State security risk assessments and mitigation plans.
- Review all acquisition documents prior to transfer of aircraft.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

3.19 Program Reviews

Program reviews will be conducted jointly by Regions and the WO for regional and national office programs. The Aviation Management Review and Quality Assurance Guide and [FSM 1410](#) will be used for these reviews.

Regional Supplement

Various regional aviation programs conduct periodic readiness reviews. These reviews are conducted in order to detect any issues or deficiencies within the aviation program. Participation from the Forests in these reviews is critical. All reviews shall be documented and deficiencies corrected.

Forest Supplement

National and Regional reviews will be scheduled in conjunction with the Forest Supervisor, Forest Fire Staff, and Unit Aviation Officer. The UAO or designee will participate in the reviews and when necessary the Fire Staff and/or Forest Supervisor will be available to attend any portion of the review.

3.20 New Project/Program/Issue Requests

A project/program/issue may include the following examples:

- New or changed aviation equipment, e.g., aircraft, parachute system, etc.
- New contractor contract change, e.g., LFS Helicopter, etc.
- New agreement or MOUs.
- New process or changed process, e.g., rappel standardization, pilot standardization, etc.
- Deviation from standards, e.g., LEI exemption, Wire Strike Protection System, etc.

- New or changed policy, e.g., doctrinal policy changes, 100 hr, turbine single engine, etc.
- New or changed procedure, e.g., rappel procedures.

The proposal is submitted to the WO Aviation Division through any of the WO Aviation Branch Chiefs or Assistant Director, Aviation. The proposal should be formatted in the Project/Program/Issue Proposal template (10.4).

The Aviation Division will socialize the proposal within the division and to the RAOs and RASMs for a minimum of 30 days with a due date for discussion.

The proponent may be asked to brief the National Aviation Team (NAT). The NAT will:

- Discuss, ask questions and come to a decision.
- The decision may be to develop or gather more information, bring the proposal back to a later meeting for a Go/No Go decision or make a Go/ No Go decision.
- A No Go decision will end the proposal.
- Notify the proponent of the decision.

The proposal is briefed by NAT staff or the proponent to the Regional Aviation Officer and Regional Aviation Safety Manager Council. The councils will:

- Discuss, ask questions and come to a decision.
- The decision may be to develop or gather more information, bring the proposal back to a later meeting for a Go/No Go decision or make a Go/ No Go decision.
- A No Go decision will end the proposal.
- Notify the proponent of the decision.
- Depending on the scope a project team may be formed by the NAT, RAO and RASMs at this step.

Depending on the scope, the proposal may be briefed to the WO Director, Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) and the Regional Fire Directors (RFD). The Director FAM and RFDs may:

- Discuss, ask questions and come to a decision.
- The decision may be to develop or gather more information, bring the proposal back to a later meeting for a Go/No Go decision or make a Go/ No Go decision.
- A No Go decision will end the proposal.
- Go decision will include the NAT, RAOs, and RASMs forming a Project Team.
- Notify the proponent of the decision.

If a Project Team is formed it may be chartered by the Director FAM depending on the scope of the proposal. The Project Team will include Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) necessary to complete a Project Implementation Plan. SMEs may include:

- Aviation Operations- WO and/or Regional

- Aviation Safety- WO and/or Regional
- Airworthiness- WO and/or Regional
- WO Pilot Standardization
- WO Aviation Business
- FAM Budget
- AQM
- Fire Operations- WO and/or Regional
- Project proponent

A Project Implementation Plan outlining the steps to plan and implement a project may include the following components:

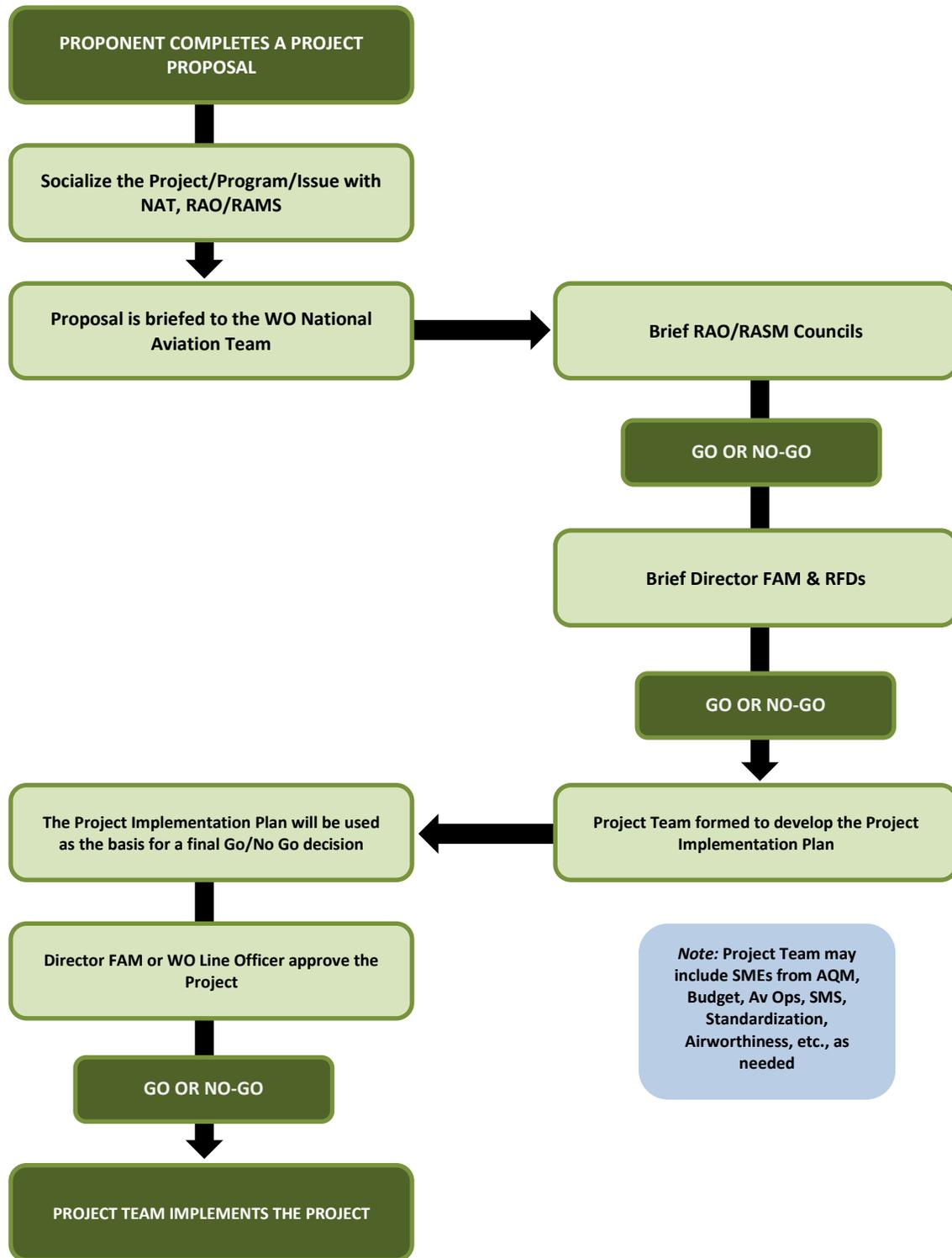
- Business Case- if required
- Requirements Analysis- if required
- Process Change Plan- if required
- Acquisition Plan- if required.
- Communication strategy- if necessary
- Official documentation- required.
- Action Plan- required
- Quality Assurance Plan- required
- Risk Assessment (safety impact analysis, business, and financial) - a safety impact analysis is required for any aviation operations related project.

The Project will require decision approval from the Director, FAM at a minimum. Depending on the scope it may require WO Line Officer approval – Chief or Deputy Chief prior to implementation and operations.

- The decision may be a Go/ No Go decision.
- A No Go decision will end the proposal.

Implement Project as defined by the Project Implementation Plan.

AVIATION Project/Program/Issue Process



4.0 Aviation Safety Management Systems

4.1 General

Safety is the state in which the possibility of harm to persons or property damage is reduced to, and maintained at or below, an acceptable level through continuing processes of hazard identification and risk management.

It (safety) must be a core value of our culture, ingrained in the character of every employee. As an agency, we must endeavor to place the safety of our co-workers and ourselves above all else. This obligation requires integrity, trust, and leadership: the integrity of every employee to adhere to Agency standards, the trust in our leaders to place safety as the first priority, and leadership at all levels to provide a culture that encourages employees to communicate unsafe conditions, policies, or acts that could lead to accidents without fear of reprisal (Chief's Safety Policy, August 27, 2009).

This commitment to safety will be reflected as doctrine within aviation safety management. The adoption of SMS continues the application of Forest Service Doctrine. SMS is not a safety program; rather it is a system which aligns, assesses, and organizes an organization's existing safety processes around the concept of system safety. SMS incorporates a proactive approach using hazard identification and risk management to achieve accident prevention.

Regional Supplement

The AK/PNW Regional Aviation Safety and Management Plan will provide guidance to support a Regional aviation program using a Safety Management Systems agency-wide approach to management and operations that includes safety management policy, safety risk management, safety assurance, and safety promotion.

Forest Supplement

None

4.2 Safety Management Systems (SMS)

SMS offers a complimentary solution based on structuring the existing rules and continuous review of the efficacy of those rules. Thus, the system ensures that guidance and regulation meet the original intent and that they have no unforeseen adverse side effects. SMS can be considered as functioning like a filing system, which structures the organization's existing safety initiatives and provides a review process for how well those initiatives function. SMS is divided into four components: Policy, Risk Management, Assurance, and Promotion.

Regional Supplement

The Regional Aviation Safety Manager (RASM) will implement all components of an aviation Safety Management Systems (SMS) program in accordance with national policy.

Forest Supplement

The intent of SMS is to improve the aviation culture by increasing hazard identification, reducing unnecessary risk-taking behavior, learning from mistakes, and proactively correcting procedures before a mishap occurs. With the intent of providing relevant and current information, the following aviation community website is provided.

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/av_safety/index.html

4.3 Policy

SMS is a critical element of management responsibility in determining the agency's safety policy and SMS also defines how the agency intends to manage safety as an organizational core function.

- Policy guides aviation safety doctrine, philosophy, principles and practices.
- Policy provides framework for aviation plans ([Refer to 3.3 Aviation Plans](#)).
- Policy assists in the development of local standard operating procedures.
- Policy will foster and promote doctrinal principles and safety management systems within the Regions.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

4.4 Risk Management

To provide structure to control risk in operations, a formal system of hazard identification and safety risk management is essential. The risk management process is designed to manage risk to acceptable levels by the identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks followed by coordinated application of resources to minimize, monitor, and control the probability and/or impact of undesirable events.

The agency:

- Will define a process for risk acceptance that defines acceptable and unacceptable levels of safety risk; establishes descriptions for severity levels, and likelihood levels.
- Will define specific levels of management that can make safety risk acceptance decisions.
- Will define acceptable risk for hazards that will exist in the short-term while safety risk control/mitigation plans are developed and executed.
- Will establish feedback loops between assurance functions to evaluate the effectiveness of safety risk controls.

There are necessary steps in the Risk Management Process.

- Define Objectives (i.e., Strategic program analysis, change management, accident action plan, other).
- System Descriptions: Identify each system-component that contributes to the mission.

Risk assessment is a step in the risk management process. Risk assessment is the determination of hazards associated with a situation or activity.

There are necessary steps in the risk assessment process as outlined in the [FS Aviation Safety Management System Guide](#):

1. Define Objectives (i.e., System and task analysis).
2. System Descriptions: Identify each system – component that contributes to the mission. Consider change management in systems.
3. Hazard Identification: Brainstorm all possible failures, threats, and danger points.
4. Risk Analysis: Disassemble the hazard to identify outcomes, impacts of a hazardous event, and degree of exposure to risk. (Ask the question: If this hazard exists, then what happens?)
5. Risk Assessment: Evaluate the combined effects of the potential for injury, damage, fatality, etc. based upon severity and likelihood of an event occurring.
6. Decision Making: Determine mitigations needed, conduct cost/benefit analysis, develop an action plan, and implement controls. (This is risk management).
7. Validation of Control: Monitor controls and supervise operations to determine if controls are effective.

Risk assessment can be divided into three levels:

- *Time Critical*. This method of risk management is an “on-the-run” mental or verbal review of the situation using the Operational Risk Management (ORM) process without necessarily recording the information. Many of the skills used in this context are applicable to normal mission where deliberate risk management has occurred and crews must manage risk in a dynamic situation. Note that “time critical” does not mean “hasty” or “uninformed.”
- *Deliberate*. This ORM method is used with adequate planning time and may involve more than one system at its source. It involves a systems identification, hazard identification, risk assessment/analysis, consideration of control options and risk decision making, implementation of controls, and supervision. This method will involve documentation of the process and actions. Examples of the tools in use for ORM are project aviation safety plans (PASP) and job hazard analysis (JHA).
- *Strategic/In-Depth*. Strategic Risk Management (SRM) is conducted at the highest levels of the organization and is typically applied to “systems of systems” type complexity, and requires more sophisticated techniques and professional reviews. A system or task description should completely explain the interactions among the

software, hardware, environment, and live ware (e.g. SHELL model) that make up the system in sufficient detail to identify hazards and perform risk analysis.

This method should be used in instances where an entire program-wide assessment is deemed necessary; new technology or a change in process is being proposed; or when risks appear consistently high in a specific functional area. The strategic process produces a permanent record of findings and decisions used for long term planning, organizational decision-making and as authoritative training resources.

Note: The SRM process shall not preclude employees or contractors from taking interim immediate action to eliminate or mitigate existing safety risk when and where it is recognized that urgent action is required.

Regional Supplement

The Regional aviation organization recognizes the aviation environment is complex and there is risk inherent with each mission. The Region is committed to the application of risk management principles in order to identify and mitigate, to the maximum extent possible, the hazards and risks associated with each aviation endeavor.

Forest Supplement

OWF employees are responsible for assisting in the identification of hazards, assessment and mitigation of risk for all aviation activities conducted on the OWF. Employees shall notify a supervisor, the UAO, or a line officer of any aviation operation that they believe is being conducted in a hazardous manner.

4.5 Assurance

The safety assurance component involves processes for quality control, mishap investigation, and program reviews.

- Provide aviation safety oversight and review through active field presence and encourage a reporting culture between management and aviation.
- Monitor established standards and procedures and make corrections as needed.
- Monitor accident and incident trends, and implement appropriate prevention action.
- Report accidents and incidents with potential in accordance with the local emergency response plan.
- Conduct accident and incident investigations.
- Provide guidance, coordination, and monitoring of safety evaluations conducted by the Regional aviation staff and Forest/Unit Aviation Officers.
- Provide assistance in aviation activities to ensure best practices and procedures are understood.
- Promote and provide corrective action on [SAFECOM](#) reports, develop trend analysis and communicate lessons learned.

- Review aviation accident and incident reports and follow-up on action items.

QA techniques can be used to provide a structured process for achieving objectives. Forest Service efforts to date have concentrated on the development and implementation of comprehensive doctrine/policy revision, risk management processes, SMS promotion and training.

All effort should be made to focus corrective action as specifically as possible.

Regional Supplement

Safety evaluations are a means of determining compliance with safety standards and to detect unsafe conditions in order to prevent an incident, accident, loss of life, personal injury, or property damage.

Safety assurance is accomplished via Quality Assurance (QA) site visits and Forest aviation program review teams which may consist of Forest Service, interagency, and/or industry aviation managers and officials who conduct surveys, audits, and reviews. These teams provide the host unit and its management organization with a written report of its findings and recommendations. The local unit is then responsible for developing and implementing an action plan that addresses the findings and recommendations contained in the report. Forest Aviation Activities Safety Reviews will be conducted to provide safety assurance on a four/five year schedule for each forest, with up to three forests reviewed each year. Evaluations should be conducted annually at each established aviation base. Informal evaluations are conducted on a more frequent basis and are performed by aviation specialists during field assistance visits to Forests, aviation bases, incident bases, and projects. In all cases, follow-up includes all subsequent activity needed to see that corrective actions are taken.

Forest Supplement

The forest takes additional steps for safety assurance through preparedness reviews and safety inspections. The UAO and/or Fire Staff (or acting) will make every effort to participate in all regional and national reviews conducted for all forest aviation programs.

4.5.1 Aviation Safety and Assistance Team (ASAT)

During increased levels of wildland fire activity, an [Aviation Safety and Assistance Team](#) assures safety by providing (1) on-the-spot safety and technical assistance to aviation operations and (2) a conduit through which the field can communicate to Fire and Aviation Management. When conducting reviews, an ASAT team should follow direction as stated in:

- [Forest Service Aviation Safety Management System Guide](#)
- [FSM 1410](#)
- [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation](#)

4.5.2 Aviation Safety Communiqué–SAFECOM

[SAFECOM](#)s fulfill the Aviation Mishap Information System (AMIS) requirements for aviation mishap reporting for the Forest Service. The SAFECOM reports any condition, observance, act, maintenance problem, or circumstance which has the potential to cause an aviation-related mishap (FSM 5720.46). The SAFECOM system is not intended for initiating punitive actions. Submitting a SAFECOM is not a substitute for “on-the-spot” correction(s) to a safety concern. It is a tool used to identify, document, track and correct safety related issues. This form is located on the SAFECOM web page, Interagency SAFECOM System. All personnel involved in aviation activities are encouraged to submit SAFECOMs when they feel such action is warranted.

Regional Supplement

AK and PNW will use the data put into the SAFECOM reporting system for accident prevention purposes. The Region encourages the use of SAFECOM to support our reporting culture. Most SAFECOM reports are for hazard identification and mitigation, incident reporting and corrective actions, unscheduled aircraft maintenance issues, and some kudos. SAFECOMs may be submitted by any individual who witnesses or has specific knowledge of a hazard or an incident. Although retaining anonymity is an option when submitting a SAFECOM, it is highly recommended that employees engage in discussions with the UAO when submitting a SAFECOM to ensure an effective corrective action is established as soon as possible. It is very helpful to have a contact person noted in the SAFECOM in case further questions arise. The Region also encourages vendor employees, including pilots, to submit SAFECOMs. Working together, we can make SAFECOMs a very effective learning tool for the Region.

The RASM reviews every SAFECOM submitted within the Region and may investigate the hazard or incident noted in the SAFECOM, as necessary. The UAO will provide a written corrective action statement for any SAFECOM generated on their Unit. The Assistant Fire Director, Aviation, and RASM will review and initiate follow-up discussions with the UAO and write any additional needed corrective action statements before preparing them for public viewing. If the RASM makes comments in the SAFECOM, those comments will appear in the Corrective Action section of the submitted SAFECOM.

Employees such as Unit Aviation Managers who need review and edit access in the SAFECOM website should e-mail an access request statement to the RASM, who will forward the request to the national SAFECOM system administrators in Boise.

Forest Supplement

All aircraft incidents, incidents with potential, or other unplanned events and mishaps will be reported on a SAFECOM. Examples include forced landings, rotor, prop or wing tip strikes, fueling mishaps, and TFR intrusions.

All personnel involved in aviation activities are encouraged to submit a SAFECOM when they feel such action is warranted and should do so in a timely manner appropriate for the situation. Timely notification to the UAO is important to adequately address the incident or concern and should be accomplished prior to the end of shift.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest UAO shall provide written corrective action statements for any SAFECOM generated on the forest. It is also the responsibility of the UAO to maintain an annual SAFECOM log for all SAFECOM's generated on the forest. SAFECOMS should be posted on an information board at aviation bases on the forest.

4.5.3 Aircraft Accident Investigation Process

The [National Transportation Safety Board \(NTSB\)](#) is responsible for investigating all Forest Service aviation accidents. The Forest Service investigation team additionally conducts a review of Forest Service management and policy issues concurrent with the [NTSB](#) investigation utilizing the [Aircraft Accident Investigation Guide](#). The Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) provides guidance for methodology. On completion of the learning review, the draft report will be reviewed by a Learning Review Board (LRB). The chairperson of the LRB forwards the Final Review Report, the Draft Safety Action Plan, and transmittal letter to the Chief's office for approval.

4.5.4 Forest Service Strategic Risk Assessment Close-Out Process

Once the Strategic Risk Assessment has been completed, and the Assistant Director, Aviation and Assistant Director, Risk Management will deliver the final product to the Director, Fire and Aviation Management. The Director will provide direction for the risk assessment report to be reviewed. The Strategic Risk Assessment Close-out Working Group (SRACOW) will establish a Subject Matter Expert (SME) group of no more than five SMEs. The SME group will be given direction, parameters and timelines to review the report; identify mitigations that are one time effort and those that are on-going; assess individual mitigation's effectiveness and implementation cost and to develop a Quality Assurance (QA) checklist for long-range monitoring. The SME group will provide the SRACOW with these products in the established timelines. The SRACOW will review and either accepts the SME products or a back and forth coordination will begin to develop acceptable products. Once the SRACOW agrees on an acceptable QA checklist, the SRACOW will provide the Assistant Director, Aviation and Assistant Director, Risk Management with documentation on the completion of the project. The Assistant Directors will deliver the final product to the Director of Fire and Aviation for Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry signature. Strategic Risk Assessments should be closed out and formally completed no later than one year from the date of tasking to the SRACOW. A bulleted representation of the process is below:

- Aviation Strategic Risk Assessment completed and assigned to the SRACOW with the expectation of being formally closed out within one year. (Director FAM)
- Develop SME Group and provide clear direction of assigned tasks. (SRACOW)
 - o Identify on-going and one time mitigations and assess their viability. (SME)

- o Develop QA Checklist. (SME)
- o Provide products back to SRACOW. (SME)
- Review, validate and either accept or return SME products. (SRACOW)
 - o Pass Back Process if needed.
- Once acceptable products are developed, formally complete and close out the risk assessment through documentation to the Assistant Director, Aviation and the Assistant Director, Risk Management. (SRACOW)

4.5.5 Project Aviation Safety Planning (PASP)

Accident prevention is paramount when planning individual aviation operations. PASPs are not required for incident aviation operations or point to point / administrative use flights.

Prior to commencing non-emergency aircraft operations, or aircraft operations outside the scope of an approved training program, the Regional Directors, Area Director, Forest Supervisors, and Station Directors shall develop and document a Project Aviation Plan including a PASP that will be reviewed by the RAO ([FSM 5711.04b](#)). An aviation safety manager is also recommended to be included in the review process. An appropriate line officer shall approve all Aviation Plans per direction in [FSM 5711.04](#).

Regional Supplement

At least two weeks of advanced notice is normally required (or as specified in a Unit Aviation Plan) for most non-fire PASPs to be developed, reviewed, and disseminated to the appropriate personnel for review, and approval. Interagency projects that involve both BLM and USFS personnel require the PASP to be reviewed by the BLM SAM, the USFS RASM, and other aviation staff specialists as appropriate before being signed by Line Officers from both agencies. The signatory approval of a PASP cannot be reassigned to someone who does not have a written letter of Line Officer delegation on file. By signing a PASP, a Line Officer effectively acknowledges the hazards identified and the planned mitigation strategies identified in the risk assessment are acceptable. Line Officers should receive a thorough briefing from the UAO before signing a PASP and approving a mission. A signed PASP under which multiple flights may occur throughout the year is valid for one calendar year from the date on which it was signed by a Line Officer. Subsequent flights should not occur unless a new PASP is developed and signed, or unless a waiver has been granted for extension by the Line Officer.

Forest Supplement

Fire suppression activities and administrative travel are approved under the OWF aviation plan. Any other aviation project shall be submitted via a Project Aviation Safety Plan (PASP). District Aviation Officer's and/or aviation program managers should assist with technical planning of a PASP prior to submission to the UAO. The Okanogan-Wenatchee NF UAO has been delegated the authority to review all PASP's on this unit. All PASP's require annual approval. Recurring PASP's with prior regional review will not need to be re-submitted to the region for review. Any new projects, or those requiring modification to

airframes, avionics or power plants will be submitted to the region for review. New projects will generally take two weeks for local review/revision and an additional two weeks for regional review/revision. Review of a recurring PASP (renewal) can generally be completed in one week.

4.6 Promotion

The organization must promote safety as a core value with practices that support a positive safety culture. Safety promotion can be accomplished through safety awards, education, and communication.

- Training
- Communication
- [Lessons Learned Website](#)
- Reporting and Feedback
- Safety and Mishap Information
- Safety Awards

The desired positive Safety Culture is informed, flexible, learning, just and is a reporting culture that captures employee operational knowledge and experience. The end result of this cultural shift is to achieve the status of a High Reliability Organization (HRO).

4.6.1 Human Factors

Human error is the single area, which if possible to eliminate or reduce, would provide the greatest benefit in accident prevention. Human behavior is so complex that it is unrealistic to think that human error can be eliminated. When fully implemented, SMS provides and promotes a positive Safety Culture which can reduce the impact of human error.

4.6.2 Aviation Safety Awards Program

Aviation Safety Awards are a positive part of the aviation program and are provided to all levels with the Forest Service organization. National awards are given following the guidelines in [FSM 5724](#) for pilots and employees.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

4.7 National Fire and Aviation Operations Alert System

RESERVED

5.0 Aviation Operations

5.1 General

It is the responsibility of each employee, cooperator, and contractor to conduct aviation operations that have been approved by management, planned properly, utilizes the correct equipment, use qualified personnel, and insure that the risk has been mitigated to an acceptable level.

Forest Service employees are often challenged by working in very high-risk and dynamic environments that are not always predictable. This responsibility can only be realized through participation of every employee.

Safety is the first priority and leadership at all levels must foster a culture that encourages employees to communicate unsafe conditions, policies, or acts that could lead to accidents without fear of reprisal.

The four components of SMS (Policy, Risk Management, Assurance, and Promotion) are critical to the success of safe operations.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

5.2 Manuals, Handbooks, and Guides

5.2.1 Manuals

Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM): Issued by the Federal Aviation Administration; copies are available from the Government Printing Office and commercial sources. Also available at: http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/atpubs/aim/index.htm.

Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM): The original equipment manufacturer's manual is available in each aircraft operated by the agency.

Airplane Flight Manual (AFM): The original equipment manufacturer's manual is available in each aircraft operated by the agency.

Federal Aviation Administration Commercial Pilot Practical Testing Standards (PTS): Rotorcraft or Airplane as appropriate. Available at: https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/test_standards/

FSM 5700 Aviation Management: Available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/cgi-bin/Directives/get_dirs/fsm?5700

5.2.2 Handbooks

FSH 5309.11 – Law Enforcement Handbook, Chapter 50 – Actions and Procedures: Available at: https://fs.usda.gov/FSI_Directives/5309.11_50.doc.

FSH 5709.16 Aviation Management and Operations Handbook: Available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/cgi-bin/Directives/get_dirs/fsh?5709.16

FSH 6709.11 Health and Safety Code Handbook: Available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/cgi-bin/Directives/get_dirs/fsh?6709.11.

Military Use Handbook: Available at: http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/intelligence/military/Military_Use_Handbook_2006_2.pdf.

Pilot's Operating Handbook (POH): Also known as the FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual; available in each aircraft operated by the agency.

5.2.3 Forest Service Guides

The most recent Forest Service approved version of the following guides supersedes all previous versions. Forest Service National Guides shall be approved in writing by the Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry.

Accident Investigation Guide: <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf05672806/pdf05672806dpi72pt01.pdf>.

Aircraft Accident Investigation Guide: Available from Branch Chief, Aviation Safety until published within an updated Aviation Safety Management System Guide.

Aircraft Inspection Guide: Available from the Washington Office Detached Unit, Boise agency aviation staff. Available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/AIG_2008.pdf

Air Card Guide

Aviation Safety Management System Guide: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/av_safety/

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Desk Reference Guide: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/desk_guide/chap40.html

Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/publications/fsfaqq/fsfaqq.pdf>.

Helicopter Flight Evaluation Guide (HFEG): Available from the Washington Office Detached Unit, Boise agency aviation staff.

National Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) Short-Haul and Hoist (S-H/H) Guide

National Rappel Operations Guide: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/NROG/USFS%20NROG%202013.pdf

Professional Helicopter Pilot Guide:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/professional_helic_pilot_guide.pdf

Security Standard Requirements Guide: Available from aviation management staff, Washington Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250.

Special Mission Airworthiness Assurance Guide:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/FS%20Special%20Mission%20Airworthiness%20Assurance%20Guide_Revision1_12_7_2011.pdf.

WCF Aircraft User Guide:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/Final_WCF_User_Guide_June_2010.pdf

Forest Service National Rappel Operations Guide:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/NROG/USFS%20NROG%202013.pdf

Operations and Safety Procedures Guide for Helicopter Pilots:

http://www.nifc.gov/aviation/av_documents/av_helicopters/SafetyBrief.pdf

5.2.4 Forest Service Aviation Operations Plans

The most recent Forest Service approved version of the following operational plans supersedes all previous versions.

- **Emergency Medical Short-Haul Operations Plan**
- **Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) Operating Plan**
- **Night Air Operations Plan**
- **Water Scooper Aircraft Operating Plan**
- **Airtanker Operations Plan**
- **Aircraft Coordination Operations Plan**
- **National Rappel Operations Guide**

5.2.5 Interagency Aviation Operational Guides

The most recent Forest Service approved version of the following guides supersedes all previous versions. Interagency Guides utilized by the Forest Service shall be approved in writing by the Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry.

Cooperator Aircraft and Pilot Approval Guide for Interagency Fire:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/COOP%20NASF%20Standards.pdf

Interagency Aerial Ignition Guide (IAIG):

http://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/products/PMS501_2015.pdf

Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide (IASG): (NOTE – AS OF JANUARY, 2016, THE MOST RECENT IASG APPROVED BY THE FOREST SERVICE WAS IN 2011)

<http://www.nwcg.gov/publications/interagency-aerial-supervision-guide>

Interagency Airplane Pilot Practical Test Standards:

[https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/tech/upload/Airplane Pilot Practical Test Guide 2012.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/tech/upload/Airplane_Pilot_Practical_Test_Guide_2012.pdf)

Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide (IACG):

http://www.airspacecoordination.org/guide/asguide_full.pdf

Interagency Airtanker Base Operations Guide (IABOG):

<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pms508.pdf>.

Department of Interior Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) Handbook:

[https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/library/upload/Aviation Life Support Equipment Handbook 2008.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/library/upload/Aviation_Life_Support_Equipment_Handbook_2008.pdf)

Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist:

[https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/safety/upload/IAMRGC PMS503.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/safety/upload/IAMRGC_PMS503.pdf)

Interagency Aviation Training Guide (IAT): Also available at:

[https://www.iat.gov/docs/IAT Guide 2014 0331.pdf](https://www.iat.gov/docs/IAT_Guide_2014_0331.pdf)

Interagency Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials Guide:

[https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/library/upload/HAZMAT Handbook 2005-2.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/aviation/library/upload/HAZMAT_Handbook_2005-2.pdf)

Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG):

<http://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/products/pms510.pdf>

Interagency Helicopter Pilot Practical Test Standards:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/ihpts.pdf

Interagency Helicopter Rappel Guide (IHRG):

[http://www.nifc.gov/PUBLICATIONS/ihrq/Interagency Helicopter Rappel Guide 2011.pdf](http://www.nifc.gov/PUBLICATIONS/ihrq/Interagency_Helicopter_Rappel_Guide_2011.pdf).

Interagency Single-Engine Airtanker Operations Guide (ISOG):

<http://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/products/pms506.pdf11.pdf>.

Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide (ISMOG):

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/ismog/ismog-fs.pdf.

Interagency Smokejumper Pilots Operations Guide (ISPOG):

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/ISPOG.pdf

Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (annual revision):

https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_rebook_2015.html

NASF Cooperators Aviation Standards for Interagency Fire:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/COOP%20NASF%20Standards.pdf.

National Interagency Mobilization Guide (annual revision):

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/index.html>.

5.2.6 Other References

Administrative Use of Aircraft Desk Reference**Aviation Risk Management Workbook:**

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/av_safety/risk_management/ARMW%20Individual%20Files/ARM_2011W.pdf.

Foundational Doctrine Fire and Aviation Rotor and Wing January 2006:

http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fam/aviation/foundational_doctrine_fam_2006.pdf

Interagency Airtanker Base Directory: Available from the Washington Office Detached Unit, Boise Great Basin Cache, as National Fire Equipment System (NFES) Order Number 002537.

National Aviation Safety and Management Plan:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/aviation/av_library/2012%20National%20Aviation%20Safety%20and%20Management%20Plan%20Final.pdf

Regional Supplement

Pacific Northwest Interagency Aviation Orientation Guide

Pacific Northwest Aviation Frequency Guide

Alaska Regional Supplements

Forest Supplement

See chapter 10.

5.3 Public/Civil Aircraft Operations

Forest Service aviation activities include both “civil” and “public” operations. Civil aircraft operations shall comply with [FSM 5703.32](#). Public aircraft operations shall comply with [FSM 5703.31](#).

5.3.1 Civil Aircraft

All Forest Service aircraft operations are civil unless specifically declared public. All aircraft other than public aircraft are considered civil aircraft ([FAR1.1](#)).

5.3.2 Public Aircraft

The definition for Public Aircraft can be found in the [FSM 5705](#). The Forest Service will comply with all 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Federal Aviation Regulations in the operation and maintenance of public aircraft with the few exceptions outlined in [FSM 5714](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

When an aircraft or pilot are working for a cooperator (state, county, municipality, etc.) under an agreement other than a Federal contract, the aircraft may not operate on Federal lands nor carry Forest Service or DOI employees unless authorized to do so through a Cooperator Letter of Approval, issued by the Regional Aviation Officer and/or The Regional director for the Office of Aviation Services. (See FSM 5703.1, FSM 5704.9, FSM 5705 and Interagency Aviation Information Bulletin No. R6-14-01

5.4 Employees on Unapproved Aircraft

All agency employees will comply with Forest Service aviation policies when performing agency employment-related duties on board any organization's aircraft and/or aircraft operated under any other organization's operational control. Employees shall be mindful of policy and the appropriate approval level for any deviation from policy. These policies include, but are not limited to: approved aircraft and pilot (carding or letter of approval), PASP, flight following, PPE, and appropriate management.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

North Cascade Heli, Inc (NCH) operates a backcountry powder skiing and ski touring operation under a special use permit with the Methow Valley Ranger District. In order to perform the official duties of inspecting for compliance with terms, conditions and mitigation measures set forth in the permit, agency employees need to fly in a non-government aircraft contracted by NCH Inc. This flight shall only ensue with a Letter of Approval issued by the PNW Regional Forester and upon compliance with all other stipulations set forth in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and Alaska Region Aviation Operation Plan for Non-Government Aircraft. Only those FS employees whose presence is necessary in the conduct of the administrative flight or whose duties include special-use permit administration will be allowed to fly in a non-government aircraft while on duty. Furthermore, these employees shall review the PNW and Alaska Region Aviation Operations Plan, the approved Project Aviation Safety plan, and must have successfully completed the B-3 Basic Aviation Safety Courses in the last 3 years.

5.5 Aviation Emergency Response

In unusual circumstances, Forest Service personnel may perform a flight in non-approved aircraft with non-approved pilots ([FSM 5713.53](#)). The Regional Forester may authorize this flight based on advisement and recommendation from the Regional Aviation Officer and counsel from the Regional Aviation Safety Manager.

A mission Risk Assessment (RA) shall be completed and approved by the appropriate Line Officer prior to the flight(s). The [Green-Amber-Red \(GAR\) Model Risk Assessment](#) is an example of an appropriate aviation risk assessment to utilize in an aviation emergency response situation.

These flights shall be documented on form FS-5700-14, [SAFECOM](#): Aviation Safety Communiqué and submitted to the appropriate aviation manager.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

5.6 Flight Planning

5.6.1 Point-to-Point

Point-to-Point flights will be tracked by either an FAA – VFR (Visual Flight Rules), IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) Flight Plan, or agency flight plan. Minimally, there must be notification to Dispatch Centers upon departure and arrival.

5.6.2 FAA Flight Plans

FAA Flight Plans are filed by the pilot, opened in flight upon departure, and closed by the pilot with FAA Air Traffic Control (ATC) or Flight Service upon arrival.

5.6.3 Agency Flight Plans

Agency flight plans for point-to-point flights are documented on a Flight Request/Flight Schedule form. The procedures for accomplishing agency flight tracking are documented in detail in the [National and Geographic Area Mobilization Guides](#).

5.6.4 Flight Hazard Maps

The document at the following link provides a status report of the interagency effort to standardize flight hazard maps:

<http://gis.nwcg.gov/standards/AviationHazards/Memorandum%20No.15-008%20Aviation%20Hazard%20Mapping.pdf>

The Map Product Description Sheet located at the following link provides guidance to GIS Specialists for creating flight hazard maps: http://gis.nwcg.gov/standards_data.html

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

5.7 Flight Following

5.7.1 Mission Flight Following

All Forest Service flight activities, except those activities conducted under IFR flight plans (14 CFR 91.173) or which are under positive control with air traffic control (ATC), shall be coordinated through an originating dispatch office during its hours of operation in accordance with FSH5709.16 Chapter 33.11.

AFF is the preferred method of agency flight following but shall not preclude the use of radio flight following as an alternate means. [Automated Flight Following \(AFF\)](#) does not reduce or eliminate the requirement for FM radio capability and radio communication. Reference the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20](#) Flight Following Requirements and Procedures.

The method of flight following for Fire incidents is documented on an Aircraft Resource order or in a Dispatch Center's Mobilization/Operating Guide. The method for flight following non-fire resource missions will be documented in a Project Aviation Safety Plan (PASP) and/or Flight Request/Flight Schedule form.

Regional Supplement

The following pertains to Region 10 only:

1. As a minimum, position reports will be made every 30 minutes.
2. The dispatcher will initiate search procedures specified in the Forest Emergency Action Guide when an aircraft fails to check in.
3. After an additional 30 minutes without contact, the dispatcher will proceed with the emergency action plan and initiate an active search with the available resources, such as: Coast Guard, air taxi operators, FAA and contract aircraft.
4. A current Aircraft Overdue and Emergency Action Plan shall be maintained at each dispatcher and radio operator duty station.

Each Forest/Unit will have facilities, methods, and procedures for flight following all aircraft in their geographical area of responsibility that are in use for the Forest Service. All flights in use by the Forest Service will be flight followed by a qualified dispatcher. When situations arise that preclude compliance with flight-following policy, the flight will not occur without an alternate means of flight following approved by the Unit Aviation Officer.

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

5.8 Radio Frequency Management/Communications

RESERVED

Do not use any frequency without proper authorization from the authorized radio frequency management personnel at the local, state, regional or national level.

Regional Supplement

Aviation frequencies are issued and controlled in the Pacific Northwest by and for USFS, BLM, and interagency partners in accordance with FSH 6609.14.

Each District or Forest (unit) has a designated point of contact for radio frequency information and is required to submit changes or updates for the Frequency Guide by March 1st of each year. The PNWCG Aviation Committee provides interagency coordination and support for frequency-related issues among the operations, ISO/IRM (radio techs), Northwest Coordination Center, and the dispatch organization.

Forest Supplement

The Okanogan-Wenatchee NF and the Colville NF are located in the WA02 sub-geo frequency zone. Two air-to-ground frequencies and three air-to-air frequencies are assigned to WA02. In an effort to better manage these frequencies and reduce radio congestion during periods of activity, the Forests have agreed to each utilize a default air-to-ground frequency.

When working on the Okanogan portion of the Forest, the intent is that all of the Okanogan will utilize A/G 66 as the default A/G. The Colville NF will utilize A/G 51 as their default. As needed, it will still be permissible for the Okanogan to use A/G 51, should there be radio traffic warranting the use.

CWICC will notify and coordinate with the Northeast Washington Interagency Communications Center (NEWICC) if there is a need to utilize A/G 51. If there is a need, an order for additional A/G frequencies can be placed through CWICC.

It is proposed that Aircraft working on the Okanogan portion of the Forest, will default to the use of the air-to-air frequency 132.975. The Colville National Forest would default to 132.175 and the Colville Agency (BIA) would default to 133.550. This proposal is not yet in place at the signing of this document.

5.9 Latitude and Longitude Formats

The aviation standard for communicating latitude and longitude shall be: Degrees Decimal Minutes (also known as Degrees Minutes, Decimal Minutes, or Degrees Minutes Tenths) i.e., 48°36.12'N 114°08.12'W. Ground units must ensure their GPS is set to Degrees Decimal Minutes before providing coordinates to aircraft.

There is also a format specific to the [Interagency National Mobilization Guide](#), for requesting TFRs, which is an exception to the above formats. An example would be 483612N/1140812W (uses no punctuation at all with degrees, minutes and seconds).

Reference the [Latitude/Longitude Information for GPS Navigation Information Bulletin FS-10-02](#) for more information.

5.10 Overdue or Missing Aircraft

An aircraft is considered “overdue” when it fails to arrive within 30 minutes after the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) and cannot be located.

An aircraft is considered “missing” when its fuel duration has been exceeded, it has been reported as “overdue” to the FAA and the FAA has completed an administrative search for the aircraft without success.

If an aircraft is missing, overdue, or downed, initiate the [Interagency Mishap Response Guide and Checklist](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

5.11 Mishap Response

Forest Service local units shall establish procedures in an Emergency Response Plan to, [FSM5720.48](#):

- Coordinate and plan the response to aviation accidents and incidents; and should
- Conduct periodic exercises of mishap response plans.

The Emergency Response Plan is specific to each unit and shall be available in all dispatch offices. The Emergency Response Plan must be updated annually at a minimum.

Regional / Program Aviation Safety Manager should be notified immediately of any aviation accident, incident with potential or NTSB reportable incident.

Regional Supplement

The local Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist shall be updated annually by May 1. Each dispatch center should exercise the local unit’s Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist through a drill or simulation, at least annually, with the dispatch employees who are tasked with mobilizing and tracking aircraft during the field season.

Forest Supplement

Response procedures to an Aviation Mishap are detailed in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Aviation Mishap and Response Guide and Checklist. The link to this plan can be found in chapter 10.

The Dispatch Assistant Center Manager; Aviation, is responsible for ensuring the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist is updated annually by May 1st. The Center Manager is responsible to ensure that a minimum of at least one drill or simulation is completed on an annual basis with the dispatch employees tasked with mobilizing and tracking aircraft during the field season.

A current copy of the response plan can be obtained from the Central Washington Interagency Communications Center, the UAO, or any primary aircraft base located on the Forest (North Cascades Smokejumper Base, Moses Lake Tanker Base and Wenatchee River Valley Rappel Base).

5.12 Passengers

A passenger is any person aboard an aircraft, when traveling on official Forest Service business, who does not perform the function of a flight crewmember or air crewmember.

Passengers will:

- Use appropriate personal protective equipment for the type of flights being conducted
- Report aviation incidents, operations deviating from policy, potential incidents
- Ensure personal safety as well as safety for others involved in the flight.

5.12.1 Agency Employees off Duty

Federal employees cannot utilize annual leave/Leave without Pay (LWOP) or “volunteer” in order to circumvent agency policy. If any aspect of the employee’s activity is related to their official duties, they are conducting agency business, regardless of their pay or leave status.

Refer to the regulations regarding off-duty activities in accordance with the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch ([5 CFR Part 2635.802-803](#))

5.12.2 Volunteers

Volunteers when traveling on official business are official passengers, within the terms of [FSH 6509.33, Federal Travel Regulations 301-1](#). A [Day Trip Authorization \(FS-5700-12\)](#) shall be filled out for each flight listing each volunteer. During fire mission flights, the Incident Commander with Delegation of Authority from the unit line officer or the local line officer is the appropriate level of approval ([FSM 5716.44- Exhibit 01](#)).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

5.13 Transportation of Hazardous Materials

Transportation of hazardous materials aboard agency contracted aircraft must meet the requirements set forth in the [Interagency Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials USDH Handbook and USDA-FS Guide](#).

Hazardous materials transported aboard commercial aircraft fall under [49 CFR Part 175](#). Employee shall check with commercial carrier prior to traveling. Some commercial carriers may not permit hazardous materials.

When hazardous materials are transported on agency aircraft, the most current special permit authorization issued by the Department of Transportation directly to the USDA Forest Service ([DOT SP-9198](#)) shall be onboard each aircraft. All aircraft operated under this special permit must be under operational control of the Forest Service for the purposes of a government function listed in the special permit. The specific details associated with the most current revision of DOT SP-9198 may be viewed and downloaded from the following link:

http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pv_obj_cache/pv_obj_id_762CE209CD4276E7DA5127C29B51F27BC9B90000/filename/SP9198_2014010921.pdf

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

Agency employees who are responsible for transporting hazardous materials by air must comply with Department of Transportation Regulations 49 CFR 171.8 and must receive training on the requirements and conditions of the exemption to 49 CFR 175.5 (a) (2). This training will be documented in individual training folders and tracked by the Forest Training Officer through the IQCS system, IAT and/or AG-Learn.

5.14 Invasive Species Control

Aquatic invasive species are easily transported in a variety of ways (e.g., helicopter buckets, fixed tank helicopters and SEATs utilizing open water sources, engines and tenders, and other water handling equipment). Agency personnel should become knowledgeable in the preventive measures associated with the prevention of the spread of aquatic plants and invertebrates. Aviation managers should consult with local unit representatives to acquire information associated with: contaminated water sources,

approved water sources, cleaning equipment exposed to contaminated water requirements, and other pertinent information.

In addition, the Equipment Technology Committee under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group established an Invasive Species Subcommittee to focus on developing guidance for use in the interagency fire community. Current information is available at http://www.nwccg.gov/branches/et/etc/subcommittees/invasive_species/invasive_species-subcommittee.htm specific to this subcommittee.

Work is underway to develop additional guidance and procedures in the cleaning of equipment that has been exposed to aquatic invasive. Current information concerning cleaning solutions can be found at this web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/documents/watercon.pdf>

Many web sites exist containing information on invasive aquatic species. The following is not an all-inclusive list but will provide the user with specifics about aquatic invasive species, guidance surrounding the prevention of spreading invasive, as well as equipment cleaning information:

Forest Service Region 4 Fire Operations Guidance for Aquatic Invasive Species:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/resources/aquatic/guidelines/index.shtml>

USDA National Invasive Species Information Center Resource Library:

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgstate.shtml>

Forest Service Technology & Development Water-Source Toolkit:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/programs/wsa/watertoolkit.htm>

Environmental Protection Agency Useful Links to Invasive Species Information:

http://www.epa.gov/owow/invasive_species/links.html

Forest Service Invasive Species Program:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/index.shtml>;

<http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/relatedlinks.shtml>

Forest Service Region 4 Invasive Species Homepage:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/resources/invasives/>

US Fish and Wildlife Service Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Homepage: <http://www.fws.gov/answest/default.html>

Global Invasive Species Database: <http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>

California Department of Fish and Game Invasive Species:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/>

USDA National Invasive Species Information Center Homepage:

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Homepage: <http://anstaskforce.gov/default.php>

US Fish and Wildlife Service Invasive Species Homepage:

<http://www.fws.gov/invasives/>

US Geological Survey Non-indigenous Aquatic Species Homepage:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/>

Regional Supplement

Guidance that gives recommendations to minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) during fire management activities is periodically updated and disseminated to all UAOs. Because of the long distances that firefighters travel, their potential to act as vectors for spreading AIS is significant. AIS pose a risk to Forest aquatic and riparian habitat, water recreation, the operation of utilities, agricultural irrigation, local and national economies, and firefighting equipment. To address this threat, guidelines were developed collaboratively between regional fish and fire personnel. These guidelines are based on the current

scientific literature. The guidelines are as practical and effective as possible and are applicable to other agencies that fight fire on National Forest System Land within the Region.

This direction focuses upon a short list of focal species identified by AIS experts within the Region. The Regional focal species list may change annually based upon the degree of their threat to the Region and knowledge of new invaders. A map was prepared showing known locations for this year's focal AIS. The map can be used to emphasize precautions above and beyond normal measures. It is important to note that because a water body is not documented as inhabited by invasive species on a map location; it doesn't mean they do not exist there. Precautions should be taken near any water source to avoid the spread of invasive species. Extreme care should be taken whenever transporting water and equipment. Extra precautions shall be taken when a water body is known to be infested by invasive species. That water should not be transported to disconnected aquatic habitats within the watershed, or transported outside of the watershed. Extra care should be invested in thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing equipment. Guidance for cleaning and sanitizing equipment used in high-risk areas, and when suspected of AIS contamination, is outlined in the Regional Operational Guideline document located in [Appendix 11.3](#).

This guidance will be reviewed and edited annually by the Regional Fisheries Biologist and Regional Fire Information Specialist, through comments from field personnel combined with current AIS scientific research.

See [Appendix 11.3](#) for AIS Management during PNW Fire Operations

Forest Supplement

The Okanogan-Wenatchee contains known populations of Eurasian Milfoil, an aquatic invasive species (AIS). This species is found within the Columbia River. Following the national and regional guidance, special care should be taken when delivering water from the Columbia River. As a general rule, once an aircraft utilizes the Columbia River as a water source, special care should be taken, to not cross contaminate other bodies of water. This same principle applies when using any body of water on the OWF as a means to reduce any potential delivery of AIS plant, mollusk or pathogen. Specific guidance for cleaning equipment can be found at the following link.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/documents/watercon.pdf>

5.15 Fire Chemicals and Aerial Application Policy Near Waterways

For operational guidelines on use of fire chemicals, refer to [Implementation Guidance for the Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardants on National Forest Systems Lands](#). For aerial application of pesticides near "waters of the United States", refer to Environmental Protection Agency's National Pesticide Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/> and consult your USFS Regional Pesticide Coordinator for NPDES permitting information.

Interagency policy only allows the use of a product that is qualified and approved for intended use. A Qualified Products List (QPL) is published for each wildland fire chemical type and maintained on the Wildland Fire Chemical Systems (WFCS) web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/index.htm>.

Personnel involved in handling, mixing, and applying chemicals or solutions shall be trained in proper safe handling procedures and use the personal protective equipment recommend on the product label and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The MSDSs for all approved fire chemicals can be found on the WFSC web site. MSDSs for pesticides or other materials must be available on site for duration of project. One resource for searching MSDSs is <http://www.msds-online.com/msds-search/>.

Airtanker bases shall have appropriate spill containment facilities (and equipment) in place.

Products must be blended or mixed at the proper ratio by approved methods prior to being loaded into the aircraft. Inaccurate mixing of fire chemicals may negate the suppressant or retarding properties, which is not cost effective and may be a safety factor.

Avoid aerial application of wildland fire chemicals within 300 feet of waterways. Report all retardant misapplications using the report tools located on the USFS Retardant Environment Impact Statement (EIS) website: [Aerial Application of Fire Retardant](#). The following link provides assistance with access to retardant misapplication forms and the reporting process:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/forms/wfcmr_getting_started_guide.pdf

5.15.1 Retardant Avoidance Areas

Additionally, aerial retardant drops are not allowed in mapped avoidance areas for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate or sensitive species except in cases where human life or public safety is threatened and retardant within an avoidance area could be reasonably expected to alleviate that threat. Maps identifying all retardant avoidance areas (including waterways) can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/maps.html>. These maps shall be provided to dispatch centers, incident commanders and incident aviation resources.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

All retardant placed on the Forest will be mapped, regardless of misapplication. All ATGS personnel will be briefed on the need to provide the location of all drops on the Forest.

Incident Commanders for all incoming Incident Management Teams will be provided memory sticks with local retardant avoidance areas and a copy of the May 29, 2015 letter from the Regional Forester on tracking fire retardant aerial application. The IC will be instructed to record all retardant applications on associated maps and return the information to the Forest Fire Staff during team close out.

Links to local retardant avoidance maps can be found in chapter 10.

5.16 Search and Rescue (SAR)

Refer to the [FSM 5713.53](#) and [FSM 1590](#) regarding search and rescue. Search and rescue operations could lead to actions in conflict with policy. Refer to section [5.5 Aviation Emergency Response](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

5.17 Large Airtanker Operations

Large Airtankers are a national resource and their primary mission is initial attack. Geographic Areas will make them available for wildland fire assignments when ordered by the National Interagency Coordination Center. In addition to federally contracted airtankers, MAFFS (military) and cooperator aircraft may be utilized to supplement the federal fleet through established agreements.

Operational considerations concerning all Airtankers can be referenced in the [Interagency Airtanker Base Operations Guide \(IATBOG\)](#) and the [Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide \(IASG\)](#).

Regional Supplement

Foreign Airtankers: Due to the adjacent proximity of Washington State to Canada, there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with British Columbia for boundary firefighting operations. The USFS R6 Airtanker Program Manager in Redmond meets with and provides training and briefings for Canadian airtanker pilots and aviation managers on a regular basis.

Forest Supplement

A link to the Border Arrangement can be found in chapter 10.

5.17.1 Very Large Airtanker (VLAT) Operations

VLATs require a VLAT qualified lead plane or aerial supervision module for all missions. Not all airtanker bases are capable of supporting VLAT operations due to runway or ramp limitations.

Airtanker bases must evaluate base size, configuration, retardant capacity and other relevant factors before inserting VLATs into the existing pit areas. Consider establishing a satellite base at the airport or an airport in the proximity.

Regional Supplement

Moses Lake, WA and Medford, OR are approved for using VLATs. Rotation of these resources will be managed in accordance with the local tanker base operating plans. The Boise airtanker base also provides retardant reload services for fires in the eastern half of the PNW. Orders for these resources must be placed through Northwest Coordination Center per the procedures found in the PNW Mobilization Guide.

Forest Supplement

When trained and qualified personnel are present on base Moses Lake Tanker Base has been identified as a MAFFs base.

5.17.2 Airtanker Base Personnel

The airtanker base manager supervises ground operations in accordance with the [Interagency Airtanker Base Operations Guide \(IATBOG\)](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

5.18 SEAT Operations

SEATs primary mission is initial attack. Mobilization is managed by Dispatch Centers with support by the Bureau of Land Management's National SEAT Coordinator and BLM State Aviation Managers. Operational considerations concerning SEATs can be referenced in the [Interagency SEAT Operations Guide \(ISOG\)](#) and the [Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide \(IASG\)](#).

SEAT Manager (SEMG) responsibilities are outlined in the [ISOG](#), and their training and currency requirements are contained in [NWCG PMS 310-1](#).

Regional Supplement

The Malheur National Forest has an exclusive use contract SEAT and a supply of retardant in John Day, OR. The base is capable of running at least three SEAT aircraft in rotation. There is a "Fireboss" (amphibious SEAT) based at Deer Park, WA for incidents on the Colville National Forest and other partner agencies in northeast Washington. The Colville Agency has a permanent BIA SEAT base in Omak, WA, and the BLM operates and manages SEAT bases in Lakeview, Burns, and Ontario, OR which provide retardant for all agencies' lands based on interagency agreements and the closest forces concept. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) contracts numerous additional SEATs which frequently utilize federally managed SEAT bases. SEATs also routinely reload and operate from large airtanker bases in the PNW such as Moses Lake, Klamath Falls, Medford, LaGrande, and occasionally Redmond.

Forest Supplement

None

5.19 Aerial Supervision Operations

Lead planes (LP) and Aerial Supervision Modules (ASM) are national resources as defined by the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) aircraft, LPs, ASMs and Helicopter Coordinators (HLCO) conduct operations in accordance with the [Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide \(IASG\)](#) and the policies and procedures prescribed in the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Handbook](#). Dispatch and ordering are accomplished in accordance with the Geographic Area and National Mobilization Guides.

Personnel shall be fully qualified as an ATGS to perform air tactical supervision.

Lead planes and ASM will be considered interchangeable in terms of the lead plane mission. An ATGS should be ordered if there is a need for incident air tactical supervision.

Lead plane pilot trainees will be given priority over all ASM flights/ missions.

The Aerial Supervision Program is managed by the WO Aerial Supervision Program Manager.

Regional Supplement

The PNW has seven (7) exclusive use Air Attack platforms and full time ATGS personnel strategically placed throughout R6. Platforms are located in Klamath Falls, OR; Redmond, OR; Ontario, OR; La Grande, OR; Medford, OR; Deer Park, WA and East Wenatchee, WA and are staffed by USFS and BLM employees. Additional qualified ATGS are available from the neighboring units to function as relief ATGS on the primary employee's days off.

It is the intent of the Region to fully utilize these aircraft in rapid response of initial attack incidents as well as large incident support, both within and outside the Region in

consultation with the local UAO. Emphasis is placed on providing ATGS training assignment opportunities onboard these aircraft.

Forest Supplement

The Okanogan-Wenatchee NF is the host to one of seven Regional exclusive use Air Attack platforms. This platform is nationally funded and a shared resource with Region 3, spending the first half of each season in Sierra Vista, AZ and the second half of the contract in Wenatchee. Start dates in Wenatchee will fluctuate given the season, but the intent is to staff the Wenatchee portion starting on July 1 of each year.

5.19.1 Aerial Supervision Personnel

The ATGS manages incident airspace and controls incident air traffic. The ATGS is an airborne firefighter who coordinates, assigns, and evaluates the use of aerial resources in support of incident objectives. The ATGS is the link between ground personnel and incident aircraft.

Air tactical aircraft can be considered a local unit, incident, or geographic resource. Air tactical aircraft must meet the avionics typing requirements listed in the [Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide \(IASG\)](#) and the pilot must be carded to perform the air tactical mission.

Air Tactical Group Supervisors (ATGS) responsibilities and procedures are outlined in the [Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide \(IASG\)](#), and the position qualifications, training and currency requirements are contained in the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide.

The ATGS works for the Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD) when an AOBD is assigned. If an AOBD is not assigned, the ATGS works for the incident commander or designee.

5.19.2 ASM

An ASM is a two person crew consisting of a lead plane pilot and ATGS- ATS (Air

Tactical Supervisor). The ASM crew is qualified in their respective positions and has received additional training. An ASM can be utilized as a LP or ATGS depending on the needs of incident management personnel.

ASM responsibilities and procedures are outlined in the [IASG](#). LP pilot responsibilities and procedures are outlined in Forest Service policy ([5714.11 – Exhibit 01](#), [5709.16 Chapter 20](#)) and the IASG.

Lead plane pilot designations are the responsibility of the WO Branch Chief, Pilot Standardization.

ATGS-ATS designations are the responsibility of the WO Aerial Supervision Program Manager.

ASMs work for the ATGS when an ATGS is assigned. If an ATGS is not assigned, the ASM works for the incident commander or designee.

5.19.3 Lead Plane

Lead planes coordinate, direct, and evaluate airtanker and other incident aircraft operations. The low level capabilities of a lead plane enhance the safety and effectiveness of airtanker operations in the low level turbulent, smoky, and congested fire environment. Lead planes are single pilot aircraft unless a lead plane trainee is assigned.

LP responsibilities and procedures are outlined in Forest Service policy ([5714.11 – Exhibit 01](#), [5709.16 Chapter 20](#)) and the [IASG](#).

Lead plane pilot designations are the responsibility of the WO Branch Chief, Pilot Standardization.

Lead planes work for the ATGS when an ATGS is assigned. If an ATGS is not assigned, the LP works for the incident commander or designee.

5.19.4 HLCO

The HLCO coordinates, directs, and evaluates tactical/logistical helicopter operations. The HLCO works for the ATGS. This position is typically activated on complex incidents where several helicopters are assigned. A HLCO can reduce the span of control of the ATGS by managing all the helicopters over an incident.

HLCO responsibilities and procedures are outlined in the [IASG](#). The position qualifications, training and currency requirements for the HLCO are contained in the [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide](#).

HLCOs work for the ATGS when an ATGS is assigned. If an ATGS is not assigned, the HLCO works for the incident commander or designee.

5.20 Helicopter Operations

All helicopter operations shall be accomplished in accordance with the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\)](#), the Aerial Ignition Guide, and the aircraft contract.

The applicable Hover out of Ground Effect (HOGE) chart will be used for initial attack operations, first time into remote landing site, or when the pilot deems that environmental conditions warrant use of HOGE chart.

Regional Supplement

The following pertains to Region 10 only:

- 1- All helicopters, except those approved for special projects by the Regional Aviation Officer, shall be equipped with either fixed floats or emergency flotation devices. Exceptions: Cordova, Kenai Peninsula, Interior Alaska, and special projects approved by the Regional Aviation Officer.

- 2- All multiengine aircraft, used in Alaska shall comply with FAR 135.181 and/or 135.183, whichever is higher.

Bull Run Watershed Management Unit Area Airspace Restrictions: Pilots are prohibited from dipping out of the Bull Run reservoirs (located at N45° 26.93' W122° 9.11' and N45° 26.63' W122° 2.46') and will avoid overflight of the surrounding Bull Run Watershed Management Unit area by at least 1 NM, unless directed otherwise under the orders of an Incident Commander.

5.20.1 Helitack

Each unit hosting an exclusive-use helicopter is responsible for providing essential management, overhead, equipment, facilities and the resources necessary to fully support the helitack crew. Minimum crew staffing is contained in the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#). Helicopter personnel responsibilities are outlined in the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\)](#), and their training and currency requirements are contained in the [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide](#).

5.20.2 Rappel

Rappel activities will be conducted in compliance with the [Interagency Helicopter Rappel Guide](#) and [National Rappel Operations Guide](#).

5.20.3 Cargo Letdown

Cargo letdown will be conducted in compliance with the [Interagency Helicopter Rappel Guide](#) and [National Rappel Operations Guide](#).

5.20.4 Emergency Medical Short-Haul

Emergency Medical Short-Haul operations support the rapid evacuation of injured personnel. All Emergency Medical Short-Haul operations will be conducted in accordance with the [Emergency Medical Short-Haul Operations Plan](#) (EMSHOP).

Regional Supplement

Region 6 is approved for Emergency Medical Short-Haul operations. Currently, the Okanogan/Wenatchee NF hosts one Regional Short-Haul capable Type 3 aircraft.

See [Emergency Medical Evacuation Capability, Equipment, and Guidelines 6.23.15](#)

See [Emergency Helicopter Extraction Options memo](#)

See [Emergency Medical Short-Haul Capability in the USFS](#)

Forest Supplement

On June 8th, 2015 the WO issued a letter approving the National Emergency Medical Short-Haul Program. The Forest Service National Emergency Medical Short-haul (NEMSH) program is approved for the FS when mobilized anywhere in the continental US and Alaska.

The Wenatchee Valley Airbase hosts 1 type 3 helicopter that is short-haul capable. The purpose of the program is to facilitate rapid and effective access to medical care in the field for seriously injured or ill employees, as well as extraction of patients for transport to definitive medical care.

The Wenatchee Valley Airbase Short-haul program has 10 short-haul trained crewmembers with a minimum of 3 EMT's. While at their base or assigned to an incident, this crew will continue to perform their primary duties, such as project work, initial attack, reconnaissance missions, crew, cargo and water transport.

FS employees engaged in Emergency Medical Short-haul training and operations will comply with the standards and procedures in the Emergency Medical Short-Haul Operations Plan (EMSHOP) as well as all other FS specific policy.

5.20.5 LEI Short-Haul and Hoist

Short-Haul and Hoist operations are approved for Region 5 Law Enforcement and Investigations at this time. Short-Haul and Hoist operations will be conducted in compliance with the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\)](#) and the Forest Service (FS) National Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) Short-Haul and Hoist (S-H/H) Guide.

Region 6 LEI may be approved for Short-haul and / or hoist operations in 2016. If so, an approval letter will be issued by the Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry and the Director of LEI.

Regional Supplement

See [Appendix 11.4](#) for 2014 letter authorizing Expansion of LEI National Short-Haul Program to Region 4 and Region 6

5.20.6 Helicopter Bucket and Tank Operations

Helicopter Bucket and Tank Operations will be conducted in compliance with the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\)](#).

5.20.7 Helicopter External Load Operations

Helicopter External Load Operations will be conducted in compliance with the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\)](#).

5.20.8 Night Helicopter Operations

Forest Service Night Helicopter Operations are only authorized in Region 5. Night helicopter operations are restricted to fixed tank, ground fill only. Night helicopter operations will be conducted in compliance with the Night Air Operations Plan.

5.20.9 Interagency Helicopter Screening and Evaluation Subcommittee

The Interagency Helicopter Screening and Evaluation Subcommittee (IHSAES) will provide guidance for standardization when evaluating new interagency helicopters and related accessories.

5.21 Aerial Ignition Operations

Aerial ignition operations and projects are accomplished in accordance with the [Interagency Aerial Ignition Guide](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

5.22 Wild Horse & Burro Operations

RESERVED

Regional Supplement

The Forest Service does not conduct wild horse and burro operations.

Forest Supplement

None

5.23 Aerial Capture, Eradication and Tagging of Animals (ACETA)

RESERVED

Regional Supplement

The Forest Service does not conduct ACETA operations.

Forest Supplement

None

5.24 Water Scooper Operations

Water scoopers are a national resource and should be managed and used much like heavy helicopters. Operations will be in compliance with the Water Scooper Evaluation and Operations Plan

5.25 Smokejumper Operations

Smokejumper dispatch and ordering are accomplished in accordance with the Geographic and National Mobilization Guides and [Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide \(ISMOG\)](#).

Forest Supplement:

A link to the Smoke Jumper Operations plan can be found in chapter 10.

5.25.1 Smokejumper Personnel

Smokejumper: Smokejumper operations are performed according to the [Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide \(ISMOG\)](#), and the policies and procedures prescribed in the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations Handbook](#).

Smokejumper Pilots: The [Interagency Smokejumper Pilot Operations Guide \(ISPOG\)](#) serves as policy for smokejumper pilots' qualifications, training and operations.

Smokejumper Parachute System: Forest Service parachute operations are currently transitioning to a ram-air parachute system. Forest Service ram-air parachute operations will be performed in accordance with the [Ram Air Parachute System Change Management and Implementation Plan \(CMIP\)](#).

5.25.2 Smokejumper Aircraft

Smokejumper aircraft are evaluated and approved by the Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Subcommittee (SASES). The SASES will provide guidance for standardization when evaluating new smokejumper aircraft and related accessories.

Regional Supplement

Region 6 utilizes two C23A based at Redmond, OR and a CASA C-212 based at Winthrop, WA (North Cascades Smokejumper Base) for smokejumper aircraft.

Forest Supplement

None

5.26 Light Fixed-Wing Operations

Fixed-wing dispatch, ordering, and operations are accomplished in accordance with the local geographic area and National Mobilization guides.

For all non-fire flights, the [IAT Guide](#) provides the training standards for fixed-wing flight managers (FWFM) in charge of point-to-point and FWFM Special-Use mission flights. A qualified FWFM shall be assigned to point-to-point flights and FWFM Special-Use for mission flights.

Low-level Flight Operations (Less than 500 feet AGL)

The only fixed-wing aircraft missions authorized are:

- Para-cargo.
- Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) and lead profile operations.
- Aerial retardant, water and foam application.
- Aerial Seeding/Spraying

Operational Procedures:

- A high-level recon will be made prior to low-level flight operations.
- All flights below 500 feet will be contained to the area of operation.
- PPE is required for all fixed-wing, low-level flights. Helmets are not required for multi-engine airtanker crews, smokejumper pilots and ASM flight/aircrew members.

Regional Supplement

The following pertains to Region 10 only:

- 1- Tricycle-gear aircraft shall only operate from currently maintained airfields. Beach landings may be made only if the aircraft is equipped with oversized ballon tires.
- 2- Most single engine fixed wing aircraft used in Alaska shall be equipped with floats due to the extensive areas requiring overwater flights and the need for water landings to access a majority of regional project sites. Exceptions: Cordova, Yakutat, Kenai Peninsula, interior Alaska, and areas where water landings are not available or practical to access project areas. All non-float equipped aircraft (wheels or skis) operated in Alaska shall remain within gliding distance of shore during any portion of the flight that is over water. All non-float equipped aircraft operations in Alaska shall be addressed in the recurring Project Aviation Safety Plan reviewed by the Regional Aviation Officer and signed by the appropriate Line Officer.
- 3- All multiengine aircraft, used in Alaska shall comply with FAR 135.181 and/or 135.183, whichever is higher.

Forest Supplement

None

5.26.1 Reconnaissance or Patrol Flights

The purpose of aerial reconnaissance or detection flights is to gather and relay information. In addition to detecting, mapping, and sizing up fires, this resource may be utilized to provide ground resources with intelligence, and provide recommendations to the appropriate individuals.

Only qualified Aerial Supervisors (ATGS, ASM, HLCO, and Lead) are authorized to coordinate incident airspace operations. Flights with a "Recon, Detection, or Patrol" designation should communicate with tactical aircraft only to announce location, altitude, and to relay their departure direction and altitude from the incident.

5.27 Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) Operations

The LEI personnel shall follow the [FSH 5309.11, Chapter 50](#), [FSM 5700](#), and [FSH 5709.16](#) for all aviation operations.

Local LEI personnel that are required to utilize aircraft to support aviation operations should discuss all aspects of the operation with the FAO or UAO well in advance of operations.

All transport of hazardous materials during LEI operations shall follow the [Interagency Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials](#) Guide.

5.27.1 Special Law Enforcement Aviation Projects

Occasionally there are “special” law enforcement aviation missions that are not covered in a standard PASP. If any proposed flights are not covered by an appropriately established aviation plan, then a PASP will be prepared. This includes the use of aviation resources for Flight Service Contracts. The responsible individual will prepare a PASP and submit the plan for review and approval. All LEI operations will have a PASP prior to commencing operations. Line officers shall be informed of law enforcement and investigator non-covert aviation activities within their area of responsibility.

5.27.2 LEI Training

LEI personnel involved with aviation activities shall receive and be current in required aviation training (NWCG and/or IAT) commensurate with the aviation position they will fill, prior to any aviation operations.

5.27.3 Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

A new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is being developed between the USFS and CAP. It will restrict use of CAP to LEI only and limit the make and model of aircraft that can be used. Regions will approve CAP pilots and aircraft based on the MOA. LEI personnel will utilize aircraft and pilots that have been approved for use by a letter of approval from the Regional Aviation officer.

Not all CAP pilots and/or aircraft will be approved for use. Aircraft contracted for fire/resource operations are not mandated to participate in LEI operations. Aircraft companies must agree to participate in LEI operations. Missions outside of the scope of the contract require a contract modification.

Certain LEI operations could lead to actions in conflict with Forest Service policy; reference Section 5.5 Aviation Emergency Response.

5.27.4 Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

The Chief has issued a letter of Authorization for Law Enforcement and Investigations Employees to Fly on Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Aircraft ([Appendix 10.3](#)) while performing joint law enforcement operations and missions coordinated with DHS agencies.

5.27.5 LEI Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) During Tactical Operations

Follow the direction on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) described in the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\) \(NFES 1885\)](#). Approved PPE must be prescribed by the incident commander, operations supervisor, or their designee per [FSM 5300](#). Law enforcement personnel are authorized to wear the following for special tactical operations, for emergency flights, or on flights that are short in duration:

- Battlefield dress uniform (BDU),
- Forest Service uniform, or
- Approved utility uniform.

5.27.6 Emergency Operations

The LEI personnel shall follow the [FSH 5309.11, Chapter 52.15 – Emergency Operations](#)

Regional Supplement

The AK/PNW Region annually develops and maintains a **Regional Law Enforcement and Investigations Aviation Plan**. It is kept on file at the Regional Office.

Forest Supplement

None

5.28 Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)

National and Regional Fire and Aviation Management recognizes the potential for increased Unmanned Aerial System operations and that that establishing a program is critical.

UAS operating in the national airspace system are considered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as aircraft, regardless of size; therefore, UAS executing FS missions are required to adhere to FAA requirements and Forest Service policy. These requirements are similar to manned aircraft in terms of pilot training, currency and certification, airworthiness approval, avionics, and operational restrictions.

The agency UAS Operations Guide is currently under development and will be widely distributed when finalized. Since this program is new to the FS, Fire and Aviation Management intends to proceed cautiously.

While UAS program-related policy ([FSM 5713.7](#)) and integration matures, any planned use (including through agreements), acquisition proposals (FSM 5708), or leasing proposals need to be coordinated with the appropriate Regional Aviation Officer and with Washington Office, Fire and Aviation Management UAS Program Manager.

Forest Service requests to the FAA for UAS Certificates of Waiver or Authorization (COA) will be coordinated through the Washington Office, Fire and Aviation Management UAS

Program Manager. Other agencies that have received a COA from the FAA can be considered Cooperator aircraft ([FSM 5710.35](#)). UAS operated by cooperators (including the military) in support of Forest Service missions are subject to the approval requirements in [FSM 5713.7](#) and shall meet additional requirements established in the [FSM 5713.43](#).

Regional Supplement

Regional UAS policy is under further development. Guidance in the form of information bulletins and memos to the field will be periodically issued from the regional office as national and regional policy is developed and defined throughout the year.

Forest Supplement:

Beginning June 2015, there are known UAS operations over FS land in the area of Holden Mine on the Lake Chelan Corridor. The company conducting UAS operations has been issued a letter by the Regional Office outlining the need for a COA and Exemption 333. This letter also stipulates measures to work with CWICC on airspace de-confliction measures.

5.29 Forest Health Protection (FHP) Operations

FHP utilizes light fixed and rotor wing aircraft to conduct aerial reconnaissance, aerial photography and aerial application. The purpose of these operations is to gather information regarding forest health conditions and manage pests in accordance with [FSM 2100](#) and [FSM 3400](#).

All FHP aviation operations should be coordinated with the appropriate Regional Aviation Officer. Dispatch, ordering, and operations are accomplished in accordance with the local geographic area and [National Mobilization Guide](#) and the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\)](#).

For all non-fire flights, the [IAT Guide](#) provides minimum training standards for fixed-wing flight managers (FWFM) in charge of point-to-point and FWFM Special-Use mission flights. Additional training required by FHP and the FWFM Special-Use Aerial Survey Observer Task Book are available at www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/aviation/training.shtml. All aerial reconnaissance and photography mission flights shall utilize a qualified FWFM Special-Use for fixed wing and qualified Helicopter Manager for rotor wing. Agency personnel are not permitted on board restricted category aerial application aircraft and full PPE is required for aerial application pilots operating low level.

5.30 Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness (AFUE) Study Operations

In 2012, the Aerial Firefighting Use and Efficiency (AFUE) Study was initiated by Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management. The objectives of the study include developing and implementing performance metrics to analyze the use of aerial assets that have the ability to deliver water or wildland fire chemicals to meet incident objectives. Operational data collection occurs through dedicated ground and aerial resources.

The aerial component of this study will film aerial firefighting aircraft (airtankers, helicopters, and water scoopers) drops using infrared/electro optical technology thereby supporting the additional objectives of (1) evaluating aircraft drop effectiveness while it attempts to support incident objectives and (2) evaluating the characteristics of aircraft delivery systems.

The primary aviation platform will be a contracted fixed-wing, pressurized aircraft with up to two (2) Forest Service personnel on board filling the flight manager, aerial supervisor, sensor operator, or aerial observer rolls. Additional contracted or government-owned aircraft may be utilized for the AFUE operational data collection mission.

The aircraft will primarily operate on an incident as an observation/imaging platform or, on a limited basis, as a combination-Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) and observation/imaging platform. Regardless of which role the aircraft is executing, the sensor operator must be trained and have experience in operating the aircraft's sensor system and gathering data.

5.30.1 Incident Airspace De-confliction

When an AFUE aircraft is assigned to an incident, airspace de-confliction shall be conducted with aerial supervision aircraft, other incident and non-incident aircraft, and, when necessary, air traffic control (ATC).

A non-ATGS AFUE aircraft responding to an incident will remain clear of the [Fire Traffic Area \(FTA\)](#) and clear of any established, incident-related Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) area unless the incident's aerial supervisor provides: (1) an altimeter setting, (2) a clearance to enter the respective area, and (3) an altitude to maintain until further notice.

If no aerial supervisor is present during the initial attack phase of an incident, AFUE aircraft will remain at a minimum of 7,500 feet above ground level (AGL) and clear of any established, incident-related TFR.

Note: Remaining at or above 7,500 feet AGL will provide approximately 5,000 feet of separation between the AFUE aircraft and the minimum FTA ATGS orbit ceiling. AFUE aircraft will request a clearance from the appropriate Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) in order to operate in Class A airspace (18,000 feet MSL and above).

5.31 Personal Protective Equipment

The following pertains to Region 10 only:

The following personal protection equipment (PPE) will be worn on all Forest Service flights with the exception of commercial carriers operating under Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 121, such as Alaska Airlines, Delta Airlines, and so forth:

1. An inflatable flotation device contained in a high visibility, non-flammable (Nomex) survival vest, with a survival kit attached.
2. Substantial footgear for all airplane flights. Substantial footgear is defined as a rugged outdoor shoe, for example: hiking shoes, work boots, rubber boots, and so

forth. Examples of unacceptable footwear are tennis shoes, street shoes, dress shoes, moccasins, and loafers. All flights to non-fire field operations require boots with adequate protective ankle support and skid resistant soles, or rubber boots.

3. In addition the following equipment will be worn on all helicopter flights:

- a. Aviation protective helmet approved for use in rotorcraft by the manufacturer with a fastened chinstrap.
- b. Leather or Nomex gloves.
- c. NOMEX (or equivalent) hi-visibility orange, long-sleeved flight suit or nomex fire shirt and pants. Undergarments should be natural fibers, or NOMEX material. Synthetic materials should not be worn.

4. Personal Flotation devices (PFD's) and survival kits require periodic maintenance to ensure serviceability. The following maintenance and inspection procedures shall be followed.

- a. As a minimum, each life vest shall be inspected by the Unit Aviation Officer, or a designee for wear, tear, abrasion, and general condition prior to the field season (May 15). Regional Office, Aviation Management will conduct the tests and inspections for the Regional Office.
- b. Annually, each life vest will be inflated. The vests must remain inflated for a minimum of 12 hours without requiring additional inflation.
- c. Those PFD's which pass the required inspection shall be appropriately marked with the test date and initials of the person conducting the test or a record kept of the last inspection.
- d. All survival kits shall be inspected prior to the field season (May 15) for expiration dates on shelf-life, limited items. Those items with expiration dates due before the next inspection shall be discarded and replaced with serviceable items.

6.0 Aviation Training

6.1 Aviation Training for All Flight Activities and Positions

Aviation training is essential to aircraft pilots (both contract and employee), aviation users, supervisors, and managers to ensure that they are knowledgeable of the inherent hazards of aviation operations. The Forest Service Aviation Training Program is a “fire” and “non-fire” system. The [National Wildland Coordinating Group PMS 310-1](#) and [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide](#) directs the fire qualifications ([FSH 5109.17](#)), while the [Interagency Aviation Training Guide](#) regulates the “non-fire” qualifications. Personnel serving in NWCG positions need only meet the qualification and currency requirements required in [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide / PMS 310-1](#) or other interagency guidance as appropriate (Smokejumper Spotter, [Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide \(IASG\)](#), etc.).

The objectives of selection, recruitment, development and training are to improve safety, quality and efficiency by placing employees in jobs to which they are suited and qualified. Although this concept is obvious, it is fundamental at all levels within an agency and worthy of emphasis. The appropriate experience and training requirements for safety-related posts much be defined, monitored and recorded.

Regional Supplement

Alaska Unit aviation officers, helicopter managers, and dispatchers are required to complete weather training on weather system characteristics, peculiar to Alaska presented by the National Weather Service, on a four year reoccurring basis. It is up to the discretion of the individual forests to decide which training is most appropriate.

New employees shall be given training in the use of aircraft prior to flight and every year thereafter. All employee aviation training, initial and recurrent, must be provided and documented at the Forest they are attached to. The subjects that must be covered during their training are:

1. Aviation Safety
2. Aviation Policy
3. Accidents and Incidents
4. Surviving an accident
5. Flight Operations
6. Hazardous Materials

Forest Supplement

None

6.2 Responsibility

The Washington Office, Branch Chief, Aviation Safety Management Systems is responsible for national oversight of the aviation safety education program and aviation accident prevention efforts ([FSM 5720.45](#)).

It is management's responsibility to provide training and career development opportunities to personnel under its control, to expand, improve, correct deficiencies, or meet job performance requirements.

It is every employee's responsibility to take advantage of aviation training opportunities and to notify their supervisor of any aviation training they believe they require for accomplishing their jobs safely and efficiently.

Regional Supplement

UAOs are encouraged to complete and submit periodic IAT needs surveys when made available. The Unit Aviation Officer or each District/Forest Training Officer will:

- Ensure local units have the necessary current training materials to meet the unit training.
- Monitor when employees are due for any required/refresher training and workshops for maintaining position currency. Ensure employees complete all required IAT training to maintain position currency as outlined in the IAT Guide.
- Ensures that NWCG aviation courses and IAT training is presented by qualified IAT or NWCG instructors.

Forest Supplement:

The UAO and the Okanogan-Wenatchee Training Officer/Assistant Training Officer will assess and identify employee training needs. The training officers are responsible for coordinating with local and geographic area training centers to nominate employees for needed training. The DAO, UAO and AUAO are responsible for monitoring when employees are due for any required/refresher training or workshops to maintain position currency.

6.3 Instructor Standards

Aviation trainers provide specialized training in many aviation job skills, e.g., helitack, aerial attack, SEAT management, air tanker base management, aerial ignition, rappel, and helicopter management. The Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) guide identifies position training requirements for non-fire aviation functions. Specialized training courses can be accessed on the IAT website at: <http://iat.nifc.gov/online.asp>.

Personnel serving in NWCG instructor positions need to meet the qualification and currency requirements in [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide](#) and the [PMS 901-1 Field Manager's Course Guide](#).

Regional Supplement

Personnel serving in IAT Instructor positions will meet qualification and currency requirements in the [Interagency Aviation Training Guide](#).

Forest Supplement

None

6.4 Records Management

All employee training records shall meet the requirements stated in the [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide](#) for all NWCG qualifications. All training records for non-fire qualifications (IAT) shall either reside with the Training Officer or the Forest Aviation Officer.

Each operating unit needs to develop and implement plans for the identification of initial and recurrent aviation training needs specific to its missions.

Areas of aviation training are:

- Orientation and basic aviation safety for all users
- Flight Manager Training
- Dispatching and flight-following procedures
- Management of aviation operations and equipment
- Planning, risk assessment and execution of projects using aviation resources
- Proficiency and special mission training for pilots
- Technical training on aviation equipment and aircraft maintenance
- Advanced safety management systems (SMS) and quality assurance for aviation professionals and specialists

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement:

All training records for non-fire qualifications (IAT) on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF shall reside with the Forest Training Officer.

6.5 Tuition and Travel

Forest Service management is dedicated to conducting or providing for professional and technical training of employee or contract personnel at all levels of the organization that use and/or influence the use of aviation resources. Supervisors are to provide adequate levels of funding for the tuition and travel to attend training that will maintain aviation personnel currency and advance their skills.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement:

Each district/program on the Okanogan-Wenatchee is allotted funding for tuition and travel to attend training that will maintain aviation personnel currency and advance their skills.

6.6 Development

The Forest Service encourages development of interested personnel who desire to pursue an aviation career path. Developmental positions (e.g., Regional Aviation Management Specialists) and all positions that have aviation operations responsibility are encouraged to attend [Aviation Safety Management Systems](#)-related training.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

6.7 IAT/NWCG Crosswalk

NWCG/Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide	IAT Resource Qualifications
HECM	Aircrew Member
ACDP	Aircraft Dispatcher
AOBD, ASGS, ATGS	Aviation Manager
AOBD, ASGS, ATGS, HLCO	Fixed-Wing Flight Manager –Special Use
HMGB	Helicopter Manager-Resource
AOBD, ASGS, HEB1/2	Project Aviation Manager
AOBD	Supervisor

The positions listed in the NWCG / [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide](#) Qualifications column will crosswalk into the non-fire IAT Resource Qualifications.

If individuals do not meet the NWCG / [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide](#) Qualifications (above), they shall follow the training requirements found in the IAT Guide in order to conduct/oversee non-fire resource aviation operations.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

6.8 Aviation Contracting Officer Representative (COR) Requirements

Aviation COR's must meet initial training and maintenance requirements as stipulated in Agency Acquisition Regulations (AGAR).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

6.9 Crew Resource Management (CRM) Training

Refer to the [National Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1](#), and [Forest Service Fire & Aviation Qualification Guide \(FSFAQG\)](#) in order to determine which aircrew positions require N9059-Crew Resource Management 7 Skills training.

7.0 Airspace Coordination

7.1 Interagency Airspace Coordination

Interagency airspace coordination is accomplished through the Interagency Airspace Steering Committee (IASC) chartered under the National Interagency Aviation Council (NIAC). Guidance and education is provided through the [Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

7.2 Fire Traffic Area (FTA)

The FTA provides a standardized initial attack sequence structure to enhance air traffic separation over wildfire or all-hazard incidents. The structure emphasizes established communications, clearances and compliances. The FTA process will be used by all tactical aircraft. The local dispatch center will be the initial point of contact for aviation resources approaching and departing the FTA when no aerial supervision is in place. If aerial supervision is not on scene, the first responding aircraft must establish / control the FTA until aerial supervision arrives, as specified in the Interagency [Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide \(IASG\)](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

7.3 Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR)

In order to enhance safety during an incident, the FAA may be requested to issue a TFR that closes the airspace to non-participating aircraft (with some exceptions). While there are currently nine different types of TFR's, the most commonly issued TFR for wildfire is [14 CFR 91.137 \(a\) 2](#) which is explicit as to what operations are prohibited, restricted, or allowed. Aviation Managers requesting a TFR should be familiar with the ordering procedures, coordination protocol and exceptions that are outlined in [Chapter 6](#) of the [Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide](#).

Regional Supplement

All requests and resource orders for TFRs in the Pacific Northwest are placed with, and processed by, the Northwest Coordination Center. Dispatch Centers and ordering personnel (Incident Commanders, Air Attack Group Supervisors, Air Operations Branch Directors, etc.) are tasked with using discretion and sound judgment when making

decisions about when to initiate, modify, or release TFRs. When activity reaches certain trigger points (such as six TFRs within the Region, a large international military exercise in place, or a request by Area Command/MAC group for support.), NWCC will order an airspace coordinator (THSP) to assist the coordination center staff. Timely and clear communications across agency lines and with the FAA and military is one of the key requirements for successful airspace coordination. Airspace Coordinators (THSP) may also be ordered to support Area Commands or local Unit Aviation Managers to provide support during complex aviation operations. In addition, Airspace Coordinators may be ordered to provide coordination during International Military exercises such as McChord Rodeo or the Oregon Air National Guard's Sentry Eagle.

Forest Supplement:

Notify the UAO whenever a TFR has been requested. TFR consideration and coordination in Special Use Airspace (MTR, MOA), in or near congested areas and adjacent neighbor boundaries are critical to safe flight. Active TFR information will be included in the daily de-confliction information provided by CWICC.

7.4 Aircraft Transponder Code (Firefighting)

The FAA has provided the 1255 Transponder code as the national designation for firefighting aircraft. It is not agency specific. The code should be utilized by aircraft responding to and operating over fire incidents supporting suppression operations (unless otherwise directed by Air Traffic Control (ATC). It is not to be used for repositioning or during cross-country flights.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

7.5 Airspace Boundary Plan

When resources are dispatched by more than one unit to an incident that shares a common boundary, care should be taken to ensure safe separation and communication of responding aircraft. Boundary Plans should be prepared that focus on a 10 NM wide "neutral airspace" corridor for mutual or exchanged initial attack area's or zones.

Forest Supplement:

The Okanogan County area is of special concern as CWICC is responsible for the dispatch of BLM and OWF protected lands in that area, while NEWICC is responsible for the dispatch of WA DNR and USFW protected lands. Notification between dispatch centers will occur prior to the use of aerial resources within Okanogan County. It is imperative that

airspace de-confliction occur in a timely manner to reduce the risk associated with shared airspace.

Aviators, when responding to an incident within a Boundary Corridor or Zone, when no other aircraft are known to be present will conduct the following:

1. Will attempt to establish contact on the assigned frequency. If unsuccessful, Guard frequency 168.625 will be used as a call in the blind.
2. Perform a high-level recon prior to low-level.
3. Practice "See and Avoid".

See the Aviation Boundary Operations Checklist found in the Airspace Boundary Management Plan <http://airspacecoordination.org/coord/rangemeetings/nwbdy.pdf>

7.5.1 International Airspace Boundary – Mexico

Aircraft entering Mexican airspace must follow established protocols and communicate mission details to the appropriate Interagency Dispatch Center. Aircraft must not enter Mexican airspace without consent from the coordinating authorities and concurrence from the identified aerial supervision. Permission must be received from National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR) prior to entering Mexican airspace.

7.5.2 International Airspace Boundary – Canada

Aviation operations across the U.S.A./Canada border must be conducted in accordance with The Canada/United States Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement (NMG chapter 40) or the normal US Customs and Border Protection procedures. Flights must follow protocol established by the respective coordinating authorities and involve the appropriate Dispatch Center. Such flights usually require prior notification, special tracking procedures and an understanding of the mutually agreed upon operating parameters.

Regional Supplement

There is additional information about Airspace Boundary Plans in the [Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide](#).

There is a formal written agreement in place for aerial fire protection along the Northwest border between BLM, USFS, NPS, and the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Forests and Range. This agreement allows for the exchange of aerial fire resources for cooperative pre-suppression and wildfire protection along the US-Canadian border and includes provisions for resource ordering, cost sharing and reimbursement, and other operational and administrative concerns. The agreement is reviewed and discussed annually and is renewed with new signatures every five years. A companion standard operating procedures document for IMTs has been developed by the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and is utilized by the federal and state partner agencies (including BLM) in the Northwest Border Arrangement described above. The SOP effectively implements the formal agreement through established checklists, forms, and specific operational procedures.

All aircraft operations along border patrol zones require coordination with the U.S. Border Patrol. The Dispatch Centers with foreign border zones will have an operational plan detailing the coordination measures with the U.S. Border Patrol Air Marine Operations Center (AMOC). All pilots and aircrews will be briefed about border zone flight procedures.

Forest Supplement:

Information regarding aviation operations adjacent to and within 5 nautical miles of the U.S.A./Canada border will be shared with the Air Marine Operations Center (AMOC). Central Washington Interagency Communications Center (CWICC) will notify AMOC by calling 1-800-553-9072 and provide the following information:

- Purpose of flight (Wildland fire suppression, detection, project, etc.)
- Aircraft tail number
- Aircraft transponder code (1255 for fire unless the ATC has issued an emergency code for a specific mission)
- Aircraft type
- Time
- Latitude and Longitude (general location)
- Frequency utilized

Cross border operations require notification of the nearest Border Patrol Sector. The Spokane Sector Dispatch Center will be the primary contact and will provide notification to other Sectors as needed. Spokane may be contacted 24/7 at: (800) 218-9788, fax (509) 353-2750, or by email at SPW-DISPATCH@dhs.gov. A link to existing agreement can be found in chapter 10.

7.6 Airspace De-confliction

Airspace de-confliction can occur for both emergency response and non-emergency aviation activities.

De-confliction can be accomplished through the following measures:

- Pilots must obtain all information pertinent to flight before flying. This is accomplished by obtaining a briefing from the FAA through the Flight Service Stations. This is the official source of NOTAM information.
- Dispatching units may obtain scheduling information from DoD units that have Special Use Airspace or Military Training Routes and share this information as “hazards” information on the Resource Order when the aircraft is dispatched. For non-emergency flights, information may be shared through common communication protocol.
- Aviation Internet websites are prolific on the internet. When used for obtaining airspace information, the user must be aware of any disclaimers regarding the timeliness of the information posted. The FAA’s US NOTAM office provides current TFR information through DINS (DoD Internet NOTAM Service) at <https://www.notams.faa.gov>.

Regional Supplement

Individual dispatch centers have established notification procedures and working relationships with several different military entities that schedule flight activity on the Military Training Routes (MTRs) and in the Special Use Airspace. Specific guidance and best practices for deconfliction are provided in the Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide, dispatch mobilization guides, and in training courses such as D-312 Aircraft Dispatcher. Aircrews and field personnel are reminded that effective communication and teamwork enhance the ability of pilots to “see and avoid” other aircraft.

There are numerous physical obstructions such as power lines and towers, and no fewer than 27 MTRs, 23 Military Operations Areas (MOAs), 6 Restricted Areas (RAs), and one Alert Area depicted on the Seattle and Klamath Falls aeronautical sectional charts in the airspace over Washington and Oregon. Furthermore, there are military slow routes and aerial refueling routes (not depicted on an FAA sectional but may be located on an AP-1/b) and a variety of civilian flight activities that are not always depicted on charts. In addition there is a new style of airspace over extensive NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries along the coast of Washington state. Flight below 1000’ could result in a significant fine. Coordination procedures with NOAA are yet to be determined.

The State Office/Regional Office has a standardized GIS hazard map program that is made available to all dispatch centers and fire zones in the PNW, which is reviewed and updated annually. Since many flight hazards are not known, reported, or documented on hazard maps, all agency personnel who utilize aircraft to accomplish land management missions are instructed (during several IAT and NWCG aviation courses) to conduct a high level overview reconnaissance flight to visually locate hazards prior to descending to work in the low-level flight environment. Access and instructions to AP1/b and hazard information is located at www.airspacecoordination.net

All requests for Temporary Tower services are sent by individual units to the Northwest and Alaska Coordination Center via a resource order. In addition to the resource order, units will complete the Temporary Tower request form found at www.airspacecoordination.net which will be sent to the FAA by the NWCC airspace coordinator (when activated) or by the NWCC aircraft dispatcher. The FAA Western Service Area (WSA) currently has an agreement with NIFC to provide Temporary Towers. The agreement is located at www.airspacecoordination.net

Forest Supplement:

De-confliction information regarding Military Training Routes and Military Operations Areas on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest are gathered and shared daily by CWICC. Daily from April 1 through November 1, the schedulers from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station will e-mail the flight schedule for the next day’s operations. The e-mail is received by the Intelligence section of CWICC then passed to the Aircraft Desk for conversion and reviewed by an Assistant Center Manager. The MOA, MTR, Current TFR and any other

pertinent formation will be shared daily, via the “Air Info-MOA’s” group mailing list located on DNR’s Microsoft Outlook.

7.7 Airspace Conflicts

Aviation personnel have a responsibility to identify and report conflicts and incidents through the [Interagency SAFECOM \(Safety Communication\) System](#) to assist in the resolution of airspace conflicts. When a conflict or incident occurs, it may indicate a significant aviation safety hazard. Conflicts may include Near Mid Air Collisions (NMAC), TFR intrusions, and FTA communication non-compliance. Further guidance is available in [Chapter 8 of the Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide](#).

Regional Supplement

When there is a perceived airspace conflict, time is of the essence. Dispatch should report TFR intrusions immediately to the NWCC Airspace Coordinator (when mobilized) or call Seattle or Salt Lake ARTCC immediately to report the intrusion. ARTCC will then check their sectors to see if they can identify the intruder and communicate the necessity for the intruder to leave the TFR. If the intrusion involves a military aircraft, contact the Seattle or Salt Lake ARTCC immediately and request to speak to the Military Operations Specialist (MOS). Near Mid Air Collisions, TFR intrusions and FTA non-compliance should be reported to the Regional Aviation Safety Manager through the SAFECOM system.

Forest Supplement:

The Forest is aligned with National and Regional direction. Perceived conflicts and incidents will be immediately reported to CWICC. Dispatch, shall notify Seattle ARTCC upon notification of an intrusion within a TFR to try and determine positive identification of the intruding aircraft. The key is immediate telephone Notification. Notification to the UAO or Assistant UAO will be made to determine the appropriate actions to be taken. Conflicts and incidents will be reported through the Interagency SAFECOM System <https://www.safecom.gov/> or appropriate reporting system at the earliest convenience or by the end of daily operations.

7.8 Airspace Agreements – Memorandums of Understanding

When Special Use Airspace (SUA’s), Military Training Routes (MTR’s), Slow Routes (SR’s), or Aerial Refueling Routes (AR’s) are located over lands within an agency’s jurisdiction or within their area of normal flight operations (fire or non-fire), the agency should consider instituting an agreement with the appropriate DoD entity that schedules the airspace. Airspace agreements establish protocol for emergency and non-emergency contacts. They provide local level leadership a tool that defines protocols to address recurring activities, coordination of time critical responses, deconfliction and resolving issues in a timely manner. Initiation of an agreement can begin by contacting the Military Representative to the FAA located at FAA Service Centers, Air Force Representative, Navy Representative, and Department of Army Representative. A template and sample format is provided in [Chapter 12 of the Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide](#).

Regional Supplement

The BLM and USFS have MOUs and Letters of Agreement (LOA) with Whidbey Island Naval Air Stations, Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Oregon Air National Guard regarding airspace coordination and deconfliction procedures. The SAM and Assistant Director Fire, Aviation, are responsible for coordinating with the National Interagency Airspace Program Manager for periodically reviewing and updating these agreements.

Forest Supplement

None

8.0 Aviation Security

8.1 Aviation Security

The policies and procedures in this chapter when implemented are intended to make the theft of FS aircraft more difficult and time consuming and therefore reduce the threat to our facilities from criminal elements.

The FS will provide an aviation security program that will include:

- Aviation facilities and aircraft security standards
- Aviation security measures that respond to alerts of the Homeland Security National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)
- Quick response emergency procedures

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement:

Okanogan-Wenatchee Aviation Security Plans contain sensitive information and are intended to be disseminated on a need to know basis only. Plans for the Moses Lake Tanker Base, North Cascades Smokejumper Base and Wenatchee Valley Air Base/ Air Attack Base are available through the respective bases. Additional copies are available for review at CWICC.

8.2 FS Facilities Security Risk Assessments

Each Forest Service aviation facility must complete a risk assessment on a timeline based on its Facility Security Level (FSL) to determine the security standard. The FSL can be determined using the document Facility Security Level Determinations for Federal Facilities, An Interagency Security Committee Standard.

The risk assessment must include an analysis of:

- The vulnerability level of the facility, which is any weakness in the design or operation of a facility that can be exploited by an adversary.
- The probability of threat, or the likelihood of an undesirable event occurring over time.
- The severity of event consequences, which is the level, duration, and nature of the loss resulting from an undesirable event.

Reference the [FSH 5709.16 Chapter 60](#) for the FS Risk Assessment.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

8.3 FS Security Response Actions

The objective is to ensure that the FS is prepared to increase security standards at agency aviation facilities in response to an alert of the Homeland Security National Terrorism Advisory System.

It is FS policy to immediately adjust the level of aviation security any time an NTAS Alert is issued for the facility.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

8.4 General Aviation Security Awareness Programs

RESERVED

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

8.5 Aircraft Security Information (Cooperators)

The security of cooperator provided aircraft and equipment is the responsibility of the cooperator.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

8.6 TSA Commercial Airport Security

Commercial airport security requirements can be found at the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) web site.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

9.0 Aviation Facilities

9.1 General

All facilities managers are responsible for providing aviation facilities, within their respective area, that are safe, adequate, and are in compliance with applicable Forest Service regulations.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

9.2 Permanent Aviation Facilities

These facilities (helibases, retardant bases, and airport facilities) are permanent installations (owned and leased) and are used on a continuous or seasonal basis for aviation operations. These include aviation facilities on Forest Service property and facilities on non-Forest Service land where Forest Service has primary responsibility for operations, maintenance, and oversight. Facility base reviews shall be conducted in accordance with the [Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\), Appendix E](#); [Interagency Airtanker Operations Base Guide \(IATOBG\), Chapter 5 Section B](#); and [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, Chapter 18](#).

Regional Supplement

Construction and Maintenance: Facilities are constructed and maintained according to agency policy, and units are responsible for purchase/lease, construction, maintenance, and utilities related to aviation facilities.

Forest Supplement:

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest maintains several permanent or semi-permanent aviation facilities; either under agreement with private or public land owners or on Forest Service administered land. The use of civil airports located at East Wenatchee and Moses Lake are secured by lease agreements. Airport use at Yakima, Omak, Tonasket, and Chelan is through agreement with airport management. NCSB facilities are located on Forest Service administered land.

9.3 Temporary Aviation Facilities

Temporary bases are sites that are used on a temporary or intermittent basis (helispots and remote airstrips). Sites not located on Forest Service land must be pre-approved and use shall be documented in an Agreement. Each site should be cataloged as to location, description, local hazards, use procedures, agreements, and contacts. Preseason inspection and maintenance should be completed as necessary to meet agency safety requirements.

Regional Supplement

Permanent base design criteria will provide for operational safety as well as adequate work/rest environment for aircrew and personnel assigned.

Forest Supplement:

Alternate helibase facilities include the following:

- Tonasket Ranger District
 - Tonasket/Airport HB (W01)
- Methow Valley Ranger District
 - Fosters Field HB
 - Valley HB (S52)
- Chelan Ranger District
 - 25 Mile Creek HB
 - Chelan Airport (S10)
- Entiat Ranger District
 - Tyee Ranch HB
- Wenatchee River District
 - Fromm HB
 - Fish Hatchery HB
 - Lake Wenatchee State Park HB
- Cle Elum Ranger District
 - Liberty HB
- Naches Ranger District
 - Jefferson HB
 - Tieton HB

The 25 Mile Creek and Liberty helibases are located on Forest Service administered land. All others are secured by agreement or rental use agreement. Links to plans can be found in chapter 10.

9.4 Safety

Aviation facilities must comply with safety regulations outlined in Forest Service manuals, guides, handbooks, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

9.5 Agency Owned/ Operated Facilities

Refer to the [Building and Facilities Related Handbook FSH 7309.11](#) for information regarding:

- Planning
- Development
- Management
- Special-Use Facilities
- Records and Reports

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

9.6 Agency Owned/Operated Airstrips

RESERVED

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

9.7 Leasing

Leased facility needs can be met through the Acquisition Management (AQM) organization, either via lease or grants and agreements. These are more fully described on the AQM website: <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/aqm/>. Facilities can also be acquired on Government-owned land by means of land exchanges.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

9.8 Funding

RESERVED

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

9.9 Land Use Agreements

Simplified acquisition procedures should be used to acquire the use of property or facilities for emergency incidents. Emergency incident agreements do not require special leasing authority. Procurement officials with warrant authority may enter into these agreements. More detailed information is available in the [Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, Chapter 20](#).

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement:

Links to the following land use agreements can be found in chapter 10. Foster Field, Jefferson Field, Fromm Field.

9.10 Facilities Security

All sites will be provided with appropriate physical security measures commensurate with the risk of loss of operating capability, irreplaceable data, or expensive property ([FSH 7309.11, 41.2](#)).

- Equip all buildings with locks. The keys shall be managed by the facility manager or other individual designated by the line officer. Where emergency access by non-unit personnel is necessary for fire management and other common occurrences, use master locks.
- Install signs and fences and/or provide other physical deterrents to warn and retard entry to all remote sites containing vulnerable operations such as telecommunications and research projects. Consider maintainability in the design of fences in areas subject to heavy snow, ice, and wind conditions.
- Restrict entry of unauthorized personnel into operations such as flammable, chemical and pesticide storage rooms or buildings, explosive storage facilities,

computer rooms, biologically sensitive and controlled-environment areas, and others as the facility manager and policy deem necessary.

Refer to [Chapter 8](#) in the National Aviation Safety and Management Plan and [FS Manual 5709.16 Chapter 60, Aviation Security](#) for additional facilities security.

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

None

10.0 Appendix

Forest Supplement: *(Links being created)*

- Okanogan-Wenatchee NF Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist
[http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/districts/CWICC/Aviation/Final%20-%202015AviationMishapResponseOWF%20\(2\).docx](http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/districts/CWICC/Aviation/Final%20-%202015AviationMishapResponseOWF%20(2).docx)
- Wenatchee Valley Rappeller's Operating Plan
- North Cascades Smokejumpers Operations Plan
- Air Attack Operating Plan
- Moses Lake Air Tanker Base Operation Plan
- Aerial Observer Guide
- Aircraft and Aviation Facility Security Plan
- Northwest Border Arrangement for Fire Protection, Operational Guidelines
http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/districts/CWICC/Aviation/V_2_2014_Final_BRITISH%20COLUMBIA%20%20NW%20UNITED%20STATES%20WILDFIRE%20RESPONSE%20BORDER%20OPERATING%20GUIDELINE.pdf
- End Product Worksheet
- Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest Aviation Hazard Maps
 - North CWICC Ops Map
http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/districts/CWICC/Aviation/R6_Aviation_Hazards_North%20CWICC%20Ops%20Map.pdf
 - Central CWICC Ops Map
http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/districts/CWICC/Aviation/R6_Aviation_Hazards_Central%20CWICC%20Ops%20Map.pdf
 - South CWICC Ops Map
http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/districts/CWICC/Aviation/R6_Aviation_Hazards_South%20CWICC%20Ops%20Map.pdf
- Retardant avoidance maps
- PNW Interagency Aviation Orientation Guide
- Cooperator Letters
 - WA DNR Letter of Approval (fixed wing)
 - WA DNR Letter of Approval (rotor wing)

Helibase Operations Plans (we can continue to add as I update)

- 25 Mile Helibase
- Chelan Airport
- Fosters Field
- Valley Helibase (NCSB)
- Fromm Field
- Fishlake Airstrip

10.1 Sample Letter of Cooperator Approval

RESERVED

Regional Supplement



U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Land Management / Forest Service
Oregon State Office / Pacific Northwest Region
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
www.blm.gov/or / www.fs.fed.us/r6
MAR 02 2015



5100/5700 (FS) / 9400 (BLM)

Mr. Doug Grafe
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Mr. Grafe:

The Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Bureau of Land Management and AK/PNW Forest Service recognize and appreciate the benefits of a cooperative approach to managing resources and suppressing wildland fires. Cooperator aviation resources are an integral component in these efforts and a continued partnership is paramount to the success of each agency.

To help aid in this success, this letter describes the process for requesting the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Forest Service (FS) to approve cooperator aircraft and pilots for operations on Federal lands.

Requests for cooperator aircraft and pilots approvals shall be submitted in writing to Aaron Schoolcraft (aschoolcraft@fs.fed.us), AK/PNW Assistant Fire Director, Aviation. Upon receipt, requests will be reviewed and prioritized based on their operational value to local interagency needs. Once this valuation has been made, the Regional Aviation staff will coordinate and schedule any necessary inspections.

Cooperator aircraft and pilots that are not under Federal contracts, do not hold current and valid interagency data or qualification cards, and are either contracted, owned, or operated (including Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) aircraft) by the cooperator, must be inspected prior to approval.

Any cooperator aircraft and pilots working under a valid cooperator procurement document and possessing a current and valid interagency data or qualification card issued under a Federal contract may be approved upon request without further inspections.

In both cases, a Letter of Approval (LOA) must be issued prior to working on federal lands. Each LOA will include specific operational requirements when operating on federal lands.

When inspections are necessary, the DOI and FS will apply the *2010 National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Cooperators Aviation Standards for Interagency Fire (NASF Co-op Standards)*. Any requirement to apply more stringent inspection standards (e.g., Interagency Fire Helicopter Standards) shall be clearly identified in each request.

To allow the Regional Aviation staff adequate opportunity to incorporate these inspections into their regular workload, requests for inspections should be submitted to the AK/PNW Assistant Fire Director, Aviation, by May 1, 2015. When directed, agency inspectors will make every effort to schedule and complete inspections in a timely and efficient manner. Inspectors will endeavor to complete inspections within 30 days of request.

To help establish the scope and scale of the workload, requests for aircraft and pilots needing inspection shall include the following:

- Registration number and owner/vendor/operator of each aircraft requiring inspection
- List of pilots by name to be evaluated
- Point of contact for each aircraft owner/vendor
- Date by which the aircraft approval is needed
- Inspection standards to be applied if more stringent than the NASF Co-op Standards
- List of any known deficiencies which would preclude the aircraft or personnel from meeting the NASF Co-op Standards.
- For contracted aircraft, a copy of the cooperator procurement agreement under which the aircraft will operate

Although Inspectors will make every effort to inspect cooperator’s aircraft and evaluate pilots at the vendor’s base of operation, this may not always be practical or efficient based on schedule and workload. In these cases, cooperators and vendors should be prepared to move or re-locate the aircraft to an alternate location identified by the inspectors.

Once necessary inspections and evaluations are complete, the Assistant Fire Director, Aviation, shall review the inspection results to ensure necessary standards are met, and then facilitate the issuance of a joint DOI and FS LOA.

Thank you for your support. Please direct any questions you may have to Aaron Schoolcraft, AK/PNW Assistant Fire Director, Aviation, at 503-808-2359.

Sincerely,



DAVID SUMMER
Director
AK/PNW Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management



JEFFREY FEDRIZZI
OR/WA BLM State FMO
Fire and Aviation Management

3

cc:

John Kaikkonen
Washington State Department of Resources
1111 Washington Street NE
Olympia, WA 98504-7037

Bob Hedrick
Washington State Department of Resources
1111 Washington Street NE
Olympia, WA 98504-7037

Neal Laugle
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

FAM (Kurt Kleiner, Bobbie Scopa, Dennis Fiore, Jim Reed, Kim Reed, David Glose, Mary Verry)

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

10.2 Cooperator Approval Guide

Regional Supplement

None.

Forest Supplement

Placeholder.

RESERVED

10.3 Authorization for Law Enforcement and Investigations Employees to Fly on Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Aircraft



Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 5300/5700

Date: May 20, 2013

Route To:

Subject: Authorization for Law Enforcement and Investigations Employees to Fly on Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Aircraft

To: Director, Law Enforcement and Investigations

This letter will permit Forest Service (FS) Law Enforcement & Investigations (LEI) employees on official duty to fly aboard Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) owned and operated aircraft while performing joint law enforcement operations and coordinating missions with the respective agencies.

Agreements with DOJ and DHS regarding joint law enforcement aviation operations should be used to provide overall operational requirements and procedures for all agencies.

This letter specific to DOJ and DHS owned and operated aircraft used by FS LEI employees on official duty will meet the intent of FS Manual (FSM) 5704.9 which requires that all FS employees "shall fly only in approved government (refer to Government Aircraft definition in FSM 5705) aircraft flown by an approved pilot(s)."

The FS law enforcement program has unique mission requirements and a need for close interagency coordination and cooperation with the DOJ and DHS.

Field-level LEI employees are required to notify the Regional Special Agent-in-Charge and Washington Office employees the Director of LEI, when using this approval.

The Director of LEI is responsible for ensuring overall employee safety under this exemption.

This letter rescinds the Flight Authorization on Department of Homeland Security Aircraft letter dated May 20, 2008.

/s/ James E. Hubbard

JAMES E. HUBBARD
Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

cc: Robert A Baird, Dan Olsen, Ron Hanks, John A Nelson, Thomas A Cook, Tom Harbour, Ezequiel N Parrilla, Caleb A Berry



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10.4 Project Proposal Template

Note: The template begins on the following page.



**USDA Forest Service
Fire & Aviation Management
Aviation Division**

**PROJECT or PROGRAM or ISSUE
PROPOSAL NAME**



Forest Service

Month 20XX

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- 1. General Process Information.....
- 2. Introduction
- 2.1 Problem Statement.....
- 2.2 Background
- 2.3 Challenges
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- 3. Proposed Method.....
- 3.1 Requirements
- 3.2 Technology
- 3.3 Implementation Method
- 3.4 Risk and Quality Assurance.....
- 4. Expected Project Results
- 4.1 Performance Measures
- 5. Action Plan and Timeline

1.0 General Process Information

This Project, Program, Issue Proposal Template (PPT) is included in the National Aviation Safety and Management Plan (NASMP).

Utilize the PPT when proposing the following:

- New equipment, e.g., aircraft, parachute, etc.
- New contractor contract change, e.g., VLAT, LFS Helicopter, etc.
- New agreement or MOUs.
- New process or changed process, e.g., rappel standardization, RADS, etc.
- Deviation from standards, e.g., LEI exemption, etc.
- New or changed policy, e.g., doctrinal policy changes, 100 hr, turbine single engine, etc.
- New or changed procedure, e.g., rappel procedures.
- New program, e.g., UAS, etc.

Questions regarding the PPT and development of a proposal should be directed to the Branch Chief, Aviation Business Operations, 202-205-0974.

Completed PPTs will be forwarded to the Branch Chief, Aviation Business Operations by email. Call the number above to get a current email address.

The project, program, issue proposal process will follow steps outlined in Section 3.3 of the NASMP.

2.0 Introduction

Summarize briefly the problem/issue, project objective(s), and expected benefit(s) and cost of the proposal. Is the problem/issue an entire system or a sub-system element?¹

2.1 Problem Statement

Describe the problem/issue in terms of system or sub-system.

What does the problem/issue affect (who and/or what)? What are the impacts (safety, cost, risk, lack of standardization, etc.) of the problem/issue?

¹ A system is an integrated set of integral elements that are combined in an operational or program to accomplish a defined objective. These elements include personnel, aircraft, facilities, technology, facilities, human factors, operations, procedures, equipment, services, and other components. Sub-systems are integral to the operation and function of the system. E.g. performance, capability and specialized equipment for the mission would be sub-systems of an aircraft system.

2.2 Background

Describe the background information about the project. Provide only factual information, observations or opinions should be noted as such.

2.3 Challenges

Describe the known challenges of the existing system or sub-system to be addressed by the project.

2.4 Objective(s)

Identify specific and measurable objectives of what the project is anticipated to achieve. Identify any anticipated changes in the system or sub-system.

2.5 Deliverables

Identify the tangible and verifiable product or service that meets the objectives stated above.

3.0 Proposed Method

Describe and define the technical and/or non-technical aspects of the proposal. This section should include a description of the methodology to be used to complete the project, a specific plan for gathering requirements, design requirements, information technology requirements best practices for implementation, and quality assurance.

3.1 Requirements

Describe the requirements for the proposal. Requirements are quantifiable functional and technical needs of the proposal. Include diagrams or charts to visually display the information if applicable.

3.2 Technology

Describe any technology required to implement the project. Describe hardware, software, or network components as relevant and as understood at this time. Include diagrams or charts to visually display the proposed system components and the relationships between them.

3.3 Implementation Method

Describe your methodology for implementation, including best practices.

3.4 Risk and Quality Assurance

Describe the potential risks (financial, business, cultural, operational, safety, etc.) related the project.

Describe the examples of quality assurance that would be used to mitigate risks.

4.0 Expected Project Results

Using the objectives and deliverables listed in section 1 describe the technical, operational, cultural and behavior changes the project would implement.

4.1 Performance Measures

Complete the Performance Measure table below based on the objectives of the project. Describe an assessment plan to monitor Performance Goals over time.

Metric #	Year Initiated	Performance Baseline	Performance Goal	Actual Result
1	2014	The status quo needs 345 hours consuming 207 thousand gallons to fly 100,000 miles	Fuel use for the same distance is reduced by 10 percent	Do not complete

5.0 Action Plan and Timeline

Develop a draft action plan for the project.

Action Steps What will be done?	Responsibilities Who is the lead?	Deadline By when? (mm/dd/yy)	Resources Resources available? Resources needed (financial, human, political & other)?	Potential barriers Individuals or organizations? Mitigation?	Communications Plan Who is involved? What methods? How often?

11.0 Appendix, Regional Supplement

11.1 NWCG Charter Letter



Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group

Committee Authorization and Charter

Authorization:

PNWCG is established pursuant to the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. PNWCG is chartered by their respective agency executives and provides the following charter and designates the new liaisons and a modified committee structure.

Mission Statement:

The Committees are established to further interagency coordination of wildland fire and fuels management for local, tribal, state and federal agencies to enhance firefighter safety and protect life, property, and natural resources:

- Provide a coordinated and effective interagency approach to fire management activities in the Pacific Northwest.
- Serve as an interagency venue for exchanging ideas and providing feedback to PNWCG.
- Develop, communicate and monitor interagency standards and best practices in alignment with the PNWCG mission;
- Provide coordination and support for implementation of the National Fire Plan (State and Regional coordination) and the Cohesive Strategy.

Objectives:

1. Emphasize mission over agency.
2. Act in the interests of all agencies to foster full partnership, trust, and mutual assistance among the wildland fire protection entities.
3. Committees will be self-directed:
 - a. identify and develop interagency issues requiring resolution;
 - b. establish priorities and develop an annual program of work;
 - c. coordinate with other PNWCG committees as necessary;
 - d. provide regular updates to PNWCG.
4. Coordinate and maintain communication with PNWCG Liaisons:
 - a. Provide input and feedback to PNWCG decision-making;
 - b. Collaboratively staff interagency issues to determine appropriate actions;
 - c. Actively partner in assembling and assigning task forces to accomplish PNWCG taskings.

Organization:

Committees are organized within specific PNWCG Functional Areas. Each Functional Area is assigned at least one PNWCG member as a Liaison. The Liaison acts as a communication link to PNWCG, provides guidance and ensures PNWCG intent is being met, and assists the Committees in the performance of their mission. The role and responsibility of a PNWCG Liaison can be referenced in the PNWCG Charter and Working Guidelines. The table below depicts the PNWCG Functional Areas and the Liaisons and Committees assigned to each:

Functional Area	Liaisons	Committees
Aviation	BLM, Jeff Fedrizzi	Aviation
Incident Business	NPS, Christie Neill	Incident Business
Integrated Resources	TBD	Fuels, GIS, CPI
Operations	BLM/FS Bobbie Scopa, DOI Brian Gales	Operations, Training, NW Center Managers
Safety	OFS, Mark Havener	Safety and Health
NW Geoboard	WA DNR, Albert Kassel, FS David Summer	Incident Commanders

Each Committee will select a Chair and Vice-Chair from the membership. It is recommended a member should be on the Committee for at least a year before being considered for the Chair/Vice-Chair position. Tenure for Chair/Vice-Chair service will be set by the Committee membership in coordination with the Functional Area Liaison. Successional management should be emphasized to ensure program continuity and transitioning knowledge as Chairs/Vice-Chairs rotate. Terms of service for Committee Chairs should begin at or by February 1, annually. The exception to the above is the Chair for Incident Business will be the FS/BLM Incident Business Specialist.

The Committee Chair is responsible for calling meetings, setting agendas, and coordinating with the Functional Area Liaison(s). The Chair assures that necessary reporting and tasking are submitted and meeting agenda/notes are prepared for each meeting and posted on the Committee Web Page. The Vice-Chair assumes the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

Membership:

Representation may be comprised of subject-matter experts representing PNWCG member Agencies. Additional or associate members may be added as appropriate.

To ensure active participation and to manage scheduling and work priorities, an agency may appoint a member of another agency as a proxy. If an agency member decides to permanently appoint a proxy in order to serve a higher agency interest on another Committee, the proxy and a specific agency point-of-contact will be designated in a letter to the Committee Chair and attached as an appendix to the Committee governing documents.

Member accountability for all actions contributes to excellence. Members shall insure that Committee decisions and actions respect and enfranchise agency interests; they are expected to inform their appropriate agency contacts or representatives of Committee activities and developments.

Responsibilities:

Governance—Committees will document internal processes and protocols specific to their subject-matter area within a Committee Statement of Intent. This will include membership interactions, meeting schedules and

formal interaction with other Functional Area Committees and their PNWCG Liaison. This document is internal to the Committee and does not require PNWCG approval.

Committee submits issue papers with proposed recommendations thru their PNWCG Liaison for PNWCG consideration and approval.

Reporting—PNWCG meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Committee Chairs may provide monthly updates as appropriate either in person or through their PNWCG Liaison(s). Annual accomplishments and issues for PNWCG will be prepared for the February PNWCG Committee Workshop.

Approval:

This Charter is effective as of the date of approval by the Chair of PNWCG and remains in effect until rescinded.

/s/ Nancy Hirsch
PNWCG Chair

11.2 AIS Management in PNW Fire Operations

USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region Fire Guidance

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT IN FIRE OPERATIONS
PACIFIC NW REGION OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

The threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS) has increased the need for Regional Fire operational guidelines for safeguards against the spread of AIS. These guidelines should be implemented during the transport of water and equipment because AIS pose a risk to Forest aquatic and riparian habitat, water recreation, the operation of utilities, agricultural irrigation, local and national economies, and firefighting equipment. Some invasive plants and animals can clog valves, pumps, and screens if equipment is not completely drained and cleaned.

PREVENTION

- The current distribution of AIS in the Region has been mapped. This map can be used as a general indicator of where invasive species have been documented. These are areas where extreme care in the use of water should occur and no water should be transferred between watersheds or to disconnected waters within an infected watershed. A GIS file is available for download at:
ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/PACIFIC_NW/ISORO/Invasive_Species/
- Please note that you can never be certain that invasives are NOT present within a watershed, but this map will inform you where they ARE present. Precautions should be taken near any water source to avoid the spread of invasives.
- The sharing of firefighting equipment between incidents provides pathways for invasion. Firefighting equipment can be highly mobile during a fire season, often being re-assigned from incident to incident, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of miles apart. The well established interagency coordination of firefighting on federal, tribal, and state lands provides a highly efficient and effective means of moving equipment and personnel where needed. Equipment arriving to a fire shall be inspected.
 - Water handling equipment will arrive dry, so it can be inspected.
 - If equipment arrives full, then it must be verified that the source of the water was a municipal water supply. If this cannot be verified, the water should be discarded away from natural water sources and replaced from a suitable water source.
 - Check that no mud, aquatic vegetation, or aquatic animals are attached to or within equipment.
- During operations and transport, avoid contacting mud and aquatic plants.
- Avoid transferring water between drainages or between unconnected waters within the same drainage. Avoid dumping water directly from one stream or lake into another.
- Avoid sucking organic and bottom material into water intakes when drafting from streams or ponds. Use screens.
- Avoid obtaining water from multiple sources during a single operational period unless drafting/dipping equipment is sanitized between sources.
- If contamination of gear with raw water or mud/plants is unavoidable, see ‘Sanitizing’ below.
- Water storage tanks are required to be dry upon entry into the Region.

USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region Fire Guidance

OUTREACH

- A short (10 minutes or less) outreach slideshow was prepared by the Regional Office and distributed to the field to be incorporated into regular spring/early summer firefighter training sessions.
- The intent of the slideshow is to inform firefighters of the threat, ensure their familiarity with the direction, and develop support from the ground up.
- The slideshow can be presented by Forest or District level Fisheries Biologists and/or Invasive Species Specialists.

SANITIZING

- The Forest Service is currently working with EPA and state ecology departments to include fire equipment cleaning as a use on national labels for specific cleaning chemicals. A risk assessment is ongoing. In the meantime, sanitizing fire equipment will be with the use of clean water and, where applicable, drying. Power washing with hot water is preferable for cleaning, when it is available.
- Procedures for external surfaces of all equipment that comes in contact with natural water sources include:
 - Any equipment that comes into contact with raw water should be cleaned and preferably sanitized.
 - Cleaning equipment will be necessary before use if it is unknown if the equipment has been cleaned previous to entering the project area.
 - Establish sanitation areas where there is no potential for runoff into waterways, storm drains, or sensitive habitats.
 - Thorough drying is an easy and effective sanitizing method, but required drying times vary considerably with the invasive species involved and may not be practical for a quick turnaround. Drying may be possible, however, after the fire incident.
 - Remove all visible plant parts and mud from external surfaces of gear and equipment. Power-wash all accessible surfaces with clean water (ideally, hot water $\geq 140^{\circ}\text{F}$). Power washing will reduce the likelihood any target AIS are present.
- Internal tanks of water tenders, engines, and other equipment:
 - Drain in locations away from natural water sources
 - Rinse with clean water
 - Let dry if possible.
- These directions will be reviewed and edited annually. If you have suggestions to improve them, please notify your fisheries or fire contact.

CONTACTS

- James Capurso, Regional Fisheries Biologist 503-808-2847
- Dale Guenther, Regional Fire Information Specialist 503-808-2188

11.3 2014 LEI Short-Haul Authorization Letter



Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 5300/5700

Date: July 1, 2014

Route To:

Subject: Expansion of LEI National Short-Haul Program to Region 4 and Region 6

To: Regional Aviation Officers, Regional Aviation Safety Managers, National Rappel Specialist, National Fire Directors

The expansion of Law Enforcement & Investigations (LEI) Short-haul program to Region 4 and Region 6 LEI is approved conditional on the meeting the requirements listed below.

Region 4 and Region 6 (R4, R6), LEI, requested through the Director of LEI for approval to participate in the LEI National Short-Haul Program, per approved amendment, *1.7 Implementation of Short-Haul*, from the LEI National Short-Haul Guide (LEI/NSHG) in April 2012.

Region 4 and Region 6 wrote to the Forest Service (FS) Director of Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) supporting LEI Short-haul operations in their respective Regions.

The respective Special Agents in Charge of R4 and R6 have met the initial requirements for training, and are requesting to participate under LEI/NSHG amendment 1.7(a); in an existing and recognized "Cooperators LEI Short-Haul Program."

The LEI National Short-Haul Committee supports the participation for R4 and R6 LEI in the LEI National Short-Haul Program, operating under the cooperation of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Short-Haul program.

The identified cooperator program R4 and R6 are requesting to participate is with the WSP. Washington State Patrol, Cannabis Eradication Response Team, Drug Enforcement Administration (WSP-CERT/DEA) program is a recognized law enforcement short-haul cooperator by the LEI National Short-Haul Committee.

Expansion of the LEI National Short-Haul Program to R4 and R6 shall meet the following requirements:

1. All identified trainee and qualified short-haul Law Enforcement Officers and Special Agents in R4 and R6 shall adhere to the training requirements outlined in the Forest Service Manual 5700, Forest Service Handbook 5709.16 and the LEI NSHG.
2. All short-haul Officers and Agents shall complete and maintain the required Interagency Aviation Training (A-100 Basic Aviation Safety Course, A-110 and A-219) prior to attending short-haul training conducted by WSP-CERT, DOJ-CAMP, or Forest Service LEI Short-haul.
3. R4 and R6 LEI management will maintain all required (by the LEI NSHG) aviation training records for its participating Officers and Agents, with oversight from the National Short-Haul Committee (NSHC).
4. R4 and R6 will also collect and maintain all required statistical records of all short-haul operations that they participate in. These records will be provided to the NSHC Short-Haul



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Regional Aviation Officers, Regional Aviation Safety Managers, National Rappel Specialist, National Fire Directors

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Administrator (Don Hoang – R5) for inclusion to the required annual LEI Aviation Summary Report to the Washington Office Aviation Staff.

5. During the initial year (2014) a minimum of one operational quality assurance (QA) reviews shall be conducted.
 - a. Each Region shall coordinate with NSHC Short-haul Administrator and Washington Office Branch Chief Aviation Operations to staff the QA reviews along with respective regional LEI and aviation staff.
 - b. The operational QA review will ensure R4 and R6 short-haul operations are consistent with FS aviation policy and the requirements and procedures in the LEI National Short-Haul Guide.
 - c. Written reports following each QA review will be sent to the NSHC Short-haul Administrator and Washington Office Branch Chief, Aviation Operations.
6. In subsequent years at least one operational QA review shall be conducted and documented per 5.c. above.
7. It is recommended that the R4 and R6 ASAC and other key LEI and aviation personnel attend the 40-Hour DOJ Camp Aviation Management and Operations (CAMO) Training course to further develop their Regions short-haul experience, knowledge, and training.
8. Aircraft and Pilots will be approved for LEI short-haul operations through inspection/evaluation (“carding”) when on an exclusive use contract. Cooperator aircraft may be approved by the Regional Aviation Officer through a cooperator letter of approval.

/s/ T.C. Harbour
TOM HARBOUR
Director, Fire and Aviation Management

Enclosure

cc: Arthur W Hinaman, Paul Linse, Ezequiel N Parrilla, Ron Hanks, John A Nelson, Thomas A Ricks, Brent W Campbell, Vince Welbaum, Don Hoang, David A Glose, Margaret M Doherty, Sandra T LaFarr, Kristine Damsgaard, Mitchell Mignano, Jeff M Power, Philip C Ketel, Aaron L Schoolcraft, Robert R Madill, Gary D Boyd, John K Hamilton, Jami Anzalone, Yolanda R Saldana, Gary L Sterling, James D Truitt, George N Hough