

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

BETWEEN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Region 4

AND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
Southern Region 8

FOR

Flight use of the FWS AS 350 B2 helicopter

**December
2015**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this operating plan is to outline procedures between the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, herein referred to as "FWS", and the United States Department of the Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Region 8 herein referred to as "FS" in regards to the Region 4 AS 350 B2 helicopter and use of FS hangar space when available.

AGREEMENTS

A Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement exist between the United States Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service. The agreement number for the FWS is #40181DK006 and the agreement number for the FS is #13-IA-11083150-013.

STATEMENT OF WORK

The FWS shall:

- Provide access to the Service owned AS 350 B2 helicopter to the FS under the following terms:
 - The Forest Service will be charged a wet rate of \$1,275 per flight hour with no daily availability. This FY16 cost includes services of a chase mechanic if needed.
 - The Forest Service will pay all expenses associated with contracted pilots, including the applicable hourly pilot rate (4-hour minimum per day) and all travel expenses.
 - The FWS shall provide a qualified helicopter manager (HEMG) who provides the FS with total cost and completes the OAS 23, daily.
- If determined needed and available, the FWS will provide a fuel truck with driver.

The FS shall:

- Provide a helicopter management crew during the FS operational period.
- The FS will maintain operational control while on FS missions and will follow both FS and FWS regulations and policies.
- Provide secure location to store the helicopter when overnighed on FS missions.
- The FS hangars at the Florida Interagency Coordination Center and the Regional Aviation Office in Lawrenceville, GA may be utilized to temporally store the FWS aircraft during periods of inclement weather, free of charge. Unforeseen airport cost such as ramp fees etc. may be charged to the FS.
- The FS shall receive daily cost estimates from the FWS and submit costs on FMS Form 7600A and 7600B to the FS Regional Grants and Agreement Specialist through the Regional Incident Business Management Advisor .

Procedures for ordering the FWS helicopter:

Orders will be placed through the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) or the Florida Interagency Coordination Center to the FWS Regional Helicopter Coordinator (RHC) or onsite FWS Helicopter Manager (HM). For ordering procedures see “Southern Area Aircraft Ordering” page 50-69 in Chapter 50 of the Southern Area Mobilization Guide. The FWS RHC and HM will prioritize the missions of the FWS helicopter. The ordering unit is responsible for any mission specific equipment. The fuel trailer may be ordered through the FWS RHC or designated HM.

FY16 Cost	
AS 350 B2	\$1,275/hr with no daily availability charge
Contracted Pilots	Daily minimum charge is 4 hours (\$580); hours 5-9 \$145/hr; hours 9-14 \$85/hr
Contracted Pilots TRVL	Prorated airfare, MI&E, lodging, rental car
FWS HEMG	Overtime and travel expenses, base salary may be charged if negotiated prior to aircraft order being placed.
FWS Fuel Truck	No cost
FWS Fuel Truck Driver	Overtime and travel expenses, base salary may be charged if negotiated prior to fuel truck order being placed.
Other Helo Accessories	No cost unless agreed upon by local unit and approved by FS ordering unit.

AS 350 B2 Operational Accessories	
Bucket, long-line, cargo net	Housed on the fuel trailer
Pontoon skids, pop-out floats, “normal” skids	Housed at Rototech – Palm Beach, FL

TERM OF AGREEMENT

The term of this Operating Plan shall be for five (5) years, renewable with the concurrence of both FWS and FS. This operating plan will be reviewed annually in October to discuss operational procedures and/or problems and amended as needed with the concurrence of both the FWS and FS. It shall take effect on the date listed below when all entities have provided signatures.

KEY OFFICIALS

USFWS Southeast Region
ARD National Wildlife Refuge System
1875 Century Boulevard, NE Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345
404-679-7190

USFS Southern Region
Director – Fire and Aviation Management
1720 Peachtree Road NW,
Suite 746N
Atlanta, GA 30309- 404-3473464

**United States Department of Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

ARD Chief of National Wildlife Refuge System

Date

**United States Department of Agriculture
U. S. Forest Service**

Director- Fire and Aviation Mgt.

Date

The authority and format of this instrument has been reviewed and approved for signature.

Plez West
USFS Southern Region
Grants and Agreements Specialist