

BLM UAS Program Update – 1/21/16

Operations

- The project management site is up. This website is the first step in requesting agency provided UAS Services. Go here: http://web.gismaps.or.blm.doi.net/Geocortex/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=blm_national_remote_sensing. You can view projects by state/project name if you want to see what's in the works.
- NAO and NOC have formed a UAS Working Group to prioritize and manage UAS projects. The members are Jeff Safran, Lance Brady, Todd Burton, Bobby Eisele, and Gil Dustin. We can be reached here: BLM_FA_UAS@BLM.GOV.

Aircraft

- NOC and NAO have purchased Falcon and Falcon Hover systems. These systems are capable of precision survey and mapping missions. These aircraft are on an IDIQ contract and are available to DOI agencies for purchase.
- NAO has requested an IDIQ purchase contract for a micro-system (<5lbs.). This platform is targeted for local office/fire crew use and will be capable of capturing still images and video (flying Go Pro). The specs have been developed and market research is in process. The target for award is June, 2016.
- NAO has requested a CWN contract for strategic situational awareness. This platform will be capable of remaining on station over an incident for 14 hours and will provide real-time electro-optical (daylight) and infrared (LWIR and SWIR) video. These systems are also targeted to gather georeferenced data to provide thermal, perimeter, and burn severity maps. The specs are in process. The target award date is August, 2016.
- Super Bat operations will be put on the back burner until a dedicated crew in Boise can be established. BLM is focusing on Falcon training and flight operations.

Personnel - NAO has appointed Bobby Eisele and Todd Burton to one-year UAS program details. They will be developing UAS training curriculum and completing UAS missions/projects.

Training

- Bobby Eisele and Jeff Safran have completed the Falcon and Falcon Hover training.
- Four BLM employees are scheduled for the Falcon/Hover course in Feb.
- A spring and fall offering of the Basic Operator course and Falcon/Hover training will be announced soon.
- We're developing project management course for qualified UAS crews which will focus on data/image collection and processing. Dates TBD. Fall 2016 is the target.

Safety

- USGS had a UAS mishap on a project in CA last week. The aircraft impacted on BLM land, but the project was strictly for USGS benefit. OAS has initiated an investigation.
- The PASP template for UAS operations is almost complete. We're almost done formatting the draft Clark sent out last fall. The final draft will be out for review soon.

Information – NAO and NIFC external affairs are meeting next week to discuss the info plan for CY16. If you have specific needs for outreach products, let me know.

Finally – We are trying to build operational capacity within BLM. If you know of anyone with an interest in UAS training, please have them contact gdustin@blm.gov.