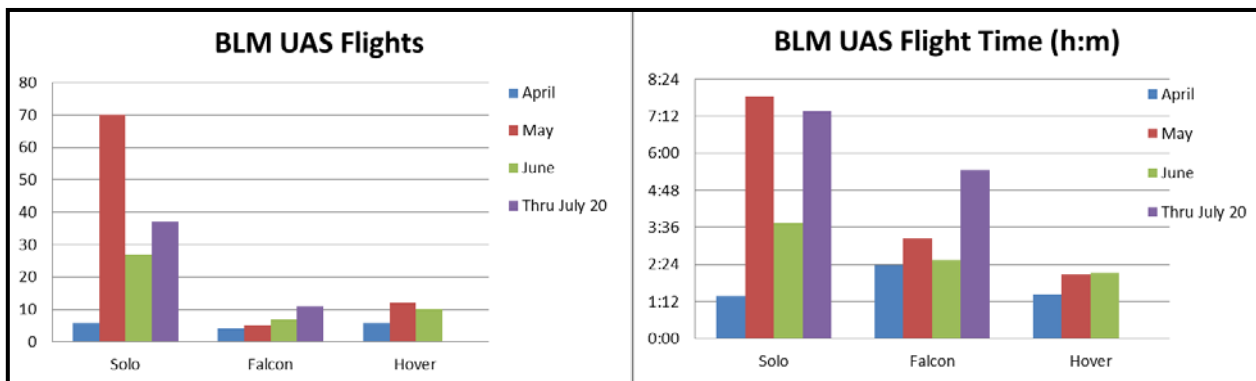


BLM UAS Program Update – 7/20/16

Projects/Operations:

- 12 projects completed in six states (AZ, CO, NM, ID, CA, NV) in support of suppression, fuels, wildlife, vegetation, cultural, Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and Assessment Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) programs
- BLM, USFS, and OAS collaborated to assign a UAS crew to the North Fire in NM. Direct crew support, infrared, and mapping missions were flown. Significant lessons were learned and we are looking forward to applying them on the next assignment.
- Five additional projects are scheduled in fy16 (UT, OR, ID, AZ)
- Falcon, Hover, and Solo have been flown on 195 flights for 39.5 hours (4/1-7/20).



Contracts

- The draft solicitation for CWN incident support is still in process at AQD.
- The delivery of the BLM Falcon systems is complete and crews are routinely flying missions with these aircraft.
- The purchase contract for the micro systems is in process. Award is targeted for August.
- BLM has been operating the Solo quadcopter which is on loan to OAS from 3D Robotics.

Training

- BLM has seven authorized UAS operators. We're working on increasing that number to meet the current and expected workload. It is anticipated that the micro system will meet the bulk of Bureau needs.
- Micro system training is scheduled the week of 9/12/16 in Boise. This event is contingent upon the micro system purchase contract award. BLM micro UAS procurement and training information will be made available ASAP.
- BLM States, Districts and Field Offices are requesting a high volume of low complexity UAS work. The new micro system will be affordable, dependable, and relatively simple to operate. NAO encourages the

procurement of these systems by local units who desire this capability. We hope to enable up to 10 BLM units to operate these systems in 2017.

- Contact NAO for micro system procurement/training information.

Policy

- 14 CFR Part 107 has passed and OPM 11 will be revised to meet the new policy.

Safety

- Several SAFECOMs have been submitted for GPS glitches in the Hover quadcopter system. BLM and OAS are working with the vendor to resolve the issue. No injuries/accidents have occurred due to this issue, but operational delays have occurred.
- Wildfire hobbyist intrusions are still a concern. The Interagency Fire UAS Committee is working on strengthening education and mitigation efforts. Julie Stewart has documented and shared all reported UAS airspace situations. Thanks Julie!

Information

- The BLM UAS website is up. <http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/Aviation/uas.html>
- Request content through NAO.

Newsflashes

BLM Daily article on Meeker UAS projects:

<https://blmspace.blm.doi.net/portal/blmdaily/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=1053>

CALFIRE hobbyist arrest (wildfire):

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/newsreleases/2016/2016TrailheadDroneRelease.pdf>

FAA Part 107: https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf

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