

# National Remote Sensing Program Update

Tactical Fire Remote Sensing Advisory Committee  
April 29, 2014

*Everett Hinkley*

National Remote Sensing Program Manager  
USDA Forest Service  
Geospatial Management Office



# Talking Points – TFRSAC #21

- Tactical Fire Remote Sensing Advisory Committee
  - New directions for TFRSAC (panel tomorrow)
  - *AMS & Wide Area Imagers (J. Green update)*
- Improving coordination between Engineering & FAM
  - IR requirements conference still needed
- *GMO Issues – Status Quo*
  - *Short staff situation continues*
  - *Move to downtown finished in January*
  - *Budgets seem to have stabilized for the moment*
- Ongoing discussions for use of AMS sensor
  - WB-57 for the short term.
  - N182Z King Air for the longer term
- *UAS Advisory Committee continues to move forward*



# FS Update

- Increasing interest in UAS in the Forest Service:
  - *Alaska region wants to explore use of UAS for a “variety of resource management applications”.*
  - *UAV livestock monitoring proposal*
  - *UAS missions for beetle damage assessment*
  - *Law Enforcement interested in “Unmanned Area Surveillance”*
  - *UAS wanted for “forest inventory information on remote, western U.S. FIA plots”*
  - *UAS for rural roads surveys*
- *Recent call from AgSec to Chief of the Forest Service on UAS use in the Forest Service*



# Question to FS Chief from AgSec

- *Recent call from AgSec (last week):*

*“What does the AgSec need to do so we can use FS UAS equipment on wildfires?”*



# Response to AgSec

- Potential of UAS. Focus on fire use. But brief mention of natural resource work would be okay
- Challenges to integration into operations, including
  - how to use the mass quantities of data
  - airspace
  - airworthiness
  - pilots
  - see and avoid
  - no program or program manager
  - acquisition issues, etc.
- Recommendations (what do we need to do). Partner with DOI, need program mgr., develop requirements and process for use of data, strategic plan, etc.
- Need to decide what size we are talking about. There is a large difference in cost, use, tactics, complexity, etc.
- Need to state that the FAA is supportive.
- Cooperation with NASA, DoD, CBP, CalFire, etc.
- Interest from the Senate Commerce Committee.



# Update on Biggest Accomplishment



# Questions?



# Contact Information

Everett Hinkley

*National Remote Sensing Program Manager*

[ehinkley@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehinkley@fs.fed.us)

703-605-4580 (Office)

