



# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center  
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## Memorandum

Reference: NWCG# 008-2008

To: Fire Executive Council (FEC) and  
National Interagency Aviation Council (NIAC)

From: NWCG Chair *Brian McManis*

Date: June 6, 2008

Subject: Adoption of NIAC (National Interagency Aviation Council) Strategy

The NWCG recommends the approval of the strategic intent expressed in the Interagency Aviation Strategy, as developed by the National Interagency Aviation Council (NIAC). The report suggests, "As agencies develop implementation plans, more detailed cost analysis and further consideration of program workload adjustments may be necessary to achieve optimized savings and efficiency. Agencies may determine more cost-effective ways to implement changes than this report currently reflects. Timing of implementation may also need adjustment." Consequently, specific recommendations will require further detailed analysis and enhanced interagency coordination in order to move forward in a conservative, but joint fashion.

Specific priority will be given to the management considerations contained in the report. Maintaining current capability in terms of numbers of helicopters and fixed wings is a higher priority now rather than increasing those numbers. Conversion of contracts from call-when-needed to exclusive use or from contracted to government owned require additional consideration. New technology should be adopted when possible, with longer implementation timelines.

The work points us to a safer and more cost effective future. We recommend adoption of this strategy and to move ahead in implementation in a deliberate, but steady fashion.

cc: NWCG Members