



**National Wildfire
Coordinating Group**
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

**Interagency Helicopter Screening and Evaluation Subcommittee
IHSES**

IHSES MEMORANDUM # 16-02

To: Jon Rollens, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee

From: Bill Sloan, Chair, Interagency Helicopter Screening and Evaluation Subcommittee

Date: September 19, 2016

Subj: Consideration Items and Status Update

Background. The IHSES convened its first meeting, 16 Sep 2016. In order to meet NIAC tasking “Provide regular updates in IHSES activities, testing progression and accomplishments to NIAC” the following is presented for consideration and awareness:

Item.

1. IHSES member composition. The current permanent IHSES is comprised of 3 members, of which membership is representative of a USFS HIP, a USFS AMI, and a BLM Helicopter Program Manager. The question posed is whether or not both agency national helicopter program managers should be permanent members. The purpose would be to facilitate a greater awareness of the interagency helicopter program. If considered, then the desire would be to have 5 subcommittee members, of which no more than 3 would be from one agency, to lessen the concern for an imbalanced subcommittee.
2. IHSES State membership. Was consideration given to having a state representative as an IHSES member, which may increase the interagency aspect of the subcommittee?
3. IHSES authority considerations:
 - a. Can the IHSES assign temporary IHSES advisor members? The purpose of advisors would be to perform those duties associated with project evaluation management.
 - b. Can the IHSES assign the Evaluation Director and subsequent staffing positions (SME’s) in support of an evaluation study?
 - c. At what level should Evaluation Plans be approved? NIAC or IHSES?
4. *Boost* System HEC update:
 - a. Completed
 - i. Seth Weber, FS PM Short Haul, will be the Evaluation Director.
 - ii. Core competencies have been reviewed and approved by the IHSES in support of the evaluation.
 - b. Projected
 - i. Evaluation team members are currently being solicited for and staffed.
 - ii. Evaluation/project management strategic plan has yet to be developed.

- iii. Scope has yet to be developed.
 - iv. Completion schedule has yet to be developed.
 - v. Budget requirements have yet to be developed. It is anticipated that a cost-share would occur between the FS and NPS to support equipping/aircraft modifications. It is anticipated that each agency will support their own personnel budget needs.
 - vi. Draft of Evaluation Plan is at the very conceptual stage.
5. IHSES Guide Update:
- a. Currently being edited. The IHSES will submit a schedule and process for completion to NIAC.
 - b. It is recommended by the IHSES to submit the guide in draft form directly to NIAC without specific agency review. That NIAC would facilitate the review of the guide through individual agencies, if NIAC desires.
6. The IHSES will populate the NWCG website. Can the IHSES use the website as a host for project proposal reports, evaluation plan reports, suitability reports, and any interim reports in support of evaluations? The intent would be to share knowledge of status. The concern is FOI (Freedom of Information Act) implications.
7. No other tasking by NIAC.

/s/ William M Sloan Date 20 September 2016
Chair, IHSES