



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-15-001

Date: 20 February 2015

TO: Jon Rollens, Chair, NWCG National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)

FROM: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board *Dan Smith*

SUBJECT: Interagency Plan for a Wildland Fire Aviation Strategy – NWCG Assistance to the Fire Management Board

**Purpose:** This memorandum tasks the NWCG National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) to support the federal Fire Executive Council and Fire Management Board's development of a National Interagency Wildland Fire Aviation Strategy.

**Tasking:** Accomplish the following:

1. Define a set of firefighting aircraft performance and effectiveness data to collect and monitor during 2015-2016 fire seasons, to address GAO Recommendation 1 (Performance and Effectiveness of Firefighting Aircraft). Use the Aerial Firefighting Aircraft Use and Effectiveness (AFUE) study to evaluate interagency airtanker aircraft results and processes overseen by NIAC's respective subcommittees to evaluate all other firefighting aircraft. Due March 30, 2015
2. Identify tools to use in the evaluation process such as a daily Fire Aircraft Data Report (similar to the British Columbia Forest Service airtanker data report). The actual data to be recorded would be determined by the NIAC subcommittees or task groups as well as the collection method and location for storage. Due March 30, 2015
3. Develop a plan (including communication to appropriate identified groups) for data collection and evaluation, planned for 2015 and 2016 fire seasons, concluding September 30, 2016. Due March 30, 2015
4. Implement the data collection plan, making adjustments if needed between fire seasons, and provide resulting data sets to the FMB. The use of these data to update the Aviation Strategy will be assigned by the FMB at a future date. Due October 31, 2016
5. Develop alternatives to monitor, evaluate, and report on collaborative efforts, as defined in GAO Recommendation 2 (Enhanced Stakeholder Collaboration). Due March 30, 2015
6. Provide quarterly updates to the NWCG Executive Board and FMB outlining progress on evaluation and interagency collaboration. Due quarterly

**Background:** The federal Fire Management Board, at the request of the federal Fire Executive Council, established and assigned the Wildland Fire Aviation Strategy Task Group to address the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, *Wildland Fire Management: Improvements Needed in Information, Collaboration, and Planning to Enhance Federal Fire Aviation Program Success* (GAO-13-684). The resultant, attached *Interagency Plan for a Wildland Fire Aviation*

*Strategy* identified the NWCG National Interagency Aviation Committee as the proper entity to accomplish many of the plan's recommendations.

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Attachment

cc: Bill Kaage (Chair, Fire Management Board), NWCG Executive Board, NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU)