



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Briefing Paper

04/21/2021

FROM: Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (IFUASS)

SUBJECT: **Unmanned Aircraft System Pilot (UASL) Transition Plan**

Background

IFUASS developed position qualification standards for four UAS positions, including UAS Module Leader (UASL), which have been added to the Wildland Fire Qualifications Guide (PMS 310-1). IFUASS determined by unanimous vote that due to the nature of the position and the safety considerations with required UAS operations on incidents that the UASL position should, at minimum, have a requirement for Single Resource Boss (SRB). In addition, due to the concerns listed above IFUASS, by unanimous vote, determined that any current UASLs that do not have a SRB should be considered trainees until they fulfill requirements of SRB.

Voting Members:

Bureau of Land Management: Bobby Eisele

US Fish and Wildlife: Erik Haberstick

National Park Service: Kristin Swoboda

US Forest Service: Dirk Giles

Bureau of Indian Affairs: Dave Underwood

Office of Aviation Services: Steve Stroud

UASL Transition Plan

Current Qualified UASL with Single Resource Boss Qualification: Current qualified UASL with a Single Resource Boss (SRB) qualification meet the new 2021 PMS 310-1 requirement and will continue as qualified UASL.

Current Qualified UASL without Single Resource Qualification: All current qualified UASL that do not meet the SRB requirement will be put into unqualified status until they become SRB qualified upon updating of the PMS 310-1 on October 1, 2021.

Current Trainee UASL: All current UASL trainees that do not meet the SRB requirement will be put into unqualified status until they become SRB qualified upon updating of the PMS 310-1 on October 1, 2021. UASL trainees with a Single Resource Boss (SRB) qualification meet the new 2021 PMS 310-1 requirement and will continue as a UASL trainee.

Impact to the Field and Operations

Impacts to the field and overall UAS operations are expected to be minimal. There are a total of 34 qualified UASLs in IROC and 19 trainees. Four individuals mobilized for a total of nine mobilizations as UASL in 2019 and there were no UASL mobilizations prior to 2019. Future UASL assignments will be highly complex with dynamic situations that will require the minimum skillset of a single resource boss to manage the complexities of the position. Thus, ALL qualified current and future UASLs need the SRB qualification.

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