National Wildfire Coordinating Group

National Interagency Aviation Committee

NIAC-20-01

Date: 10 February 2020

To: DOI NIAC National Aviation Managers
USFS Branch Chief, Aviation Operations

From: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee

Subject: Approval of UAS Aerial Ignition Payload

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide the Interagency Fire UAS Subcommittee (IFUASS) with the approval to use the Ignis UAS aerial ignition payload.

Background: A UAS aerial ignition payload was developed in the private sector by Drone Amplified and tested by OAS (on wildland fires) during the 2018 fire season with favorable results. 135 missions were conducted on five separate fires. The system consists of a UAS (DJI M600), plastic sphere dispenser (PSD) payload (Drone Amplified Ignis) and thermal imaging camera (ZENMUSE XT2).

Approval: Credentialed (OAS or Forest Service carded) interagency personnel are authorized to utilize the DJI M-600 equipped with the Ignis PSD system for training, fuels management and wildfire management.

The utility of this system will continue to be evaluated during operations. As needed, the IFUASS will recommend a course of instruction, position descriptions(s), risk assessment, and operational procedures for NIAC approval.

The IFUASS is responsible for recommending future aerial ignition payloads to NIAC.

Operational Constraints: UAS personnel operating these systems will be trained, evaluated and credentialed (carded) by qualified OAS or Forest Service personnel.

Wildland fire operations will be conducted in accordance with the Interagency UAS Operations Guide (PMS 515) and approved firing plans.

Fuels management and training operations will be conducted under approved prescribed fire burn plans and Project or Mission Aviation Safety Plans (PASP/MASP).

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