



**NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP**  
**NIAC-Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee**

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**IASS-21-02**

**Date:** 08 July 2021  
**To:** John Buehler, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)  
**From:** Walter Bunt, Chair NIAC-Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee (IASS)  
**Subject:** Recommendation to create a stand-alone NWCG, Standards for Amphibious Water Scooper Guide.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memorandum is to provide subject matter expertise to the council for review, approval and adoption specific to “Interagency Standards for Amphibious Water Scooper Operations” in support of wildland fire and aviation.

**Background:** The NIAC-21-06 memo tasked the Interagency Aerial Supervision Committee (IASS) to add the attached document “ Scooper Group Operating Procedures” to the NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision, PMS 505 based on a tasking memo, NIAC 20-10, posted here:  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee-correspondence/niac-m-20-10.pdf>.

On 07 July 2021, the IASS met, discussed and agreed to a proposal from the BLM. (attachment A.1). The IASS voted unanimously to protect the interagency investment and clarity of the NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision, PMS 505 as written and provide the council with an alternative proposal.

**Recommendation:** Use the attached document (attachment\_A.2), as a 2021 “Interagency Aviation Information Bulletin” to identify interim best practices for Interagency Amphibious Water Scooper Operations during the 2021 field season. Further the IASS believes that there should be a stand-alone NWCG, Standards for Amphibious Water Scooper guide created and published in 2022.

### **NIAC Decision**

Approved:

Denied:

**Contact:** Please direct questions to IASS-Chair, Walter Bunt at 208-387-5327 or [walter.bunt@usda.gov](mailto:walter.bunt@usda.gov).

**Reference:** NIAC 20-10, NIAC 21-06, PMS 505, A.1, A.2.

**Distribution:** NWCG, NAIC and All NIAC Subcommittees.

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.