



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

Interagency Helicopter Operations Sub- Committee Annual Workshop September 17, 2025

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Present:

Joe Rogan, BLM (Chair)

Eric Graff, USFS

Chris Wright, FWS

David Frey, OAS

Taylor Schmadeka, NASF

Dave Underwood, BIA

Nic Strohmeyer, NPS

Tori Leshuk, USFS

Bill Sloan, USFS

Jamie Knight, States (Notetaker)

David Schultz, NWCG

August Meeting Notes Approval

Notes approved by the group.

HMLR AD Pay Scale

USFS has established an AD Pay Scale document.

Tasking: None at this time.

NSHO Language/Edit Proposals:

- 1) Update language-Limited Use Exception (Chapter 2, Pg3)
- 2) Add HMLR to Chapter 2, Pg3
- 3) Fixed Weight Reduction-Make/Model changed to Helicopter Type (Page 58)
- 4) Update Wind Restrictions Language (conflicting language between other PMS documents)
 - a. Could change PMS 530-531
 - b. On-going discussion needs to be had on this one.
- 5) 145 Bucket Extension Language
 - a. Rework to include make/model information
- 6) Update Chapter 7 for Load Calculations
 - a. Digital signatures are accepted/allowed
 - b. Automated Helicopter Performance Planning may be used.
- 7) Remove Helicopter Crash Diagrams that do not apply

Minimum Staffing Exception Form

Tasking: Eric will make the discussed edits to the document and resend to IHOPS for review prior to next meeting.

Organizational Changes

With all the pending changes, it might make sense to keep current chairs on sub-committees and work groups the same while we wait to find out what is happening. Status quo for committees now.

Helicopter Services Hourly Flight Rates, Fuel Consumption, and Weight Reduction Chart (MATOC Attachment 10)

Looking for input from OAS and USFS. Moving forward on the weight reduction portion of the attachment. More to come.

Round Robin:

BLM: Weather has moderated somewhat. Most of the fleet is still on. 3 Type 3s going off contract this week. Looking for a downslide in resources in the next week or two.

USFS: Updated/revised HMLR task book was posted. Landing and medical facilities memo coming out soon. Letting some helicopters go. STEP process is moving forward.

FWS: Winding down. Southeast has a few fires. Will be gearing up in the next month or two.

BIA: Five EU aircraft still working. There are some difficult fires. Getting ready for fall burning season. Two air attacks, two fire bosses, and two SEATs working. Oklahoma starting to gear up again.

National Association of State Foresters: Starting to wind down. ODF has extended some aircraft but looking to wind that down. Southern states and Lake States are starting to prepare for fall fire season. NASF Aviation group meeting next week.

NPS: Most ships have migrated to the northwest. Have extended some contracts. US Park Police have moved out from NPS and were put under the DOI Secretary. Have developed NPS hoist operations plan.

USFS Training: HMLR IQCS Agency Leads-Change Management. Lobby to the agency leads prior to October 15th. This is how the HMLR position gets moved forward.

OAS Training: Training is picking up. Working on online development for A-306 Contract Administration.

NWCG: Gave a heads-up Executive Board on the ask for HMLR to move to 310-1 outside of the position pause memo. Fed Supplement for HMLR for 2026. IPTM-HMGB will be coming up early in 2026. Need a liaison from IHOPS to join the SME group for the process. IPTM contractor will remain the same. Taylor has offered to be the liaison and Eric seconded it.

Next Meeting is October 15th, 2025
TEAMS