

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program Update – Interagency Wildland Fire

Background – The Department of Interior (DOI) and United States Forest Service (USFS) are working collaboratively to support wildland fire management efforts by providing personnel and equipment to enhance situational awareness, develop geospatial (mapping) products and conduct aerial ignition missions. UAS mounted sensors and payloads perform a variety of tasks including thermal/infrared imaging, GPS mapping, plastic sphere dispenser (PSD) operations, and terrain modeling.



DJI M600 with IGNIS 2.0 Aerial Ignition Payload

2020 Fire Season Operations – Since January, approximately 900 interagency UAS flights in 15 states have been conducted to support wildland fire and emergency hazardous fuels reduction. UAS mission locations are depicted on the [BLM UAS Website](#). UAS equipment is embedded into Interagency Hotshot Crews, Wildfire Modules, or stand-alone UAS Modules. Examples include the Lakeview and Arrowhead Hotshot Crews and the Unawep Wildfire Module. BLM, NPS, USFS, FWS, and OAS personnel work together as stand-alone UAS Modules.

The current focus is UAS aerial ignition operations on the Red Salmon Complex (CA), Pine Gulch (CO), Grizzly Creek (CO), and Crane (OR) incidents.



Aerial Ignition Crew on the Red Salmon Complex



Fire Reconaissance on Alaska Wildfires

UAS Personnel and Equipment Ordering: UAS Coordinator @ 208-387-5335

Additional Information: <https://uas.nifc.gov/>