Subject: Release of New FAA Regulations Pertaining to Commercial use of UAS (14CFR Part 107)

Area of Concern: UAS Operations

Discussion: On August 29th, 2016 the FAA will release a new code of federal regulations (CFR) related to the commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). This regulation will increase the number of commercial operators across the country. DOI/USFS personnel are reminded that UAS activities under the operational control of either agency are required to follow existing agency policy. Agency personnel are required to meet certain training requirements prior to using UAS for official business. Certification under Part 107 DOES NOT qualify agency personnel to conduct UAS operations on behalf of DOI/USFS. Additionally, any vendor aircraft used by DOI/USFS under a flight services contract must be approved by DOI/USFS aircraft and pilot inspectors. DOI/USFS are in the process of determining how this new regulation will apply to our operations and incorporating into our policies. The Forest Service is developing a national UAS Desk Guide to provide employees further information. DOI employees must follow the direction of OPM-11. Any DOI/USFS personnel interested in becoming certified to use UAS for their missions are encouraged to contact their aviation manager for further information.

USFS guidance on UAS can be found here: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fam/aviation/uas/index.htm

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