



UAS in TRRP

Presentation Goal:
Get TRRP Partner agreement on
private landowner notification
of “drone” use

UAS = Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or “drones”

Value of using drones for TRRP

- Revegetation design and planning
- Channel rehabilitation as-builts
- Channel rehabilitation post-construction evaluation
- Geomorphic change analyses
- Photography and videography for public outreach



Current Requirements (non-recreational)

- For Pilots:
 - ALL pilots must have an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate “part 107”
 - Pass the test at an FAA approved location (Redding)
 - Test has a fee of about \$150
 - State and federal pilots have additional training requirements
 - DOI has reporting requirements, in part for transparency purposes
- For Lands Flown Over:
 - Federal lands: *commercial-use permitting applies*
 - BLM: Land Use Application and Permit required for takeoff/landing
 - USFS: no specifics outside of Wilderness, contact with local district is assumed
 - State: land manager approval
 - County: unregulated
 - Private lands:
 - federally unregulated
 - California AB 856 (signed 2015): “expand liability for physical invasion of privacy to additionally include a person knowingly entering into the airspace above the land of another person without permission”
- *Note on Operational Control: any contract or agreement with DOI that specifies use of UAS automatically places DOI in “Operational Control”, meaning all DOI policies apply including pilot training, etc.*

UAS and Private Lands

Over Lands of					
	DOI (BLM, USBR)	USFS	State	County	Private
Pilot Agency	USBR	Unregulated. Contact with local district is expected	Land manager approval	No specific regulations	Coordination if between Agencies
	USFWS				Use permitting for contractors (for one contractor this took many months)
	USFS				Unregulated - safety and privacy laws only [policies focus on other uses]
	NMFS				[Unconfirmed] Similar to USFS
	CDFW				Written Permission - Email OK
	CDWR				[Unconfirmed] Similar to CDFW
	Tribes				No specific regulations
	County				(safety and privacy laws apply)

One incident could reflect on the whole program
(and complicate access for everyone to both private and public lands).

Recommendation: consider a Program-wide guideline

Recommendation

- TMC Motion for a “Good Neighbor” guideline regarding UAS.

Considerations:

- What area and activities covered?
 - Suggest: all TRRP related activities in the watershed.
- What constitutes permission?
 - Suggest: written, email acceptable (no signature required)
- What triggers need for contact?
 - Suggest: Flight planning indicates property boundary crossing is likely.
- What about transparency?
 - Suggest: TRRP.net webpage with list of flights including date, agency, and purpose.

Potential motion:

As a “Good-Neighbor” in the Trinity River watershed regarding the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), while conducting work toward the Trinity River Restoration Program, staff of TMC member organizations and their contractors will obtain written permission from private individuals with lands within flight plans prior to the flights, and will annually report usage of UAS for listing on the TRRP website.