

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2021-10

May 24, 2021

To: Coordinating Group Advisory Council and Geographic Area Coordination Center Managers

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Lead Plane Trainee Utilization and Mobilization Direction

The interagency position of Lead Plane Pilot (LPIL) has been identified as a critical shortage position. On the job training may take up to three years for a trainee to become qualified as an LPIL. In an effort to qualify future LPIL positions the USDA Forest Service (USFS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will provide focused opportunities to develop trainees. This effort will include relocating trainees based on trainee needs and fire activity.

Dispatch Centers and Coordination Centers can expect the National Fixed Wing Coordinator and the National Interagency Coordination Center to reposition LPIL(t)s more frequently than in past years to maximize training opportunities. All assignments for LPIL trainees and trainers will be facilitated by the National Fixed Wing Coordinator through consultation with the National Aerial Supervision Program Manager and Designated Regional Aerial Supervision Program Managers or Regional Aviation Officers (RAO). Mobilization will be coordinated through the National Interagency Coordination Center and Geographic Area Coordination Centers.

## Interagency National Priority

Name	Priority	Call Sign	Region	Phase
Scott Smyth	1	4-7	Region 4	3
Ralph Sweeney	2	6-1	Region 6	3

Name	Call Sign	Region	Phase
Hans German	Lead 5	BLM NAO	2
Chris Swisher	Lead 7	BLM NAO	2

Name	Call Sign	Region	Phase
Travis Hart	4-2	Region 4	2
Dustin Smith	1-5	Region 1	2
Matt Smith	5-0	Region 5	2
Katie Moore	5-2	Region 5	2
Ryen Farnworth	6-8	Region 6	2



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When there are multiple Lead plane/Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) aircraft operating from the same base, priority will be given to LPIL(t), then Air Tactical Supervisor AITS(t), then Developmental Pilots, and finally fully qualified LPIL or ASMs. When multiple like trainees are at the same base; Evaluators will coordinate to maximize training opportunities.

Permanent fulltime USFS Air Tactical Supervisors, regardless of region, will staff ASM resources. Air Tactical Supervisors who are not staffing an ASM or contributing to Lead plane Pilot Training will be available to staff Air Tactical Group Supervisors and Helicopter Coordinator aircraft depending on their qualifications. Additionally, these experts can assist Geographic Area, Aircraft Coordinators during National Preparedness Level 4 and 5. Additional duties will be provided by the RAO or National Aerial Supervision Program Manager.

If you have questions or comments please contact; Walter Bunt, National Aerial Supervision Program Manager, USFS 530-515-4016; [walter.bunt@usda.gov](mailto:walter.bunt@usda.gov) or Paul Lenmark, BLM Air Tactical Instructor Pilot, 406-660-0257; [plenmark@blm.gov](mailto:plenmark@blm.gov)

Sincerely,

/s/ Joshua Simmons Chair, NMAC

