

RP 304 – UAS Technology, Airspace Design, Privacy and Safety in Idaho

- Project Description:

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program seeks to safely, efficiently, transparently, and lawfully use UAS platforms to support crucial ITD functions for highway projects, infrastructure inspections, emergency response, communications and environmental applications. In order to build a UAS Program that follows federal and Idaho statutes and regulations, while complying with the Federal Aviation Administration guidelines, a study is required to inform policy makers tasked with establishing and improving Idaho's laws and rules concerning the use of UAS. To meet this goal, ITD is conducting a research project to examine existing uses and guidelines in Idaho, neighboring states, as well as other states that are leading the implementation of UAS, in order to identify strategies to promote and regulate their use in Idaho's non-navigable airspace from the surface to 500 feet above ground level.

- The objectives of this project are:

1. To gather information about best practices from leading state DOT UAS programs
2. To determine new ways to use drones to meet agency needs
3. To establish program management practices and developing protocols for safe use of drones for ITD's internal UAS program
4. To gather information about statutes, rules, and programs in Idaho and other states that promote and regulate the use of UAS
5. To synthesize useful information that could assist in identifying areas for improvement within Idaho's existing laws, and development of new policies concerning the use of UAS.

- Estimated Completion Date: June 30, 2023

- Budget: \$100,000

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