

# WSDOT Aviation Division: Unmanned Aircraft Systems

**Rob Hodgman**

Aviation Senior Planner  
WSDOT Aviation Division





# What a Difference a Year Makes

Last year we were discussing the basics...



## UAS Definitions

An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) is commonly known as a drone and referred to as a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).



A UAS is an aircraft without a human pilot aboard. Its flight is controlled either autonomously by onboard computers or by the remote control of a pilot on the ground or in another vehicle.

Washington State Department of Transportation

Footer

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# Last Year's UAS Implementation Questions

- How will UAS impact public privacy?
- How will UAS affect airspace safety?
- How will UAS affect airport operations?
- Who will monitor and regulate UAS activities?
- How will private industry influence UAS technologies?
- What is the state's role?





# UAS Legislation

- 2014 – Five bills → One Passed/Vetoed
- 2015 – Seven bills → One Passed/Incidental

## 2015-16 UAS Legislation

In the interim following his veto the Governor directed the creation of a Drone Task Force

- Spirited but productive dialog
- Agreement on many but not all points
- 2015 legislation introduced - but did not pass

- [1093](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to unmanned aircraft
- [1093-S](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to unmanned aircraft
- [1093-S.E](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to unmanned aircraft
- [5499](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to a special allegation of a nefarious drone enterprise
- [5714](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to technology-enhanced government surveillance
- [1453](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to eliminating the backlog of land use applications in the Columbia River Gorge commission for the purpose of pr
- [1453-S](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to eliminating the backlog of land use applications in the Columbia River Gorge commission for the purpose of pr
- [2093](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to wildland fire suppression
- [2093-S](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to wildland fire suppression
- [2093-S.E](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to wildland fire suppression
- [1677](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to giving preference to using the nearest available qualified firefighters upon notification of a forest fire
- [1639-S.E](#)(2015-16)  
AN ACT Relating to technology-enhanced government surveillance



# FAA Activity

- Granted COAs:
  - Motion Picture industry companies
  - Real Estate industry companies
  - Agriculture industry companies
  - Many individual COAs
- Solicited public comment on possible changes to the sUAS category
- Launched recreational UAS safety campaign:





# WSDOT Aviation Approach

- Actively monitoring the evolution of UAS technological development and commercial application.
- Teaming with academia and airport sponsors to facilitate development.



- Aviation System Plan will convene a UAS working group in October 2015 to explore more issues



# UAS Discussion Topics

- Airport operations
- Air routes
- Off-airport launch and recovery
- Registration
- User group/coalition
- Tracking
- Sense-and-avoid
- Autonomous flight



# Follow-up

## Contact Information

Rob Hodgman

WSDOT Aviation Senior Planner

360-596-8910

[Hodgman@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Hodgman@wsdot.wa.gov)