

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Analysis of Unmanned Aircraft for Utility in Earth Sciences and Natural Resources Management

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: USGS
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado Denver
Effective Dates: 9/1/2014 - 8/31/2019
Funding Amount: \$25,000.

Investigators and Agency Representative:

USGS Contact: Jeff Sloan, USGS ESP Team, MS 980, Denver, CO 80225; 303-236-1308; jlsloan@usgs.gov

Investigator: Apostol Panayotov, University of Colorado, Campus Box 113, PO Box 176634, Denver, CO 80217; 303-556-2871; apostol.panayotov@ucdenver.edu

Project Abstract:

The goal of this research is to support natural Resource management and earth sciences by creating knowledge about technologies for producing low altitude remotely sensed data and information. Furthermore, the program maintains awareness of new technologies as they enter the marketplace and continually adds them to the program for evaluation.

Objectives include:

- 1) The program's objective for technical evaluation is to achieve optimal technical results for the highest priority earth sciences and natural resources missions. The outcome will be a determination of the variables that are most relevant in aircraft design, sensor integration, mission plan, data management, data processing, and analysis.

- 2) The objective for economic evaluation is to determine the most efficient technologies and processes in comparison to current methodologies for achieving adequate results. The economic evaluation considers safety, flexibility, costs, and operational factors.

Outcomes with completions dates: August 31, 2019

Keywords: unmanned aircraft, natural resources, management, USGS, University of Colorado Denver