

Ross Soil and Water Conservation District

Policy # 35-2022

Aerial Services Policy

This policy applies to the use of ~~the a~~ district-owned unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) also known as a ~~quadcopter or~~ drone. In keeping with the district's mission to provide leadership and education to the public for the stewardship of natural resources, the district maintains a drone program to make the technology available to district cooperators for conservation practices.

At least one district staff member ~~should~~ shall maintain the training necessary to operate ~~the~~ district drones and maintain proper licensing. The District Administrator ~~should~~ will maintain records of insurance and license compliance and see that insurance and licensing remain current. District employees must operate ~~the~~ drones in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Drone should be used to document (photograph) completed conservation practices designed by NRCS/SWCD staff and maintained as part of ~~the~~ cooperator files. ~~Drone should be used to complete topographical surveying projects.~~ District staff may develop projects using current technology to assess drones in the stewardship of natural resources.

Cooperators, ~~the NRCS, and other agencies and organizations~~ may contract with the district to provide aerial inspection, mapping and other UAV services ~~within in~~ the district ~~and outside of district boundaries.~~ The District ~~supervisors and staff~~ may choose to create price-based service packages, based on market demand and the personnel, technological capacity, ~~priorities~~ and mission of the district.

Service rates and package prices should be based on final products (maps) delivered to the cooperator and/or based on generally accepted surveys of comparable service rates in the relevant industry. Rates may be adjusted based on market demand and the capacity of the District to deliver services. ~~Mileage charges may be added for services provided outside of Ross County.~~

Cooperators contracting services must sign a service agreement* and will be invoiced under the district billing policy. The service agreement shall include acknowledgement from the cooperator that the cooperator has the authority to grant permission to fly over the property for which service is requested according to FAA regulations, ~~tenant agreements~~ and ~~other~~ applicable laws.

* Under development