



Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group



Interagency Radio Alliance National Flight Following Radio Toning Project Charter

1. Purpose

During the 2008 National Radio Meeting an agreement was reached between the Forest Service (FS) and the Department of Interior (DOI) requiring tone protection on the National Flight Following (NFF) channel to avoid radio interference. This project will ensure that the conditions of that agreement are completed.

2. Scope

The following agencies will work through the three phased approach as described below to ensure that all flight following radios are properly toned in support of aviation safety on a National scale; Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation.

This will be a coordinated effort facilitated by the Interagency Radio Alliance (IRA). Units are responsible for upward reporting to ensure continuous positive communications are available on the National Flight Following Frequency.

3. Objectives

Safe and effective flight following support which is free of the interference that is being experienced in the current configuration.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Project Sponsor(s): Mike Field - USDAFS CTO; Stuart Ott - DOI Radio

Project Lead(s): Jimmie Porter – USDA FS Radio, Russ Sveda - DOI

Project Manager: Andy Jones

Customer: Interagency Wildland Fire Aviation and Dispatch Community

Project Team:

Name	Agency
Russ Sveda	DOI
Jimmie Porter	USDA FS
Lincoln Cowan	USDAFS
Carl Gossard – BLM & FS – Project Advisor	BLM
Xavi Slocum	BLM
Caroll Alexander	NPS
Noel Newberg	FWS
Matt Crudde	FS - NIFC

5. Project Approach

Phase I – Develop NFF Toning Action Plan to begin immediately. Phase I consists of building and submitting the NFF Toning Action Plan for respective organizations to the IRA representatives by 7/31/2009. Units were given an Equipment Identifier Road Map. Each agency will provide a written action plan to their respective organizations (i.e., Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation) within 30 days. The action plan will identify all dedicated NFF locations and timeframes required to perform the tone change. The action plans must include repeaters, base stations, and aircraft radios. – Due Date: 9/30/2009.

Phase II – (Can be done concurrently with Phase I) – Toning all repeaters, base stations, and aircraft radios, to ensure uninterrupted communications. Without exception, all transmitters using 168.650 NFF must be programmed to the CTCSS Encoder 110.9 Hz tone. Due Date: 9/30/2009 (Note: Schedules will be adjusted to ensure that the process at high elevation locations is completed before access is restricted due to weather conditions. This must be done so that there is no delay in implementation of phase III.

A progress report from each organization will be sent to the respective Interagency Radio Alliance (IRA) representative by the 15th of each month until the project is complete. Information from these status reports will be forwarded to the DOI and FS offices by the 30th of each month to validate the status of the toning process.

Phase III – (Tone Radio Receivers) – Units are not to proceed until given direction by respective IRA representatives; and cannot be initiated until Phase II has been completed by all agencies. All repeaters, base stations, and aircraft radios, without exception shall be programmed with the CTCSS Decoder 110.9 Hz tone. Due Date: 5/31/2010 (Note: Schedules will be adjusted to ensure that the process at high elevation locations is completed before access is restricted due to weather conditions.

6. Dependencies

Each agency listed above is dependent upon every other agency to complete Phase II prior to implementing Phase III.

7. Resources Needed to Support the Project (Including Funding)

There is no funding required for this project as each agency/unit is responsible for implementing and reporting the progress of all three phases of the project.

8. Risk Management

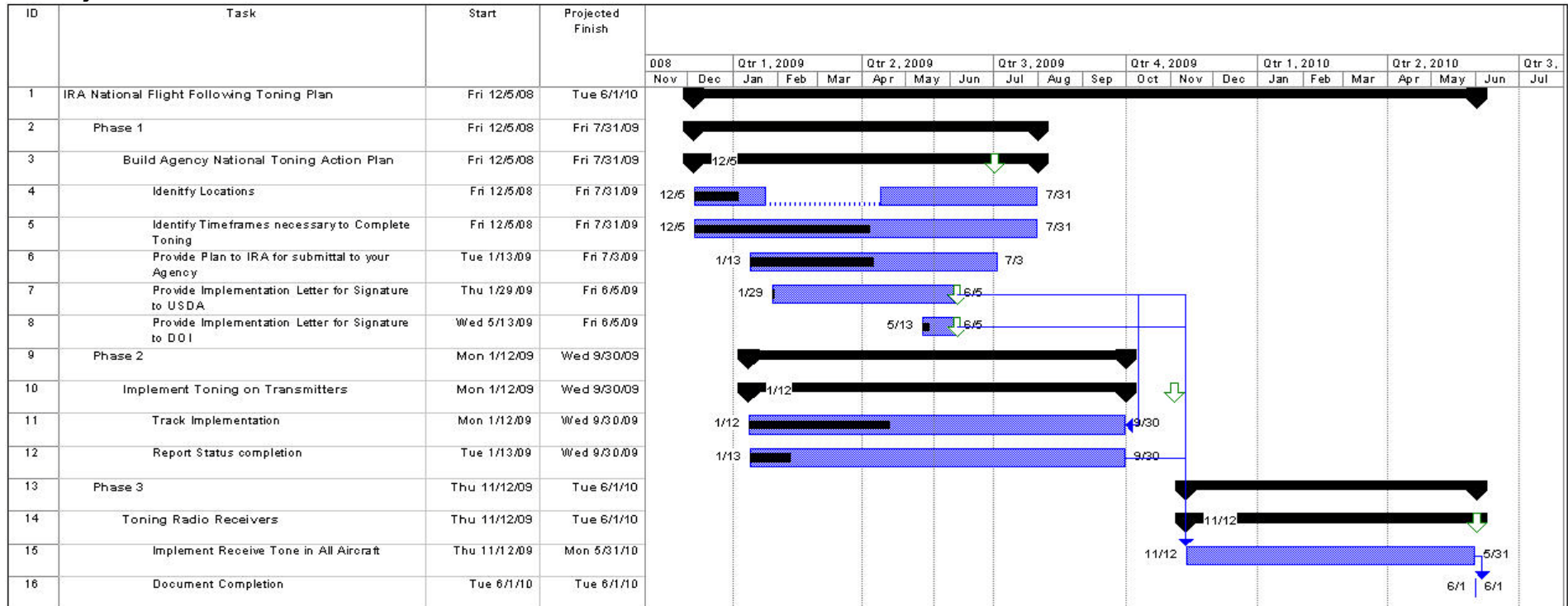
Risk	Mitigation	Contingency Plan
All agencies have not completed Phase I and II by 9/30/09	Adjust Schedule to acceptable and agreeable future dates	Consider developing a geographic approach
Resources may not be available	Consider lengthening Implementation timeline	
Weather may impact implementation schedule on Mountain tops	Manage schedule around weather impacts.	

9. Terminology and Abbreviations

Describe any unique terms or acronyms that will be used within the project. Terms that may be new or confusing to project stakeholders should be clearly explained.

Term	Definition
CTCSS	Continuous Tone-Coded Squelch System
NFF	National Flight Following

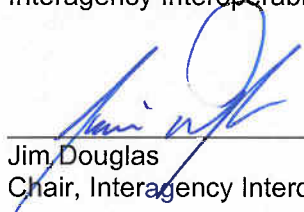
10. Project Schedule / Deliverables / Milestones / Measurements



Project: IRA National Flight Following R Date: Thu 5/21/09	Task	[Blue bar]	Summary	[Black bar]	Rolled Up Progress	[Black bar]	Project Summary	[Grey bar]
	Progress	[Black bar]	Rolled Up Task	[Blue bar]	Split	[Dotted bar]	Group By Summary	[Black bar]
	Milestone	[Black diamond]	Rolled Up Milestone	[White diamond]	External Tasks	[Grey bar]	Deadline	[Green arrow]

11. Approval

This Charter for the Interagency National Flight Following Radio Toning Project Charter is approved by the Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (IIOG) as written.



Jim Douglas
Chair, Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group

May 21, 2009
Date