



Sky's the Limit: Drone Technology and the Future of Tribes

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Applications of Drone Technology

Drones can perform many tasks faster, safer and easier than other methods. The number of applications is growing as quickly as the technology is evolving.

Types of Drones

- Multi-Rotor

- Aerial video and photography
- Vertical take-off and landing
- Inspection/documentation of conditions



- Fixed Wing

- Light weight (safe)
- Cover large area
- Accurate aerial photograph, no video



Marketing, Training, etc....

Benefits:

- Visual appeal
- Bird's eye view
- Documentation of existing conditions

300' Transmission
Tower construction



Infrastructure Inspection

Benefits:

- Safety
- Speed
- Documentation of existing conditions
- Thermal and IR cameras
- Gas sensors



750' Coal Power Plant Chimney



Video With Imbedded Graphics

- 4k video flown with the DJI Inspire.
- Image stabilization
- Geospatially accurate features composited into video

Great for Stakeholder presentations

US Army Corp of Engineers,
Turkey Creek Flood Prevention



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zashtMqP9IE>

Near-Infrared Imager for Agriculture

Benefits:

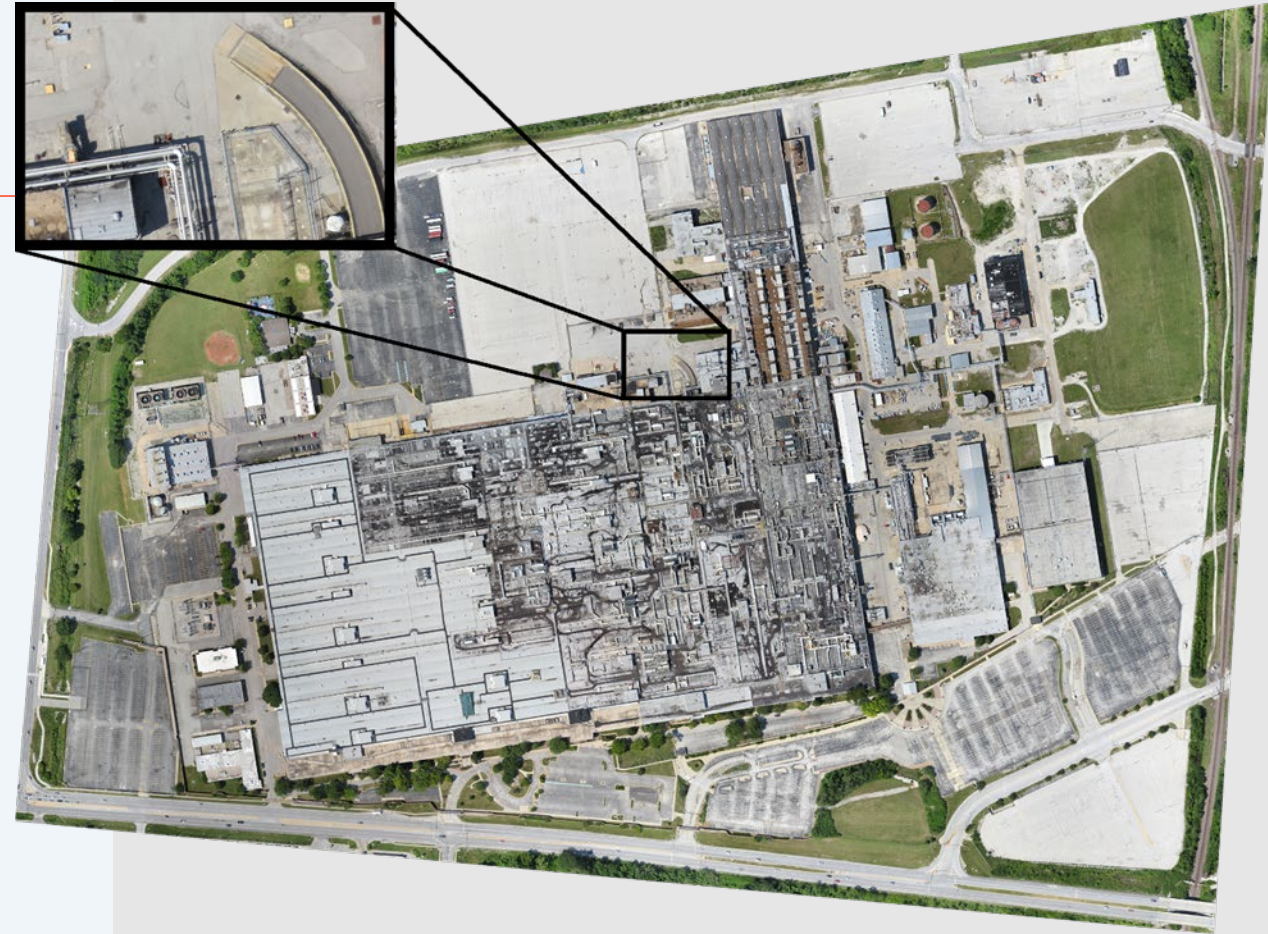
- NDVI to analyze crop health
- Precision application of fertilizers, pesticides and water.
- Save cost and the environment.



Mapping and 3D Modeling

Orthomosaics

- Stitching multiple images together seamlessly
- Orthorectification – stretching the image to match the spatial accuracy of a map
- 1/2 inch pixel detail.

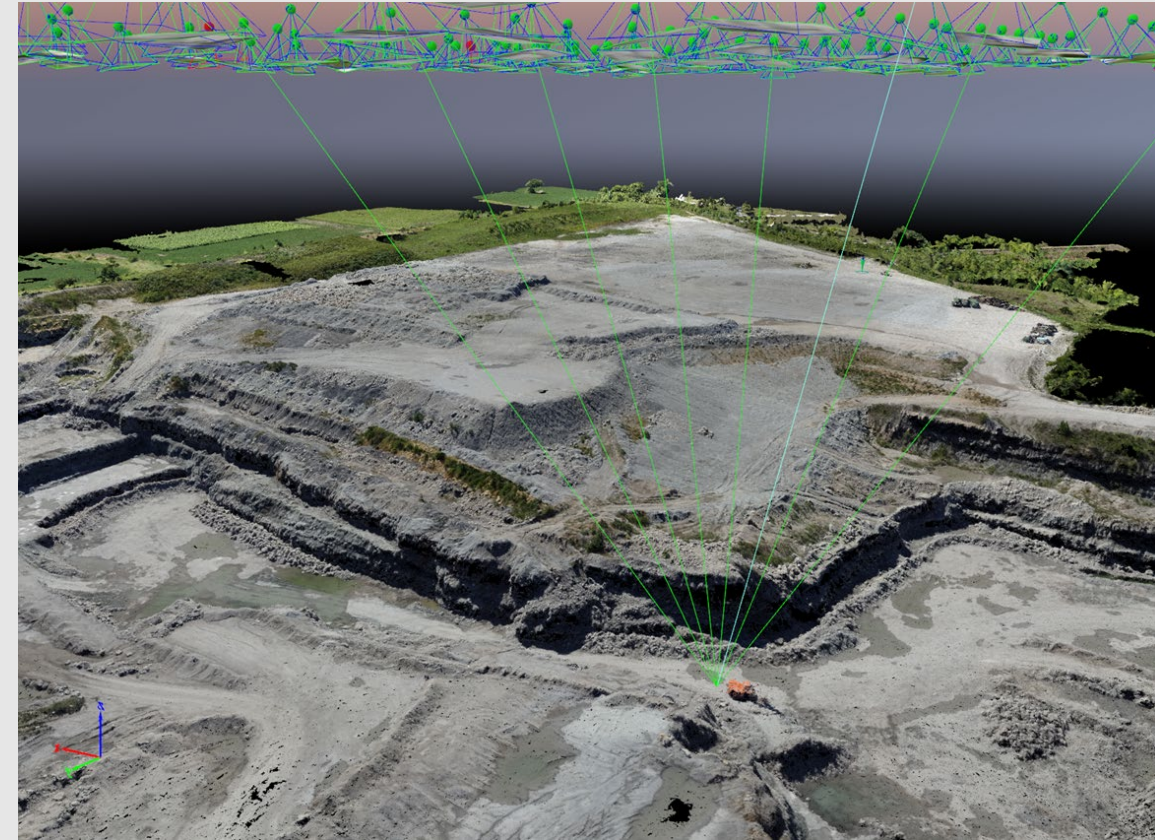


Bannister Federal Complex
Kansas City, MO

Mapping and 3D Modeling

Colorized Point Cloud

- Pixel Matching
- Structure from Motion
- Create a 3D point cloud equivalent to first return LiDAR.

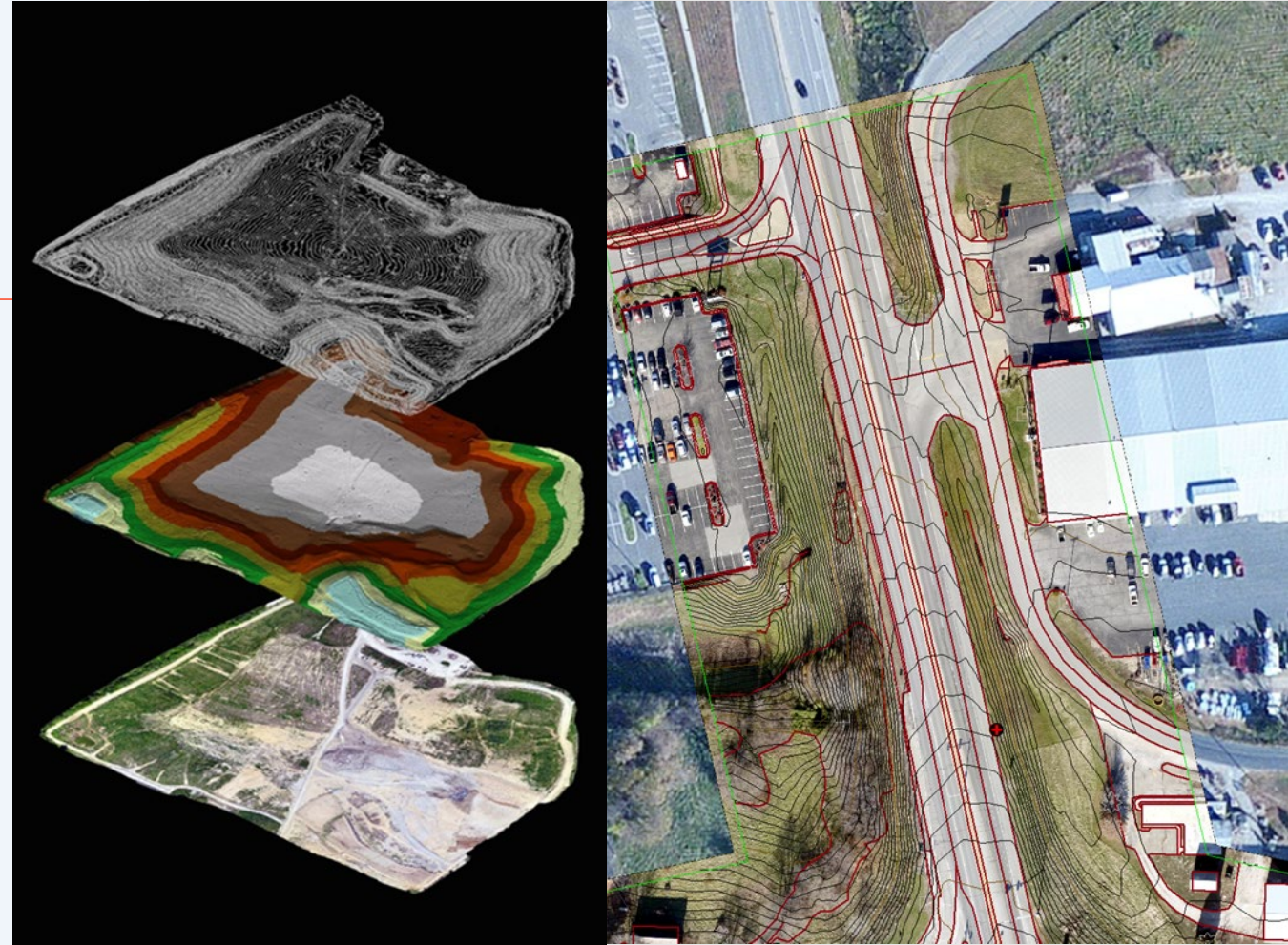


Quarry, 3D colorized point cloud

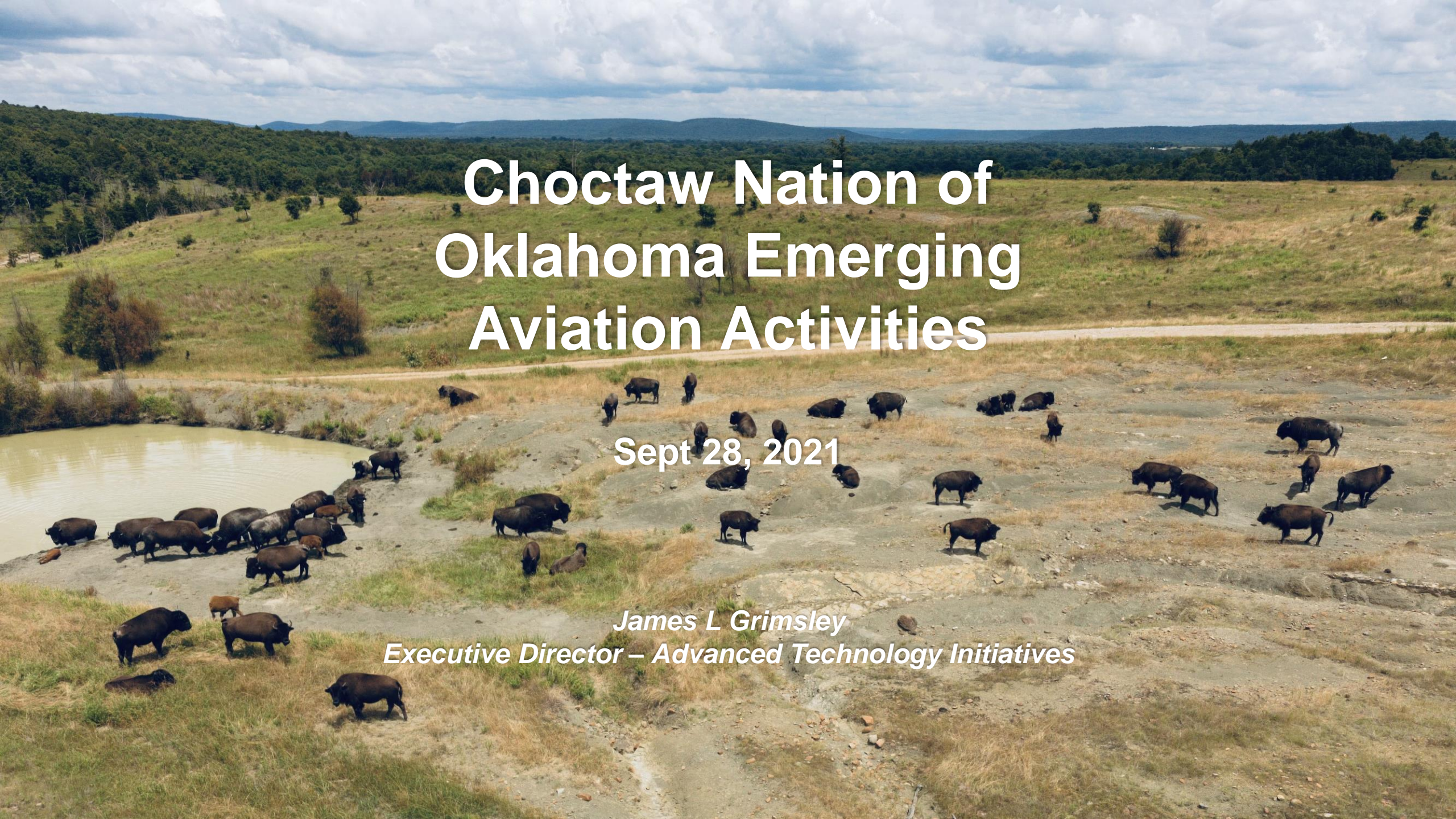
Mapping and 3D Modeling

Surface Models and Mapping

- Create contours
- Volume calculations
 - Earth moving
 - Stockpiles
- Mapping infrastructure



Quarry, 3D colorized point cloud

A wide-angle photograph of a herd of bison in a natural landscape. In the foreground, a herd of bison is gathered around a small, murky pond. Some bison are standing in the water, while others are on the muddy bank. The middle ground shows a large, open field with scattered bison. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

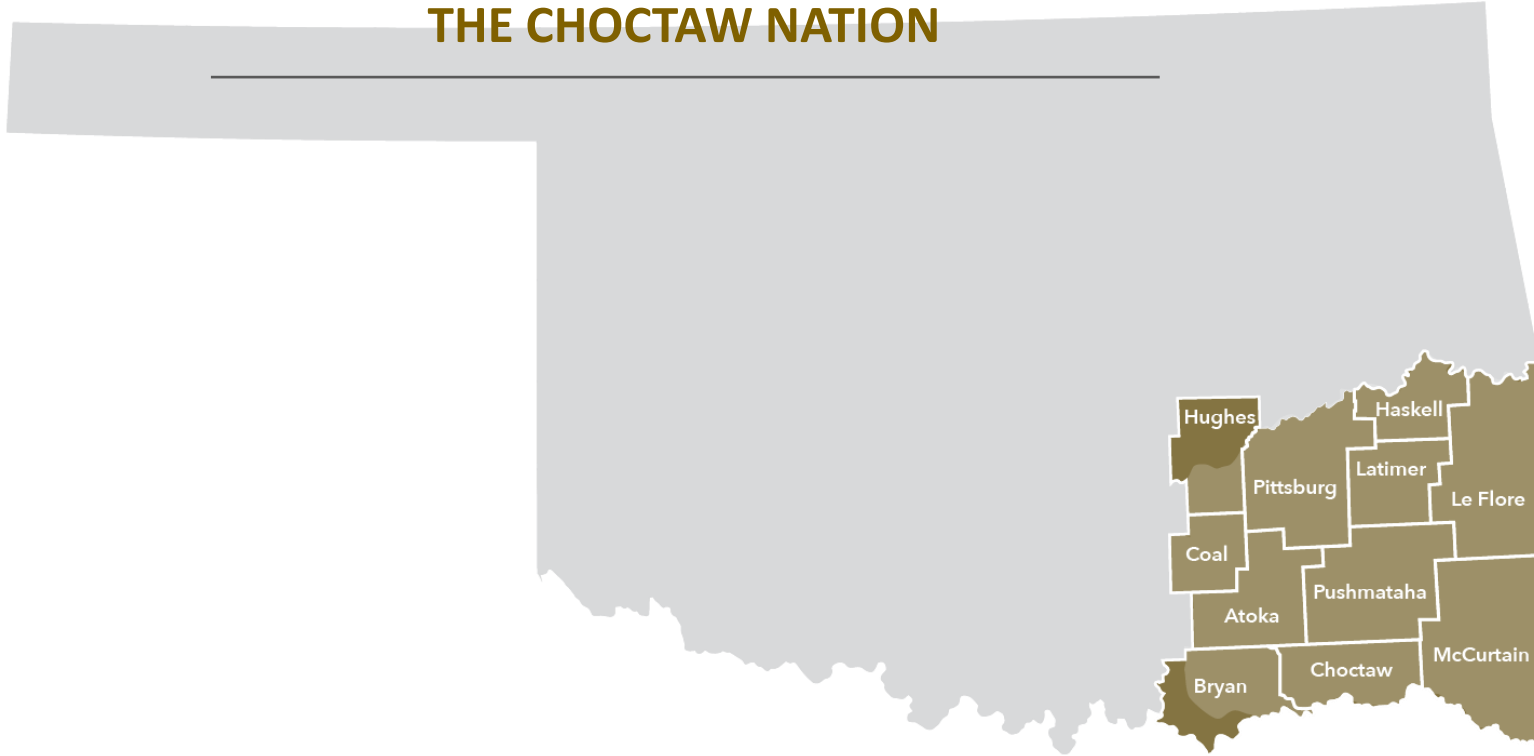
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emerging Aviation Activities

Sept 28, 2021

James L Grimsley
Executive Director – Advanced Technology Initiatives



THE CHOCTAW NATION



The Choctaw Nation consists of 10½ counties in the southeastern part of Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation is bounded on the east by the State of Arkansas, on the south by the Red River, on the north by the South Canadian, Canadian and Arkansas Rivers. The western boundary generally follows a line slightly west of Durant, then due north to the South Canadian River.



THE CHOCTAW NATION





May 2018: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma selected as only tribal government to participate in the FAA UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP).

October 2020: Choctaw Nation started the FAA BEYOND program as the UAS IPP ended. BEYOND program is 4 years.

Choctaw Nation Selected to Participate in FAA Drone Program Known as UASIPP

by STACY HUTTO

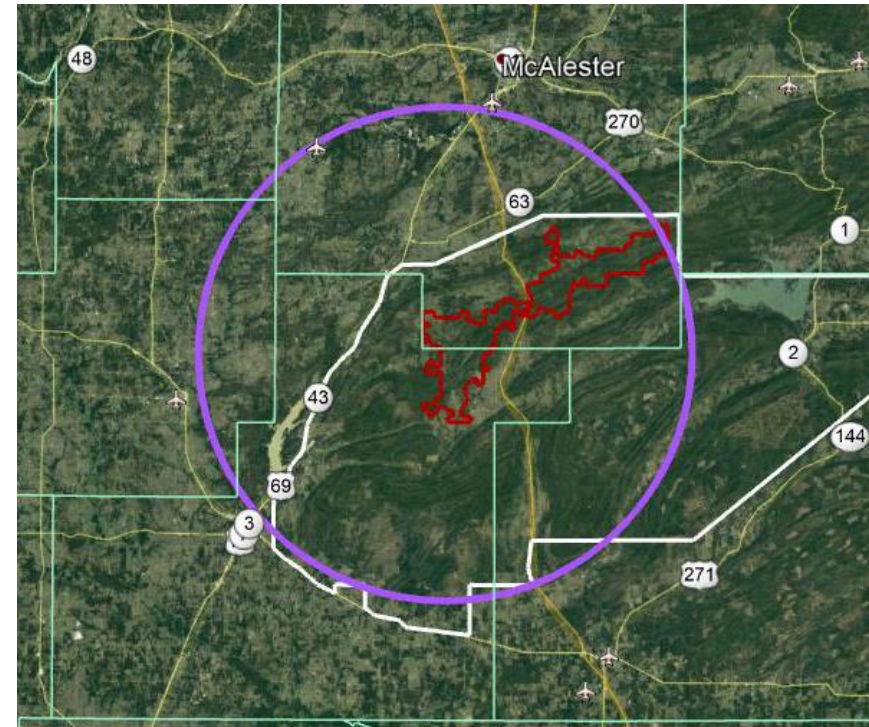


Chief Gary Patton and representatives from the City of San Diego, California; Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority, Herndon, Virginia; Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka, Kansas; Lee County Mosquito Control District, Ft. Myers, Florida; Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, Memphis Tennessee; North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, North Carolina; North Dakota Department of Transportation, Bismarck, North Dakota; The City of Reno, Nevada; and the University of Alaska - Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska learned they had been chosen for the initial Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or drone, Integration Pilot Program, or UASIPP, when U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao made the announcement on Wednesday, May 9.



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emerging Aviation Technology Test Center

- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) is the third largest federally-recognized Native American tribe in the United States.
- CNO is constructing an advanced aviation testing center located on 44,000+ acres of tribally-owned land in Southeastern Oklahoma.
- The test range is 25 miles long and can support a variety of testing scenarios for emerging aviation technology such as safe beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations of unmanned aircraft and rapid access to flight testing for electric vertical take-off or landing (eVTOL) systems.
- CNO is making considerable investments in infrastructure (buildings, landing facilities, ground-based radar, communications links, etc.) to support a variety of test activities.
- The CNO was the only tribal government selected to participate in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program (UASIPP) and is the only tribal government participating in the follow-on FAA BEYOND program.
- Package delivery, linear infrastructure inspection and weather research will be our focus during the BEYOND program.



- Red outline
 - Ranch boundaries
- White outline
 - Authorized airspace
- Purple outline
 - Radar coverage

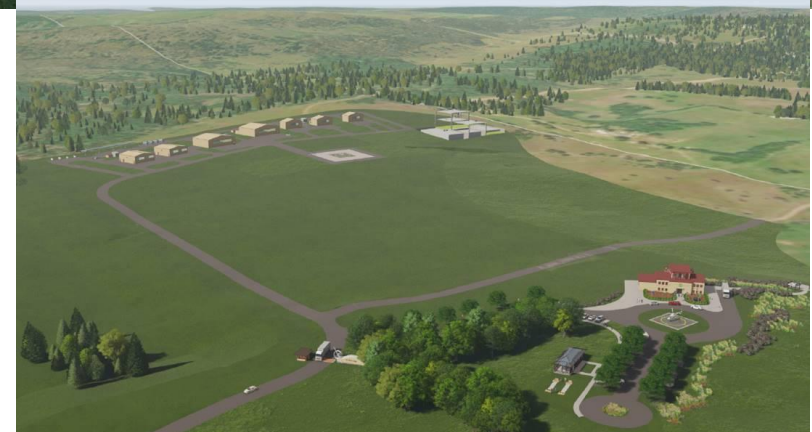


Ground-Based Radar System





Our Vision.....





THE CHOCTAW NATION

Choctaw Ranch is:

- 135 miles to Plano, TX
- 115 miles to Tulsa, OK
- 118 miles to Ft. Smith, AR
- 150 miles to Oklahoma City, OK
- 155 miles to DFW Airport





“Emerging technologies can be an ‘equalizer’ for quality of life and safety for rural and remote areas.”



National Rural Health Association Policy Brief

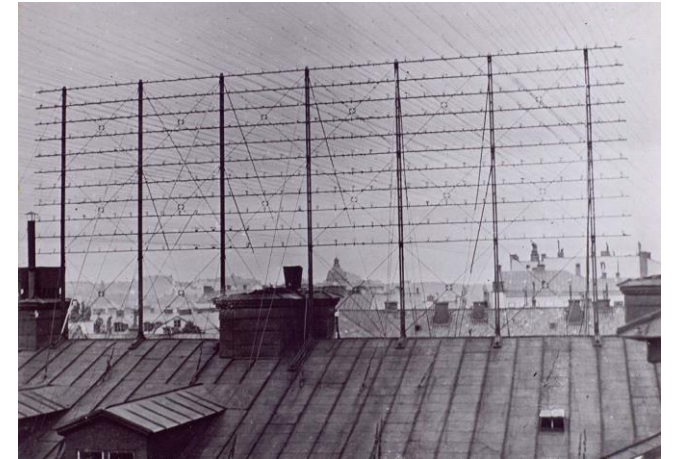


EMS Services in Rural America: Challenges and Opportunities

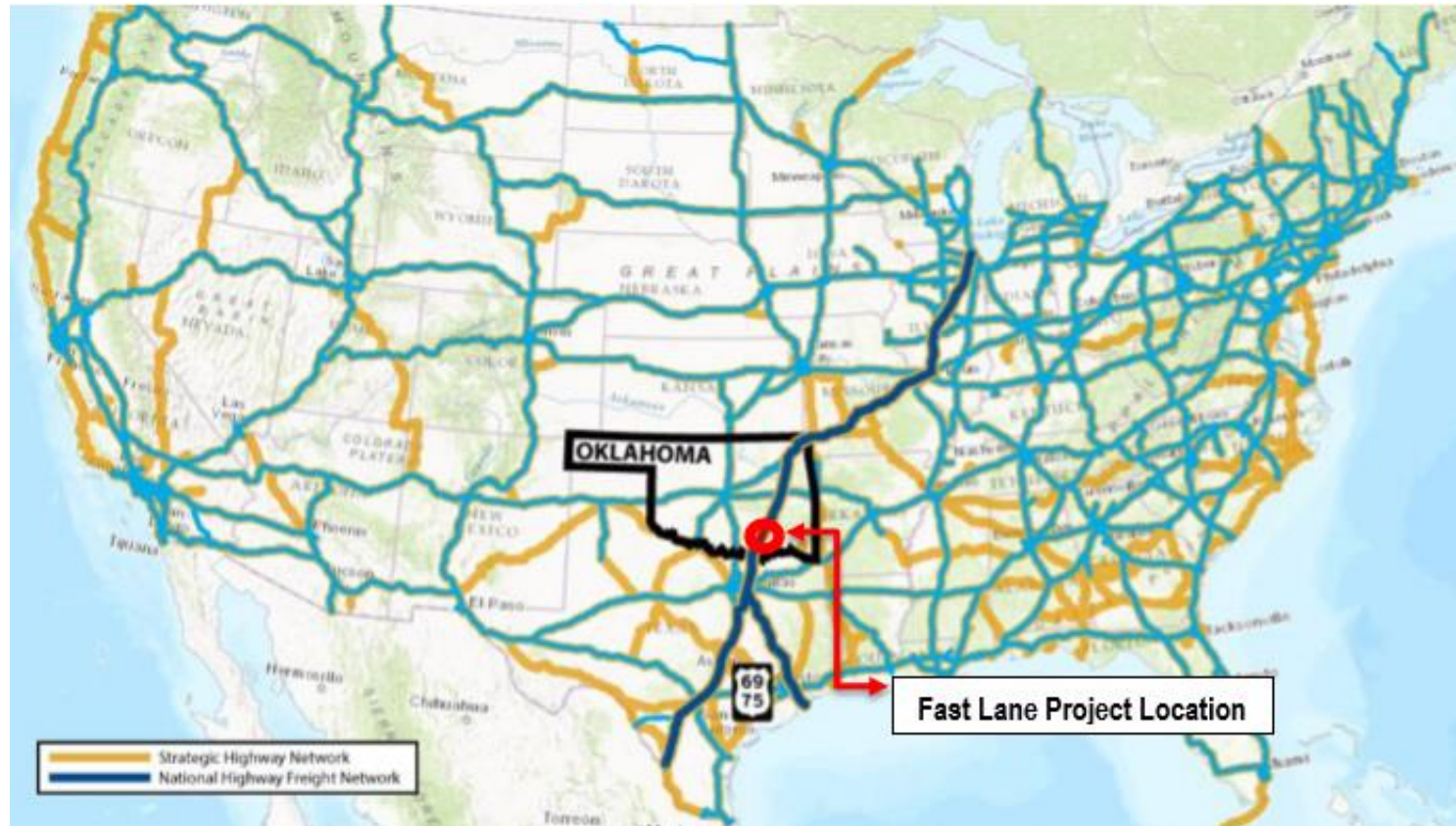
Nikki King, MHSA, Marcus Pigman, MHA, Sarah Huling, BS- ARRT, ARDMS,
and Brian Hanson, PhD

Executive Summary:

Across the United States, about 57 million people, or 18% of the total population, call rural communities home¹. While rural America may conjure idyllic images of family farms, the truth is far more staggering. Rural Americans, on average, tend to be older, sicker, and poorer². The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) concludes in a recent report that “percentages of potentially excess deaths among persons aged <80 years from the five leading causes were higher in nonmetropolitan areas than in metropolitan areas”³. 26.7% of rural children live in poverty, a nearly 7% increase in recent years due, for the most part, to declining average family incomes⁴. In addition to declining incomes, the gap in life expectancies between rural and urban Americans has also been widening. A study of data that ranged from 1969-2009 found that the average life expectancy of rural Americans was just 76.7, nearly 2.5 years below that of their urban counterparts⁵. However, in some rural regions, the difference between urban and rural life expectancies is as much as 20 years⁶. Despite this clear need for increased healthcare access in rural areas, only 9% of practitioners in the U.S. work in rural America⁷. Additionally, rural hospitals are facing closure crisis, with about 41 percent of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) facing negative operating margins, which further decreases possible points of care for people with a pronounced need^{8 9}.









Townhalls and Community Outreach

- First ever IPP community outreach meeting in the U.S. on July 31, 2018 in Atoka, OK
- Reached thousands of people through multiple townhall meetings, community outreaches, and many industry events





Our predictions...

- We see more activity in the near-term with piloted/crewed eVTOL & AAM systems
 - Clearer regulatory path to operations
 - Can be accommodated much easier in the NAS
- UAS (and especially small UAS) will still require a few years before we can see regular expanded and advanced operations (BVLOS, etc.)
 - Several rulemaking efforts must be completed first



Benefits of Emerging Aviation Technology for Rural and Remote Areas

- Our ground transportation network will be increasingly more difficult to expand and sustain in the future
- Whereas infrastructure expansions such as rural broadband are accelerating, ground transportation infrastructure is not.
- “Democratization” of eVTOL can greatly benefit rural, remote and developing areas.

An aerial photograph of a herd of bison in a wetland landscape. A pond is on the left, and a dirt road runs horizontally across the middle. The background features rolling hills under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid in white on the upper half of the image.

Yakoke! (“Thank you!”)

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