Air Operations at NDOW

Current Air Fleet

- N1FG – Cessna 206 – Minden
  - 1979, 4,657 hrs
- N2FG – Bell Jet Ranger 206 BIII – Minden
  - 1978, 15,800 hrs
- N3FG – Bell Jet Ranger 206 BIII – Elko
  - 1983, 10,358 hrs

- Maintenance
  - Currently, N2FG is undergoing substantial rework

Use

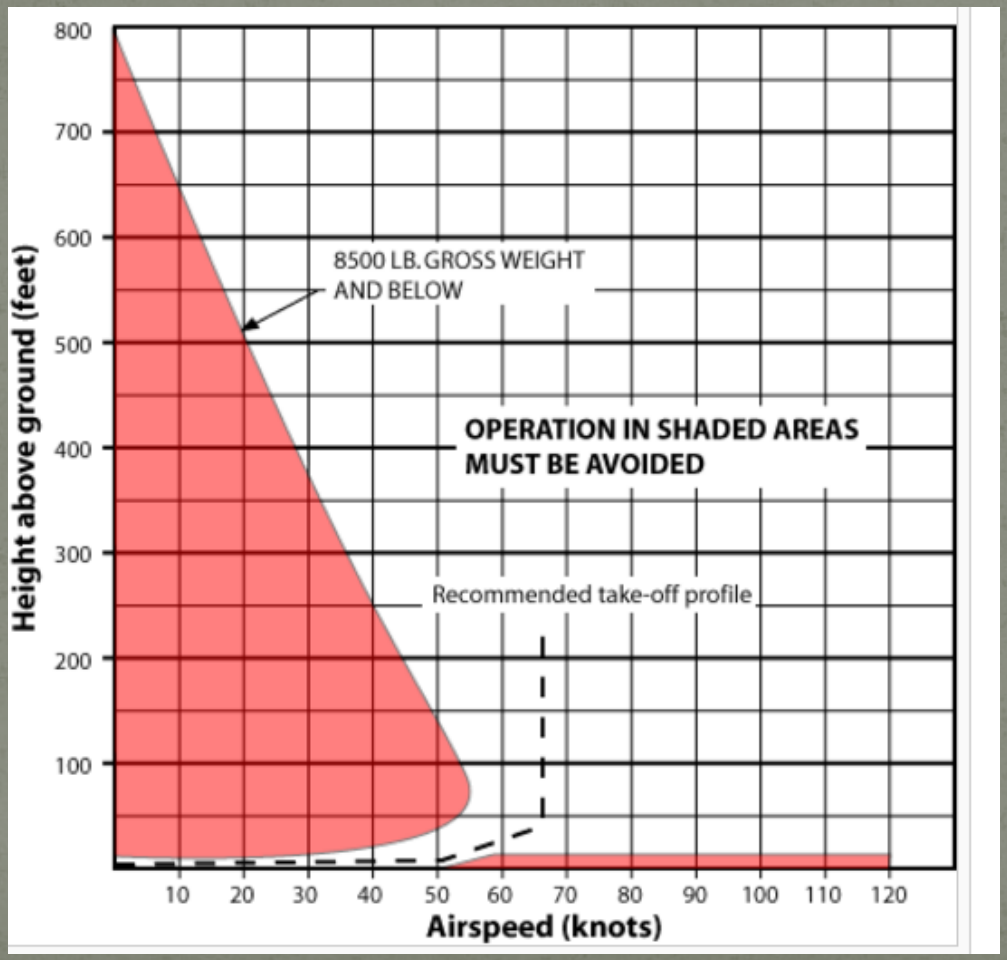
- N1FG – Used <50 hours/year

- N2FG and N3FG – about 1200 hours/year
  - Game survey
  - Diversity survey
  - Guzzler support
  - Other support operations

Plans for update

- Dispose of N1FG
  - Contract fixed-wing flights
  - Costs more to maintain seldom used aircraft
- Update N2FG with newer equipment from N3FG
  - Engine and parts
- Dispose of N3FG
- Replace N3FG with a newer, more powerful ship

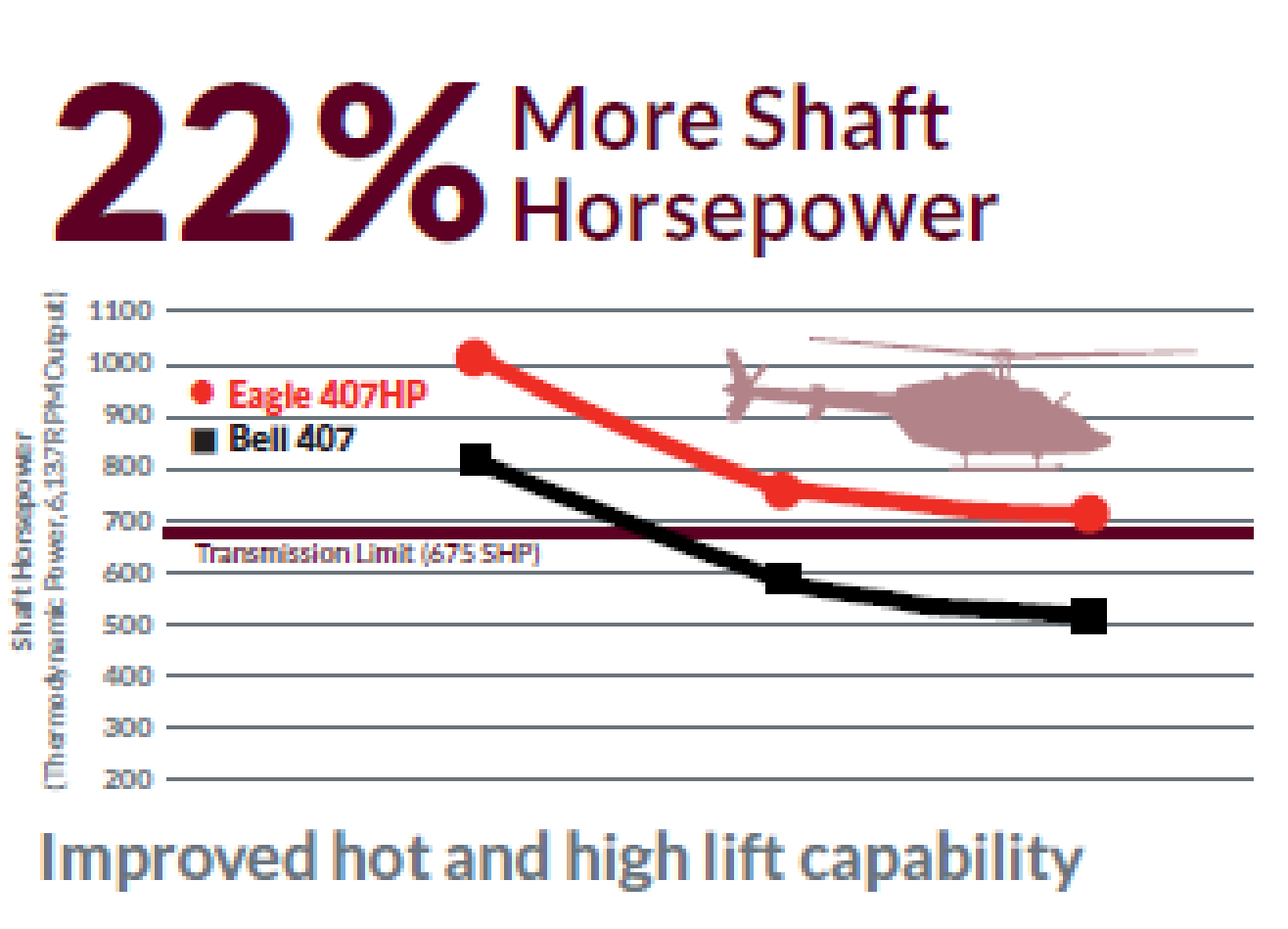
Helicopter operations



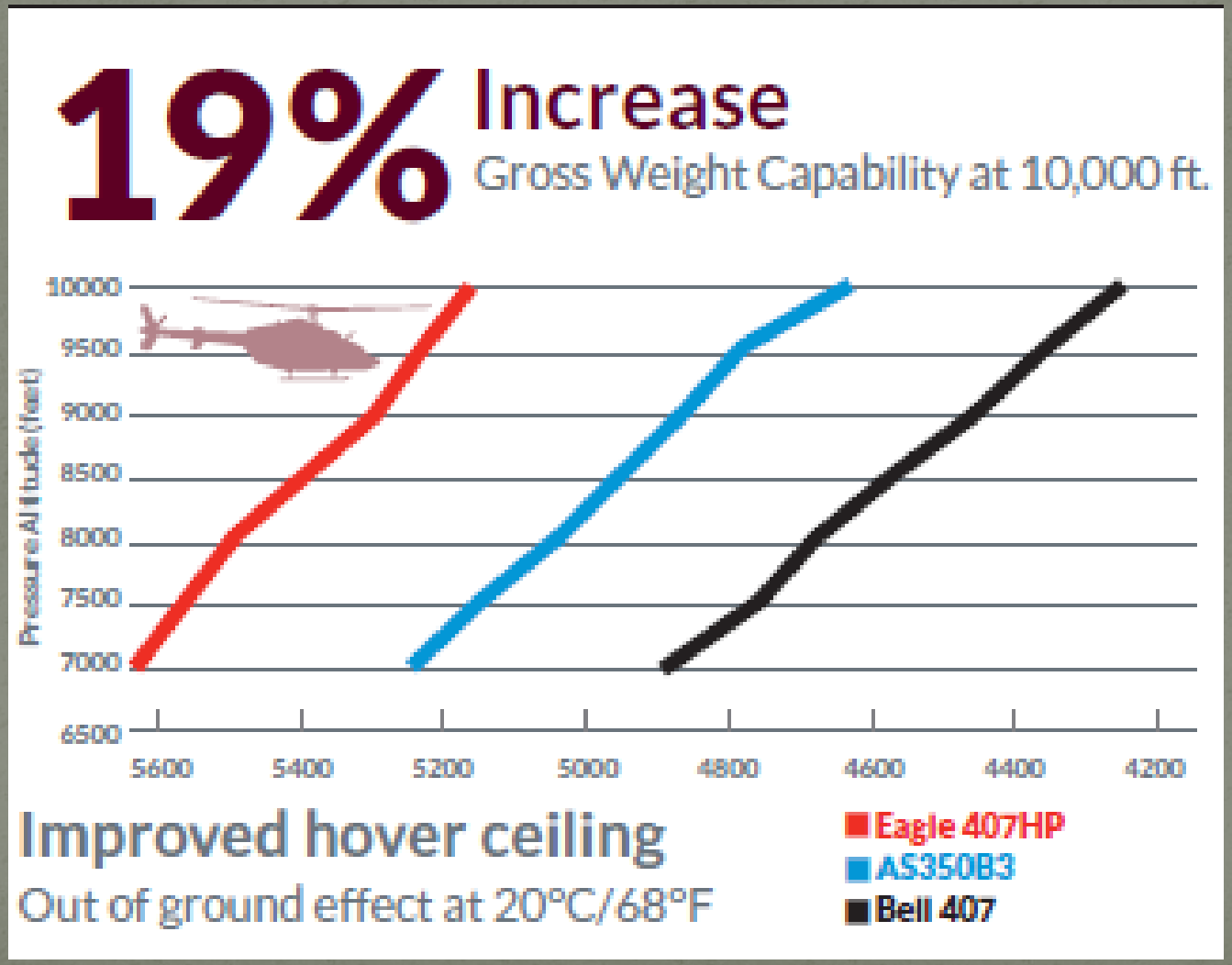
Proposed replacement – an example

EAGLE 407 HP

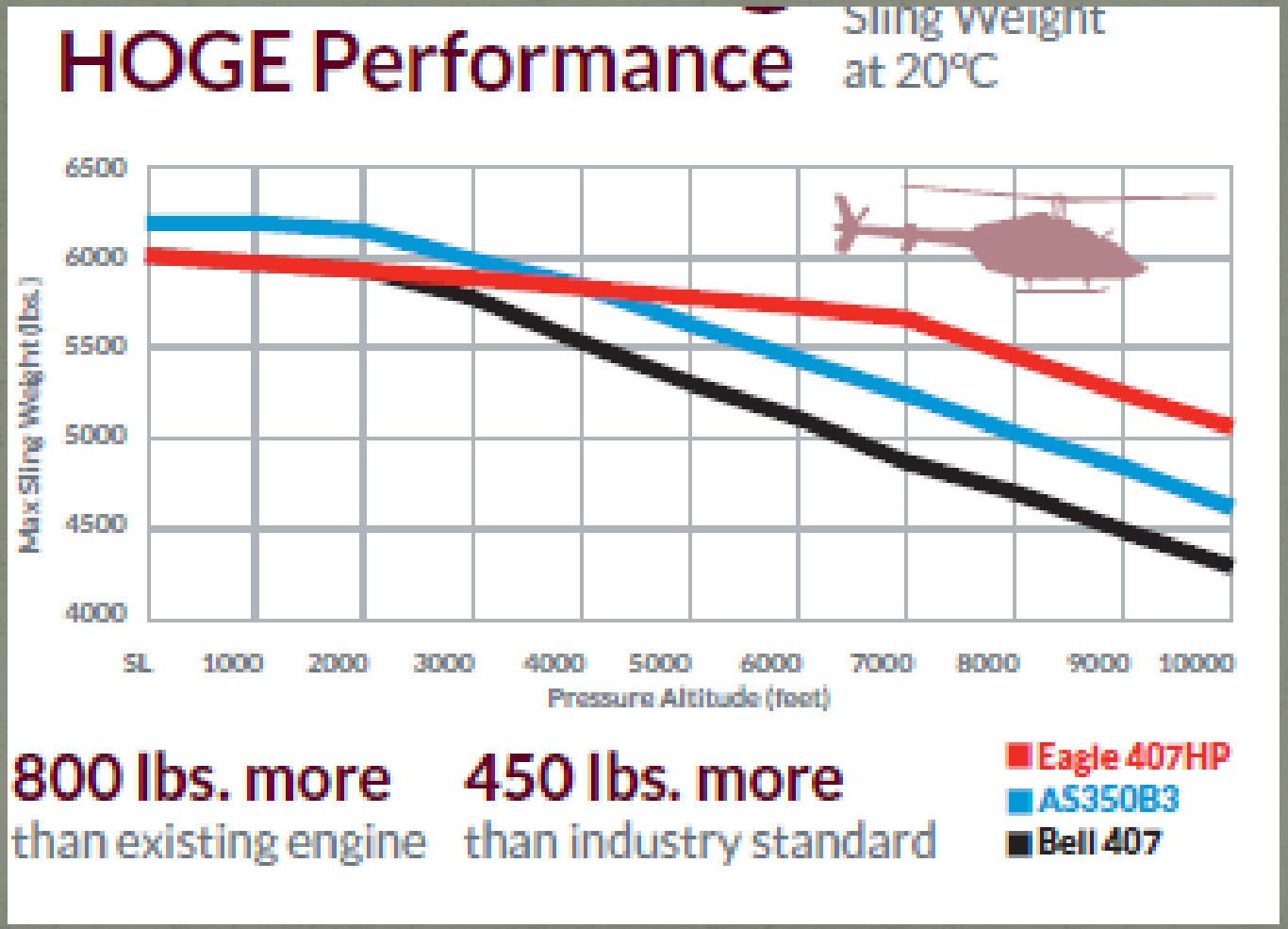
Performance - Horsepower



Performance – Hover ceiling



Performance – Hover Out of Ground Effect



Performance – Fuel efficiency

- 407HP roughly equivalent to 206
  - $450–500/hr
  - 35–38 gallons/hr jet fuel
- Consistent with other wildlife agencies involved in similar work at similar elevations
- Far more powerful and capable of wildlife survey work, less ferry time, ease of maneuvering

Estimated costs

- $2.4–2.8 million
  - Eligible for federal aid funding (75%)
  - Seeking support for state match through many wildlife conservation organizations, including (partial list):
    - NBU Reno
    - NBU Foundation
    - NBU Fallon
    - NBU Midas
    - Elko Bighorns
    - SCI Nevada
    - Nevada Muleys
    - Chukar Foundation

Intent

- Pursue acquisition in FY 2017
- Pursue lease effective in March 2016
  - Trial before purchase

Questions?