



ABENAKI NATION
NULHEGAN ~ MEMPHREMAGOG

Tribal Mailing Address
156 Bacon Drive ~ Shelburne, VT 05482

Physical Tribal Address Only
1366 May Farm Road ~ Barton ~ VT 05822

December 21st, 2016

Subject: Morton Policy regarding possession of Eagle Feathers and other Migratory Birds extended to the Abenaki People.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service has entered into an agreement with the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe, Elnu Abenaki Tribe, and the Koasek of the Koas Abenaki Tribe to extend the 1975 Morton Policy to our citizens.

This agreement allows for any citizen that has a valid issued Tribal Identification Card to “possess, carry, use, wear, give, loan, or exchange among other Indians, without compensation, all federally protected birds, as well as their parts or feathers.” Abenaki citizens may acquire from the wild (without compensation and without disturbing any birds or nests) naturally molted or fallen feathers or parts; give or loan (without compensation) feathers or parts to other Abenaki citizens or members of federally recognized tribes; exchange (without compensation) feathers or parts with other Abenaki citizens or members of federally recognized tribes; travel domestically with feathers or parts; travel internationally with feathers or parts if they obtain and comply with necessary permits; and provide (without compensation, except for labor) feathers or parts to other Abenaki citizens or craftspeople who are Abenaki citizens or members of federally recognized tribes to be fashioned into objects for use in Indian religious or cultural activities.

The Department of the Interior’s still has the rights to continue to enforce against all persons (including the Abenaki) those Federal laws prohibiting the killing, buying (including barter for items of value) or selling of eagles, migratory birds, or endangered species, as well as those laws prohibiting the buying or selling of the parts or feathers of such birds and animals. This agreement does not extend the ability to every citizen to apply to the Eagle Repository for feathers which are afforded to citizens of Federally Recognized Tribes. This agreement will be terminated when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revises or rescinds the Morton Policy as it pertains to State Recognized Tribes within the next 5 years. To get these protections, the Abenaki covered under this agreement agreed not to bring suit against the United States or any Federal Agency regarding policies, regulations, or other actions concerning the possession of bird feathers or parts while the agreement is in force.

Please retain a copy of this letter for your records. If you have any trouble, please contact your tribal leadership who has a signed copy of the original agreement which can be produced to Law Enforcement Officers or the Fish and Wildlife Services as needed.

Don Stevens, Chief
Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation
www.abenakitribe.org

The Nulhegan Band of Coosuk – Abenaki Nation is recognized in the State of Vermont as an Indian Tribe per House Bill 85 and per Statute Title. 1. Chapter 23. V.S.A. § 854