



Possession of Eagle Feathers and Parts by Native Americans

Eagles are directly protected under two Federal laws: the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These laws generally prohibit the possession, use, and sale of eagle feathers and parts as well as a number of other activities.

Such restrictions help ensure the future viability of eagles in the wild. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, however, has long recognized the religious and cultural significance of eagles to Native Americans and works to accommodate these special needs.

The Service operates the National Eagle Repository as a clearinghouse for eagles and eagle parts to provide Native Americans with eagle feathers for religious use. The Repository collects dead eagles salvaged by Federal and State agencies, zoos, and other organizations. Enrolled members of federally recognized tribes (as established under the Federally Recognized Tribal List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. Section 479a, 108 Stat. 4791) may obtain a permit from the Service authorizing them to receive and possess eagle feathers and parts from the Repository. Permit applications must include certification of tribal enrollment from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Because demand is high, waiting periods exist.

Native Americans may also legally possess eagle feathers and parts acquired through certain other means. Such items include any owned before eagles were first protected by Federal law (1940 for bald eagles, and 1962 for golden eagles) and feathers and parts passed down within a family or received as gifts from other Native Americans.

Native Americans may wear feathers legally in their possession or make them into religious or cultural items

for their own or tribal use. They may transfer feathers to tribal craftsmen to be fashioned into such objects; no money may be received for the feathers, but craftsmen may be compensated for their work.

Native Americans may give feathers or other eagle items as gifts to other Native Americans and may hand them down within their families. They may not, however, give them to non-Native Americans.

No person — including Native Americans — may kill or capture eagles without a permit from the Service. Nor may anyone buy, sell, barter, trade, import, or export eagle feathers or items made from them. These prohibitions cover all feathers and parts, including those that “pre-date” Federal protections and others that are legally possessed. (Native Americans, however, can obtain permits to travel overseas with eagle items for religious use.)

Service law enforcement efforts focus on the illegal take and commercial exploitation of eagles by anyone attempting to profit at the expense of these birds. Service officers who encounter individuals with noncommercial quantities of eagle feathers that are being used as personal or religious items will generally take no action if the individuals possess a valid Service permit or reasonably demonstrate that they are enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe. The production of a certificate of enrollment card would be one way for individuals to easily document their tribal affiliation, but this is not a legal requirement. An individual’s possession of such a card would, of course, tend to facilitate the resolution of any questions about the legality of his or her ownership and personal use of eagle feathers.



For More Information

If you have questions about possession and use of eagle feathers and parts, please contact:

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS-3000
Arlington, Virginia 22203
Phone: 703- 358-1949
Email: lawenforcement@fws.gov**

Additional information on how Native Americans may acquire eagle feathers and parts from the Service is available from the agency’s Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices or by contacting:

**National Eagle Repository
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Building 128
Commerce City, Colorado 80022
Phone: 303-287-2110**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS EAGLE PARTS FOR A NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS PURPOSES PERMIT



Recognizing the significance of eagles to Native Americans, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) established the National Eagle Repository (Repository) in the early 1970s to provide Native Americans with bald and golden eagle remains for religious purposes. The Service requires a Federal Native American Religious Purposes Permit Application/Order Form be completed and submitted to the Repository for members of United States Federally Recognized Tribes to receive eagle parts.

As of October 1, 2021, the Repository processes all Eagle Parts for Native American Religious Purposes Permit applications, whereas previously some of these functions were handled through the Service's Migratory Bird Program. The Repository now processes all new applications, amendments (e.g., name changes, changes to contact information), and reorder forms. Tribal members will no longer need to submit a permit application to regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices and then to the Repository.

Before requesting a permit, please review the following regulations:

- [Title 50 Parts 10, 13, 21, 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)
- [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#)

Who may obtain eagle remains from the Repository?

Only enrolled members of United States Federally Recognized Tribes, who are 18 years of age or older, may apply to receive and possess eagles (including parts and feathers) from the Repository for religious or cultural purposes.

How do I request these items from the Repository?

Applicants can apply for the Eagle Parts for Native American Religious Purposes Permit (Form 3-200-15a) either electronically or by mail via a hard copy form that is mailed to the Repository at the following address:

National Eagle Repository
6550 Gateway Road, RMA, Bldg. 128
Commerce City, CO 80022

The Permit Application and Order Form can be found **online** on the Service's ePermits website: [Eagle Parts for Native American Religious Purposes](#) [epermits.fws.gov]. If submitted electronically through the Service's ePermits website, the permit application will go directly to the Repository. If there are any issues with the permit, a Repository staff member will work directly with the Tribal member to make the necessary corrections.

- **For First Time Applicants:**
 - Fill out [Form 3-200-15a \(Rev. 02/2023\)](#) (Permit Application / Order Form) online at Eagle Parts for Native American Religious Purposes [epermits.fws.gov] or request a hard copy form from the Repository.
 - By phone: 303-287-2110,
 - By email to: repository@fws.gov,
 - By mailing in a request for the form to: National Eagle Repository
6550 Gateway Road, Bldg. 128, Commerce City, CO 80022
 - Have your tribal enrollment officer complete the section of the form titled "Certificate of Enrollment in a U.S. Federally Recognized Tribe" (page 3).
 - Submit all documentation directly to the Repository either electronically or by mail.

- The Repository will process your permit application and, if approved, issue you a permit to possess eagles, parts, and feathers for religious purposes.
- **For Reorders:**
 - Fill out [Form 3-200-15a \(Rev. 02/2023\)](#) (Permit Application / Order Form).
 - Submit the completed form directly to the Repository either electronically or by mail.

NOTE:

- You may only have one pending permit application or order on file at any given time.
- The Repository will notify you that your application /order has been received.

What items may be ordered from the Repository?

We only provide parts equaling one whole eagle. So, orders may include one of the following:

- A whole bald or golden eagle.
- Equivalent parts of one whole eagle:
 - A pair of wings
 - A whole tail
 - A head
 - A pair of talons
 - A trunk (torso)
- A loose feather set (cannot be added to a whole bird, pair of wings, or tail order).

NOTE: Please be aware that all orders come from wild deceased eagles and therefore, the condition of the eagle and feathers are variable.

How many loose feathers may an individual request?

There are two types of loose feather requests: 10 quality loose feathers or 20 miscellaneous loose feathers. You may request either 10 quality loose feathers or 20 miscellaneous loose feathers, but not both. We strive to provide and match the best quality feathers available.

- **10 Quality Loose Feather orders include**
 - Eight wing and two tail feathers (feathers are hand-picked for quality):
 - Due to limited supply, we can only provide two tail feathers per order.
 - Due to limited supply, we can only provide two plumes per order.
 - Primary and secondary wing feathers will be selected equally from the left wing and the right wing unless otherwise requested.
 - Primary feathers (#1-3) (also known as spike feathers) may be utilized.
- **20 Miscellaneous Loose Feather orders include**
 - Twenty assorted feathers (feather condition may vary in quality):
 - Includes various feather types such as primaries, secondaries, tail, and plumes.
 - A maximum of 20 plumes may be requested.

How does a school official request eagle feathers for graduation?

- A school official must be an enrolled member of a U.S. Federally Recognized Tribe and only one order per applicant may be pending at a time. This includes orders placed for personal use.
- To expedite orders, we recommend applying for 20 miscellaneous loose feathers.
- Upon receipt of feathers, applicants may reorder throughout the year until the needed number of feathers have been acquired.
- Please order early in the school year to ensure receipt of all needed feathers.

- Graduation requests follow the first come, first served policy.
- Please write “GRADUATION” on the order form to ensure that the Repository processes the order accordingly.

How do I contact the Repository to update my contact information?

- [Email the Repository](mailto:repository@fws.gov) at repository@fws.gov and include “Account Update” in the subject line.
- Call the Repository at: 303-287-2110
- Write us at:

National Eagle Repository
6550 Gateway Road, Bldg. 128
Commerce City, CO 80022

- If the repository is unable to reach an applicant, the order will be put on hold and be filed in the order it was received on the waitlist.

How will I be notified if my order is ready to be shipped?

- Applicants will receive a verification letter in the mail or by email (if provided) prior to shipment.
- To ensure proper receipt of the items, the verification letter must be signed and returned to the Repository before the request will be shipped.
- The expected delivery date will be notated on the verification letter.

How long does it take the Repository to fill orders?

Wait times for orders will vary. Please note that:

- There is a high demand for eagles (including parts and feathers) and supplies are limited.
- The time needed to fill requests will vary depending on the items ordered, supply, and demand over time.
- The [Current Waiting Periods](#) are updated online on a quarterly basis (January, April, July, and October) or can be requested from the Repository at any time.
- **Estimated waiting periods may be longer or shorter than predicted for all eagles and parts due to the demand and supply logistics.**

Example waiting periods are provided below:

Item Requested:	Immature Bald Eagle	Adult Bald Eagle	Immature Golden Eagle	Adult Golden Eagle
Whole Bird	1 year, 3 months	1 year, 2 months	9 years 3 months	5 years 5 months
Wings and Tail	9 months	7 months	5 years 9 months	4 years 2 months
Whole Tail	7 months	7 months	7 years 10 months	4 years 6 months
Pair of Wings	4 months	4 months	2 years 5 months	1 year 11 months
Loose Feathers				
10 Quality	11 months	11 months	4 years	4 years
20 Miscellaneous	11 months	11 months	6 months	6 months
Other Items/Parts	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

How do I check the status of my order?

- [Email the Repository](mailto:repository@fws.gov) at repository@fws.gov and include “Status Check” in the subject line, or
- Call the Repository at: 303-287-2110.

Please contact us for any assistance or if you need a copy of your permit.

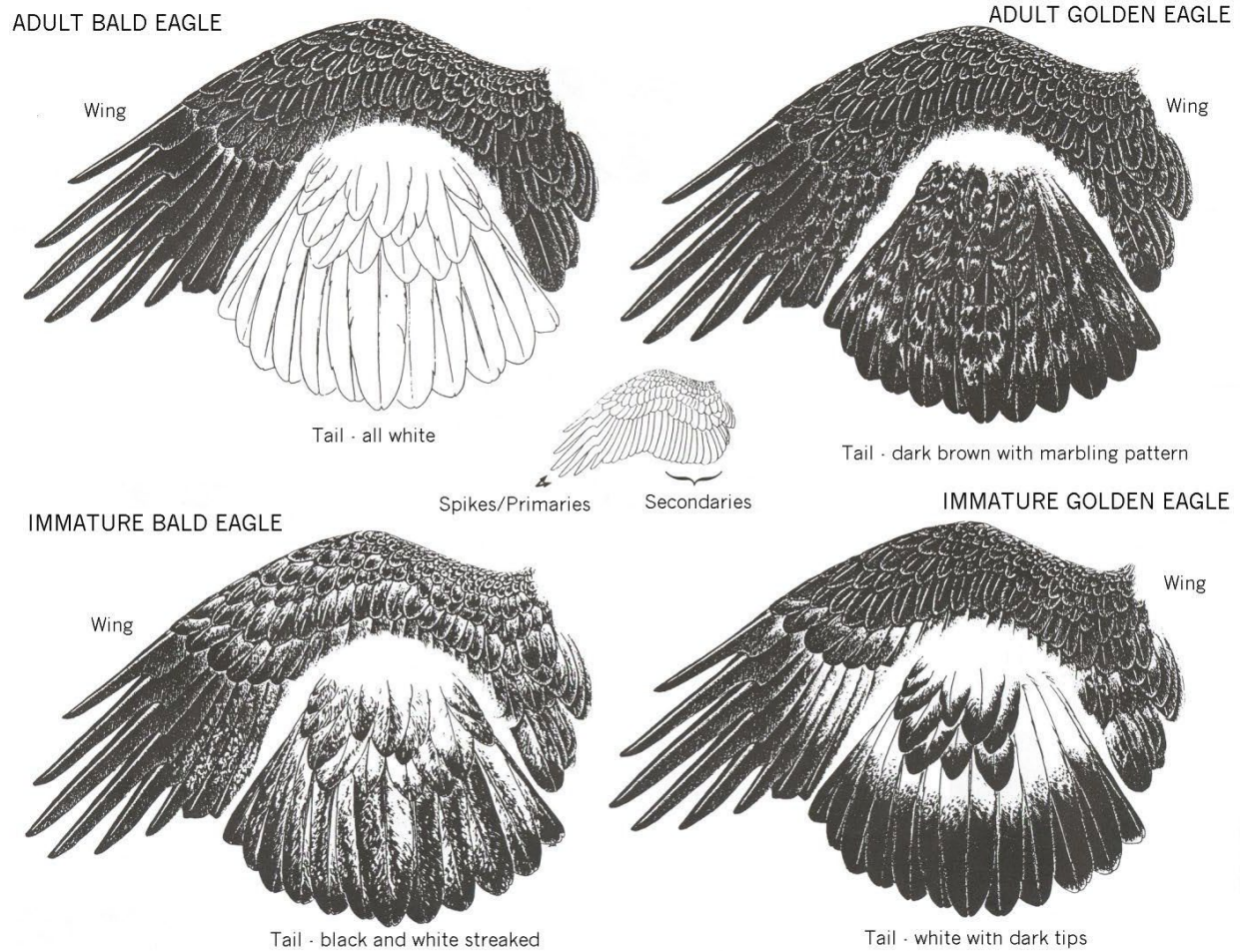


Figure 1: Depiction of differences in patterns of the wing and tail sections of various age and species of Bald and Golden Eagles.

PERMIT APPLICATION / ORDER FORM
Eagle Parts for Native American Religious Purposes
(Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 50 CFR 22.60)



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository
6550 Gateway Road, Bldg. 128
Commerce City, CO 80022

BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS FORM,
Please see [Instructions](#) and
[Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Type of Order: First Order Reorder (Limited to one pending order at any given time)
 Inmate

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Suffix (Sr., Jr., etc.)	
Physical address (Street address; Apartment #, Suite #; no P.O. Boxes)							
City				State		Zip code/Postal code	
Mailing Address (if different than physical address)							
City				State		Zip code/Postal code	
Date of Birth		Permit Number: <i>(Not applicable for 1st order)</i>					
Primary Phone Number		Secondary Phone Number			Work Phone Number		
Email Address		Contact Person (if you have no phone)			Phone Number of Contact Person		
Full Name of U.S. Federally Recognized Tribe					Enrollment Number		
Inmate Specific Data: New Incarceration: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Inmate Number		Institution		Chaplain	Chaplain Phone Number

DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED MATERIAL:

Species:		Age:		Section 1: If a whole eagle is <u>not</u> needed, please request only the parts necessary for your religious purposes.		Section 2: Loose Feather orders cannot be added to whole eagle, wings, or tail orders.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	Items:		Loose Feather Request: (Please select ONE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden	<input type="checkbox"/> Immature	<input type="checkbox"/> Whole Eagle	<input type="checkbox"/> Wings Only	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Quality (8 Wing, 2 Tail)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Miscellaneous (Lower Quality, mixed)		
Please select ONE in each category above.		<input type="checkbox"/> Wings and Tail	<input type="checkbox"/> Whole Tail Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Include Plumets	<input type="checkbox"/> Include Plumets		
				<input type="checkbox"/> Plumets Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Plumets Only		

Section 3: Parts cannot be added to whole eagle orders.

Parts to be included with order or ordered separately: Head Feet Trunk (body minus the head, feet, wings, and tail)
 Other: (Please Specify) _____

I hereby certify that I am requesting eagle items for religious purposes and that the information submitted herein is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that making a false statement can make me subject to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Signature: _____ Date of Signature: _____

Your order is not complete after filling out this page.

For both first-time orders and reorders, please complete question 1 in Section E on page 2.

Also fill out the Certification of Enrollment in a U.S. Federally Recognized Tribe form on page 3.

===== OFFICIAL USE ONLY =====

Date Request Rcvd at NER ___/___/___ Initials: _____
Date Request Complete ___/___/___ Initials: _____
Date Permit Issued: ___/___/___ Initials: _____

There is no processing fee for this permit.

EAGLE PARTS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS PURPOSES
(Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 50 CFR 22.60)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository

NOTE: A Federal Migratory Bird Eagle Parts and Feathers Request Form will authorize Native Americans to use eagles, parts, and feathers for religious and cultural purposes, including healing, marriage, and naming ceremonies. Recognizing the significance of eagles to Native Americans, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) established the National Eagle Repository (Repository) in the early 1970s to provide Native Americans with the eagles, parts, and feathers of Golden and Bald eagles for religious purposes.

Applicants should review Title 50 Parts 10, 13, 22.60 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Morton Policy, DOJ Eagle Feather Policy, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Applicants are responsible for reviewing and understanding these regulations before requesting and accepting a permit. Please read "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" and the pertinent regulations before signing and submit the application. Please provide the information requested below. If additional information needs to be provided that does not fit in the designated spaces, add additional sheets to your application submission. You may use as many additional sheets as needed. Please number pages accordingly using the page number box provided at the bottom of the sheet, and the corresponding question number.

You should be as thorough and specific as possible in your responses. Incomplete applications will be returned.

SECTION E.

Question

1) **Disqualification factor. Have you, the permittee, or your client (if a broker on behalf of your client):**

- **Been assessed a civil penalty or convicted of any criminal provision of any statute or regulation relating to the activity for which the application is filed (50 CFR 13.21(b) (1):**
- **Been convicted, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, for a felony violation of the Lacey Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. (50 CFR 13.21 (c)(1)):**
- **Had a permit revoked within the last five years for willfully violating any Federal or State statute or regulation, or any Indian tribal law or regulation, or any law or regulation of any foreign country, which involves a violation of the conditions of the permit or of the laws or regulations governing the permitted activity (50 CFR 13.28 (a)(1)) or failing to correct deficiencies that were the cause of a permit suspension within 60 days (50 CFR 13.28 (a)(2)).**

Answer "yes" if ANY of the events listed immediately above have occurred. Answer "no" if none of the events listed immediately above have occurred.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

If you answered "Yes", provide: a) the individual's name; b) date of conviction, civil penalty assessment or revocation; c) charge(s), or reason(s) for revocation; d) location of the incident; e) court (if applicable, ticket, federal/state/tribal court etc.); and f) legal action taken for each violation (i.e., fine, incarceration, probation...). Please be aware that a "Yes" response does not automatically disqualify you from getting a permit.

2) **I acknowledge that I have read the form [Instructions](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and will forward all necessary documentation to the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository, 6550 Gateway Road, Bldg. 128, Commerce City, CO 80022. I have also filled out all fields and questions in this application. Check this box to acknowledge:**

**CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT IN A U.S.
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE**
(Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 50 CFR 22.60)
(By Certifying Tribal Official)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository



Note: Completed Certificate of Enrollment must be attached to process application if applying for First Order.

EAGLE PERMIT APPLICANT: *(Please print)*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Federal law protecting eagles. This law provides for Native American use of eagle feathers for religious purposes. Eagles and eagle feathers are accumulated by the Service's National Eagle Repository and made available to Native Americans.

Application for a permit to acquire eagle feathers requires certification that the requesting individual is an enrolled member of an Indian tribe that is **federally recognized** under the Federally Recognized Tribal List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 479a-1, 108 Stat. 4791 (1994). The certificate must be signed by the tribal official who is authorized to certify that an individual is a duly enrolled member of that tribe and must include the printed name and official title of that certifying official. (50 CFR 22.60)

To be completed by Certifying Tribal Official Only

I certify that _____ is an enrolled member of the
(Printed Full Name of Applicant)

_____, Enrollment # _____
(Full Name of U.S. Federally Recognized Tribe)

I understand that making a false statement can make me subject to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Printed name of certifying official: _____

Signature of Certifying Official: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Office phone no. _____

NOTE TO CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Please expedite this completed Certification of Enrollment to the applicant at the above address.

APPLICANT: Attach this completed certification to your Eagle Permit application and mail all pages to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Eagle Repository.

NOTICES

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authority: The information requested is authorized by the following: the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668), 50 CFR 22.60 the [Endangered Species Act \(16 U.S.C. 1531-1544\), 50 CFR 17](#); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), 50 CFR 21; the Wild Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916), 50 CFR 15; the Lacey Act: Injurious Wildlife (18 U.S.C. 42), 50 CFR 16; [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(TIAS 8249\), 50 CFR 23; General Provisions, 50 CFR 10; General Permit Procedures, 50 CFR 13](#); and Wildlife Provisions (Import/export/transport), 50 CFR 14.

Purpose: The collection of contact information is to verify the individual has an eligible permit to conduct activities that affect protected species. The information the individual provides helps the FWS monitor and report on protected species and assess the impact of permitted activities on the conservation and management of species and their habitats.

Routine Uses: The collected information may be used to verify an applicant's eligibility for a permit to conduct activities with protected wildlife; to provide the public and the permittees with permit related information; to monitor activities under a permit; to analyze data and produce reports to monitor the use of protected wildlife; to assess the impact of permitted activities on the conservation and management of protected species and their habitats; and to evaluate the effectiveness of the permit programs. More information about routine uses can be found in the System of Records Notice, Permits System, FWS-21.

Disclosure: The information requested in this form is voluntary. However, submission of requested information is required to process applications for permits authorized under the listed authorities. Failure to provide the requested information may be sufficient cause for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to deny the request.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service collects information necessary to monitor take and disposition of migratory birds, under the applicable laws governing the requested activity, for which a permit is requested, and to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974. Information requested in this form is purely voluntary. However, submission of requested information is required in order to process applications for permits authorized under the above laws. Failure to provide all requested information may be sufficient cause for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deny the request. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct, or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved this collection of information and assigned Control No. 1018-0167.

ESTIMATED BURDEN STATEMENT

We estimate public reporting for this collection of information averages:

Original submission - paper-based: 1 hour 30 minutes (reporting) and 30 minutes (recordkeeping)

Original submission - electronic: 2 hours 30 minutes (reporting) and 30 minutes (recordkeeping)

These estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the form to the Service Information Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or via email at Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please do not send your completed form to this address.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

For organizations, businesses, or individuals operating as a business (i.e., permittees not covered by the Privacy Act), we request that you identify any information that should be considered privileged and confidential business information to allow the Service to meet its responsibilities under FOIA. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "Business Confidential" at the top of the letter or page and each succeeding page and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary of the confidential information. The non-confidential summary and remaining documents may be made available to the public under FOIA [43 CFR 2.26 – 2.33].