



## 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.**

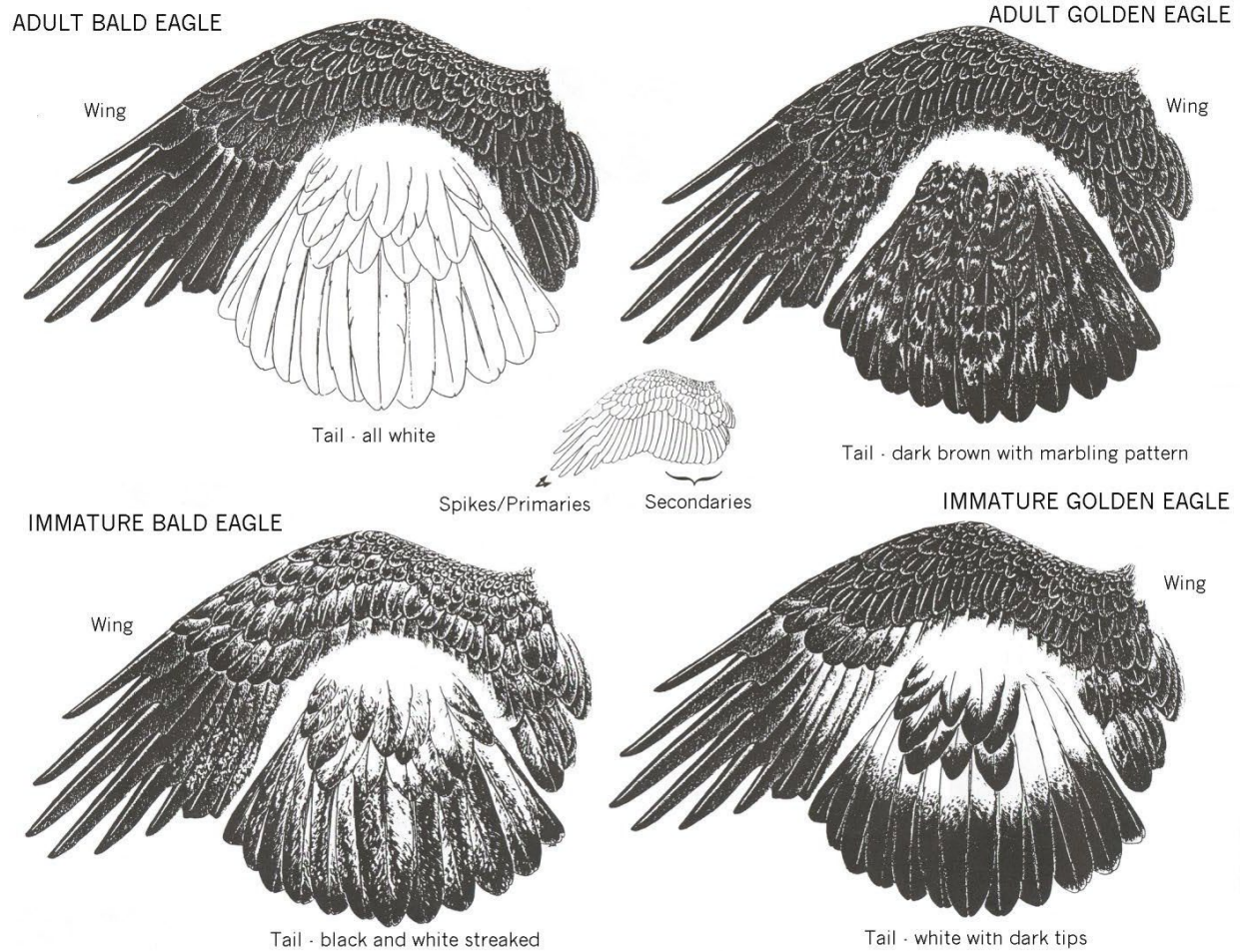
Example waiting periods are provided below:

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](mailto: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.**