



Tribal Liaisons for our Carlsbad and Palm Springs Offices

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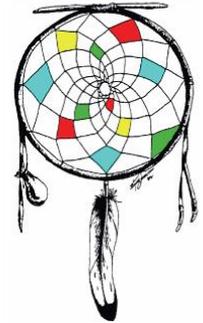
Tribal relations are considered government to government interactions and are an important responsibility for all our staff. Designating liaisons is intended to further our efforts to enhance our tribal relations in southern California.



Tribal Liaisons will:

- Be the first point of contact for any issue if Tribes don't know who to contact.
- Interoffice Coordination between Service staff, Divisions, and offices on Tribal issues.
- Organizing and attend the CFWO/PSFWO tribal coordination meetings.

Native American Policy



- **Presentation here on February 12, 2015 (afternoon session)**
- **Distributed early, Working Draft Native American Policy to all federally-recognized tribes, December 2014.**
- **Federal Register notice announcing draft policy was published August 3, 2015; 80 FR 46043.**
- **A notice re-opening the comment period for 30-days was published in the Federal Register on September 21 and is available at: <http://1.usa.gov/1FY7Gpj>. The public comment period was re-opened until October 21, 2015.**
- **We encourage Tribes to comment on the draft policy.**

The draft policy can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/draft510fw1.pdf>



The Service published a new policy in the Service Manual, 720 FW 6, Handling and Distribution of Bald and Golden Eagles and Parts.

The chapter establishes policy for Service employees for:

- Handling live, sick or injured bald and golden eagles, and
- Transferring dead eagles to the proper authorities and recipients while ensuring important information is collected and properly recorded.

The Eagle Handling and Distribution Handbook is an accompanying procedural guide that provides detailed information about steps to take when encountering dead, sick, or injured eagles or their parts.



Purpose and objectives of the policy and handbook are:

- Improving cumulative effects assessments and analysis, helping us and our partners to manage and sustain eagle populations more efficiently and effectively;
- **Increasing the number of dead eagles and eagle parts delivered to the National Eagle Repository (NER) for use in Native American religious ceremonies;** and
- More quickly identifying and rectifying potentially large eagle mortality sources, such as poisonings, disease, areas of common vehicle collisions, or areas of common electrocutions, etc.

You can find the policy here: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/720fw6.html>

The handbook is here: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/HandlingEaglesHB.pdf>



Migratory Bird Treat Act - Incidental Take

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement - May 26, 2015; 80 FR 30032

Develop a system to authorize incidental take of migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

This will allow us to manage project risk to reduce migratory bird take that is already occurring.

Comment Period closed July 27, 2015. Migratory Bird Program is reviewing the comments that were received and still working on the proposed rule.



Status of ESA Revised Regulations and New Policies

- FWS HQ working on drafting the final versions of the Critical Habitat regulations and 4(b)(2) exclusion Policy. Anticipate final later this year.
- Incidental Take Regulations have been issued.
- Definition of Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat: final expected later this year.
- Listing Petition Regulation changes - public comment closed September 18. Final rule expected later this year or early next year.
- Pre-listing Conservation Actions - early next year?

