



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
6550 Gateway Rd., Bldg. 128
Commerce City, CO 80022
National Eagle Repository

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R6

May 4, 2022

To: Federally Recognized Tribes

From: Dan Coil, SAC/OLE Region 6 and the National Eagle and Property Repository

Subject: Responding to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza with Respect to Eagles Processed by the National Eagle Repository

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Eagle Repository (NER) are monitoring an evolving outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Our highest priority is the safety of Tribal members and our staff. While extremely rare, we are taking diligent measures to ensure that no disease transmission occurs between infected eagles and humans.

Effective immediately, deceased eagles will be evaluated for signs of HPAI infection upon receipt by USFWS. Deceased eagles known to have previously displayed signs of potential infection (swimming or walking in circles, lethargy, unusual head movements or positioning), as well as eagles who have died in states with a high prevalence of HPAI, will not be accepted by the NER. Additionally, eagles showing no signs of infection will be tested upon arrival to the NER, and only birds with negative HPAI test results will be passed on to Tribal member permit applicants (*Eagle Parts for Native American Religious Purposes*) waiting in queue to receive their order (e.g., parts of/or whole eagles and/or feathers).

We are unable to estimate whether these changes will impact wait times for orders from the NER. Any changes to wait times will be communicated to Tribal member permit applicants and USFWS Tribal liaisons, as they are determined. Please contact the NER at repository@fws.gov with questions.

For more information, please visit [our website](#) and the website for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).