

## **Introduction for public**

1. You have entered the Liberty Wildlife Non-Eagle Feather Repository.
2. Liberty Wildlife is permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to accept, hold, and distribute feathers to Native Americans for religious and ceremonial purposes.
3. Liberty Wildlife in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service established the LWNEFR in 2010. (Since we started, we have filled and shipped approximately 5,500 orders).
4. The LWNEFR's mission is to provide Native Americans belonging to a Federally recognized tribe, with a legal source of non-eagle feathers for religious and ceremonial purposes, with two major goals.
5. First, support Native American culture by providing the non-eagle feathers needed to construct their religious, ceremonial, and dance regalia and implements used in their ceremonies.
6. Second, every year thousands of birds are taken illegally from the wild and sold on the black market. The LWNEFR is working to discourage the purchase of illegally harvested birds by providing a legal and no cost source of feathers, thus, helping to conserve our native bird populations.
7. The LWNEFR is a unique program in that it has both a cultural and conservation focus.
8. The LWNEFR is a national program, we have distributed feathers to Native Americans representing 247 tribes located in 46 different states.
9. The beauty of the LWNEFR Program is that it accomplishes all this by recycling – recycling feathers.

At this point if there are no questions, you can start showing and talking about the feathers on display. The public can pick up and touch feathers.

## **Informational bullets**

Religious rights, guaranteed by the American Indian Religious Act of 1978 (AIRA)

Working with Federally regulated species – protected by wildlife laws, the most prominent and effective is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

A Native American must be 18 years of age and belong to a federally recognized tribe. (A tribe that has a govt-to-govt relationship with the US).

The carcasses and feathers we distribute come from our own collection, but mostly permitted sources like, wildlife rehabilitators, state and federal wildlife agencies, zoos, museums, etc.

We receive carcass and feather donations from all over the U.S., from permitted sources.

We do not distribute eagle feathers; the US Fish and Wildlife Service operates the National Eagle Repository and provides Native Americans with eagle feathers. (Operate the same way we do).

We have hundreds of carcasses and thousands of feathers in our inventory.

There are 900 + non-eagle species in the U.S.

The Red-tailed Hawk is the most requested species.

We have over 200 different species in our inventory.

A Federally Recognized Tribe is recognized to have established a government-to-government relationship with the U.S. They are a self-governing - sovereign nation.

There are –

574 FRT

62 state recognized tribes

555 unrecognized NA groups, (CA has 107 FRT vs 104 NFRT tribes (groups?))

1,191 total Tribes recognized and recognized.

617 tribes that are not eligible to apply for feathers

We have sent feathers to Native Americans representing 247 FRT located in 46 of the 50 states, 92%.

States, not receiving feathers DE, KY, NH, PA, VT, none of these states have a FRT.

There are 574 FRT, sent feathers to 247 tribes out of 574 tribes (43%)

There are 229 FRT in Alaska = 40%, small native villages

There are 345 FRT located in continental U.S, of the 345 tribes in lower 48 sent feathers to 72%

There are 326 reservations, most under 1k membership.

The Navajo Nation is the largest res., 16 m acres (approx. 286k members).

Pitt River Res. is the smallest, 1.32acres.

The LWNEFR Program is relevant in several capacities.

1. It contributes to the conservation of bird species.
2. Supports Native American cultures.
3. Provides an alternative to purchasing black market feathers.
4. Has an education component.
5. Even makes a social contribution -prisoners

## **Programs Providing Feathers**

### **Non-Eagle Feather Repositories (2010)**

1. Liberty Wildlife, Arizona, 2. SIA, Oklahoma

USFWS National Eagle Feather Repository

Created in early 1070s to provide NAs from federally recognized tribes eagle feathers.

**Native American Eagle Aviaries** Currently have 8 permitted NA Aviaries, 6 in Southwest.

New Mexico

1. First was constructed by the Pueblo of Zuni in 1990.
2. Second in NM Pueblo Jenez (two satellite aviaries)

Oklahoma

1. Iowa Tribe (2005),
2. Comanche Nation (2009)
3. Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Arizona

1. Navajo Nation (2011)

Idaho

Couer d' Alene Tribe (2016), partnered with NGO

Michigan

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians  
Migizi Eagle Aviary and Rehab Center (2021)

### **Liberty Wildlife (Background)**

Liberty Wildlife is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to nurturing wildlife through rehabilitation, education, conservation services, and sustainable actions. Established in 1981 in a Scottsdale backyard, in 2016 Liberty Wildlife moved into a state-of-the-art facility, Liberty Wildlife rehabilitates 1,000s of injured and orphaned birds every year, conducts 100s of wildlife rescues and presents educational shows on and off its campus. And operates the Liberty Wildlife Non-Eagle Feather Repository.