

The Great Spirit created Man and Woman in his own image. In doing so, both were created as equals. Both depending on each other in order to survive. Great respect was shown for each other; in doing so, happiness and contentment was achieved then, as it should be now.

The connecting of the Hair makes them one person; for happiness or contentment cannot be achieved without each other.

The Canyons are represented by the purples in the middle ground, where the people were created. These canyons are Sacred, and should be so treated at all times.

The Reservation is pictured to represent the land that is ours, treat it well.



The Reservation is our heritage and the heritage of our children yet unborn. Be good to our land and it will continue to be good to us.

The Sun is the symbol of life, without it nothing is possible – plants don't grow – there will be no life -- nothing. The Sun also represents the dawn of the Hualapai people. Through hard work, determination and education, everything is possible and we are assured bigger and brighter days ahead.

The Tracks in the middle represent the coyote and other animals which were here before us.

The Green around the symbol are pine trees, representing our name Hualapai – PEOPLE OF THE TALL PINES –

**HUALAPAI NATION
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

**Wildred Whatoname
Chairman**

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**Richard Walema
Vice-Chairman**

July 2, 2008

File 2008-46

**Mr. Benjamin Tuggle, Regional Director
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103**

RE: Sonoran Desert Region Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Dear Mr. Tuggle,

Thank you for your letter of June 19, 2008 regarding the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). As you are aware, the Hualapai Tribe formally submitted our opposition to the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to delist the Bald Eagle from the Threatened and Endangered Species List on June 2, 2007. We also confirmed our commitment to the continued protection of the Bald Eagle through a tribal council resolution (*Hualapai Tribal Council Resolution No. 18-2007, June 2, 2007*). In this letter we formally request an extension from July 7th, to August 21st 2008, (45 days) in order to properly address the important issue of the status review by the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Sonoran Desert Region Bald Eagle which holds cultural and ecological significance for the Hualapai and other Native American Tribes. (Federal Register Vol. 73, No. 98, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, Proposed Rule [FWS-R2-ES-2008-0059; 1111FY07 MO-B2]).

In a previous Multi-Tribal Meeting (May 9, 2007) it was clearly stated that delisting the Bald Eagle would affect Indigenous people's cultural life-ways and belief systems that have been inherently instilled in cultural values since time immemorial. In a letter addressed to former

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Chairman Charles Vaughn (June 5, 2008), it was brought to our attention by Mr. Steven L. Spangle, (Field Supervisor for the USFWS, Phoenix Office), that

While we [the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service] will accept and must address all substantial comments, please be informed that the ESA directs us to use only the best scientific and commercial information when making listing decisions. Cultural information, such as the cultural/religious significance of the bald eagle, can therefore not factor into a listing decision.


Contrary to this we would like to point out that **Secretarial Order 3206** (*American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act*) clearly states that "Departments shall be sensitive to the fact that Indian cultures, religions, and spirituality often involve ceremonial and medicinal uses of plants, animals, and specific geographic places," (Section 4).

The Bald Eagle is of traditional cultural and ecological significance for the Hualapai people and should be respected by being protected through every means possible. This includes being listed as a species of concern through (but not limited to) the:

Endangered Species Act
U.S. Forest Service Bald Eagle Recovery Plan
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Hualapai Cultural Resource Ordinance

The Hualapai Tribe encourages The United States Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to continue with their support and authority to maintain a productive working relationship with the Hualapai and other Native American Tribes. The Hualapai look forward to working with you on a government-to-government basis in promoting conservation and management plans for the Bald Eagle.

Please contact Loretta Jackson-Kelly the Director of our Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources if you have any questions or further concerns.


Wilfred Whatonome,
Chairman Hualapai Tribe

Date: 7/2/08