

**2009 Mid-Year Conference  
Reno, Nevada**

**RESOLUTION #09 - 39**

**“EAGLE FEATHER STING OPERATION”**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the eagle, both the Bald Eagle, the Golden Eagle and other raptor birds, since time-immemorial have been an integral part and intrinsic to the traditions, culture and religion of many tribes, pre-dating U.S. colonization; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other federal law enforcement agencies have been conducting raids, confiscations and interrogations on many Indian

reservations and Pow-wow events, in at least 14 states of the western United States under what purportedly is referred to as an “Eagle Feather Sting Operation;” and

**WHEREAS**, the purported desired effect of the “Eagle Feather Sting Operation” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife is to address the illicit sale of eagles and eagle parts and the poaching of eagles is having a far more devastating impact and sending fear and trepidation into the tribes culture and religious practices, to the point where the tribal culture and religion may be forced underground once again; and

**WHEREAS**, despite efforts of cultural suppression whether it is indirect or direct, the tribes as sovereign nations, will continue to use and possess the eagle as an integral and intrinsic part of traditional culture and religion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) has agreed to serve as a clearinghouse for cases appertaining to the “Eagle Sting Operation” being conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and other federal law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress ultimately holds a special fiduciary trust obligation to federally recognized tribes and must hold hearings immediately to address the ambiguity of the laws that pertain to the acquisition, possession and use of eagle feathers and eagle parts for members of federally recognized tribes; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, despite efforts of cultural suppression whether it is indirect or direct as the tribes, as sovereign nations, will continue to use and possess the eagle and other raptor birds as an integral and intrinsic part of their culture and traditional religious beliefs and practices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI shall submit a draft resolution to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) regarding the acquisition, use and possession of eagle feathers and eagle parts and other raptor birds for traditional, cultural and religious purposes; and

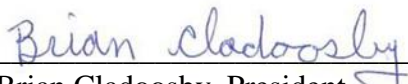
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI shall convene a meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other federal law enforcement agencies to discuss and seek solutions as to the effects and impacts of the “Eagle Feather Sting Operation;” and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Native American Rights Fund (NARF) shall serve as a central clearinghouse for the cases appertaining to the “Eagle Feather Sting Operation” being conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and other federal law enforcement agencies; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports efforts and encourages U.S. Congress to hold hearings immediately for the purpose of improving and enacting legislation for the traditional cultural and religious acquisition, possession and use of eagle feathers and eagle parts and other raptor birds by federally recognized tribes and their members.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Silver Legacy Casino, Reno, Nevada on May 18-21, 2009 with a quorum present.

  
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Brian Cladoosby, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary