

SWIFT stands for the StateWide Impact Findings Tables and is a streamlined consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). SWIFT takes 93 common CDOT actions and evaluates the effects of those actions on all currently listed threatened or endangered species as well as those that are candidates for listing or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Based upon species range and habitat requirements, SWIFT evaluates the effects project have on those species through a step-by-step process. Each step either determines the project will have an effect or not. If not, the project is assumed to have 'no effect' on the species and the USFWS consultation is completed for that species. If a project is determined to have an effect on a species, minimization measures have been outlined that can be included in the project description to reduce the impacts. If all of the minimization measures can be included in the project, the project is said to have the official determination of 'may affect, but not likely to adversely affect' for that species. Because the consultation with the USFWS has already been completed for those minimization measures, as long as those measures are included in the project, no further coordination with the USFWS is required except for a report every 6 months tracking which projects used the programmatic consultation and the results. Additional coordination with the USFWS will be required if any required minimization measure can NOT be included in the project, the project will have an adverse effect on a species or if habitat designated as critical by the USFWS will be affected.

The SWIFT programmatic contains:

- The Biological Assessment sent to the USFWS describing the process, species and actions
- The concurrence letter received from the USFWS agreeing with the effects determinations
- Range maps for each species
- The Coarse Habitat Screen which includes the project description, species list and range evaluation
- The Habitat Evaluation Screen for each species
- The list of CDOT activities covered by the programmatic including definitions and related activities for each
- The effects determination table for each species
- The required minimization measure for each species
- Individual Project Level Evaluation which helps outline a non-programmatic Biological Assessment in the event all of the minimization measures can't be met, the biologist doesn't agree with the SWIFT determination, or the effect is adverse to a species.

CDOT typically hires consultants to determine the effects a project would have on special status species at a cost of \$3,000 - \$5,000/project and several months of time. By using SWIFT, those same projects could have been reviewed in a day or less and without the need for consultants or additional costs. Several state DOTs and FEMA have shown an interest in pursuing similar consultations for their agencies.