

## Question #2c

**My federal-aid project needs clearance from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS). Where do I send the biological evaluation?**

Answer #2c

Send biological evaluations for federal-aid (does not include soft match) transportation projects (bridge, road, trails, and enhancement projects) to the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR).

Refer to the following website for applicable forms and guidance:

<http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/gov-aff/downloads.htm>

which are the “General USFWS Technical Assistance Letter”, an “Example Template for Biological Evaluation” and a “Table of State Listed Species.”

NDOR reviews the biological evaluation, checks the Heritage database, which is not generally available to local agencies, makes a call (i.e. “No Affect”, “May Affect”, “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” or “May Affect”) and then forwards the package to USF&WS for their concurrence, with copies to Nebraska Game & Parks and FHWA.

After USF&WS concurrence, NDOR forwards the documentation to the local agency for insertion into their project file (i.e. the administrative record) and later use when submitting a NEPA Determination Form (also found on <http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/gov-aff/downloads.htm>) to NDOR.

USF&WS is no longer providing individual written responses for federal-aid transportation projects that are sent to USF&WS by project sponsors or consultants. USF&WS will only be reviewing projects and providing written responses to NDOR based on an order of priority established by NDOR.

**DO NOT contact USF&WS to discuss priority order of projects or status; contact NDOR for these discussions.**

If you have submitted a biological evaluation for a federal-aid project directly to the USFWS for review and have not yet received a written response, contact the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) to get that project prioritized. Only after USF&WS has received a project from NDOR will they work with a project sponsor or consultant, if needed.