

May 17, 2013

Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife  
Attn: Brian Magee/Jon Holst  
415 Turner Drive  
Durango, Colorado 81301

**Re: Swift Energy Operating, LLC Proposed Waters 34-12-32-1H Exploratory Oil and/or Gas Well Project**

This letter is a formal request for comments regarding wildlife mitigation measures for the proposed Waters 34-12-32-1H Exploratory Oil and/or Gas Well Project (proposed project) located in La Plata County, Colorado. Maps, driving directions and plats are enclosed.

Swift Energy Operating, LLC (Swift) has filed an application for permit to drill (APD) for the Waters 34-12-32-1H exploratory well. The proposed project would be located on fee lands with fee mineral rights in Section 32, Township 34 North, Range 12 West, New Mexico Prime Meridian (NMPM), La Plata County, Colorado. The proposed irregular shaped well pad would be 445 feet by 410 feet with a construction zone varying from 0 to 18 feet around the perimeter of the pad that would disturb 4.44 acres. The maximum cut would be 9 feet and the maximum amount of fill would be 10 feet. A new access road of 70.5 feet in length constructed within a 30-foot wide right-of-way (ROW) is proposed to access the location. An existing, private two-track access road is approximately 3 miles in length and would be upgraded within a 3-foot ROW to access the location. Total new disturbance would be 4.44 acres. Total disturbance would be 15.39 acres.

The well pad would be located on an abandoned agricultural field, previously used for crops. Several prairie dog burrows are located within the proposed project area and vicinity, offering potential raptor foraging. The La Plata River, Alkali Gulch and Cherry Creek offer raptor perching sites within the general vicinity of the proposed project area. An existing road parallels the western portion of the proposed project which continues north and an existing flowline traverses the southeastern portion of the well pad.

The proposed project area is located 1.18 miles west of Alkali Gulch and 1.86 miles east of Cherry Creek. The project area provides foraging habitat for raptors, mule deer, elk and other wildlife species.

Field surveys were conducted on May 1, 2013; no USFWS protected species or potential habitat in La Plata County, Colorado that could potentially be in the project area were identified.

To reduce impacts from the proposed project, Swift will implement several stormwater, visual, and wildlife mitigation measures. These mitigation measures are discussed within the La Plata County Permit and/or COGCC Form 2A. If any project-specific mitigation measures are identified please send them to my attention at the Durango Ecosphere office, the address is listed below.

Sincerely,

Amanda Stenjem  
Biologist

Enclosures

