

WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS: ASSESSMENT, MITIGATION AND COMPLIANCE SERVICES

The intersection of watercourses by linear features such as access roads and pipelines, presents a variety of challenges for industry and project proponents. Federal and provincial legislation is in place to protect aquatic ecosystems, fish and fish habitats; and, the consequences of impacts can be costly in terms of project delays, regulatory penalties and corporate reputation.



Aquatic Habitat Protection

The Matrix team of qualified aquatic environmental specialists (QAES) and biologists provides clients with recommendations and specifications to protect fish and fish habitat when working in and around water. From the site specific assessment of habitat quality and sensitivity to construction, to the development of mitigation plans and monitoring programs, the incorporation of habitat protection measures during the planning phase can often expedite project approvals.

Erosion & Sediment Control (Keeping “Dirt” out of the Water)

Sediment continues to be one of the most common pollutants affecting surface waters in North America, and the control of erosion and sediment generation is a primary focus of regulatory guidance for working in or near watercourses. Matrix provides a full range of expertise to address erosion and sediment control, from design and planning to implementation and monitoring. By integrating the skills of specialists in soils, vegetation, fisheries and hydrologic engineering, Matrix provides effective, practical solutions for the design, approval, construction and monitoring of projects in and around water bodies.

Compliance Monitoring

QAES recommendations often extend into the operational phase of a crossing structure’s life cycle. Whether it’s a condition of approval or just good practice, monitoring during construction provides a record of site activity. Post-construction monitoring is typically required by regulators to ensure that measures taken to protect aquatic habitat remain effective. Our aquatic specialists and audit professionals work together to conduct comprehensive reviews of operations and compliance with operating approvals and environmental regulations.

Watercourse Crossing Program Management

Program Leads:

Darrell Jobson, M.Sc., P.Biol., R.P.Bio. and **Chris Stoesz, B.Sc., P.Biol. R.P.Bio.** are aquatic biologists and qualified aquatic environmental specialists (QAES) with over 10 years of technical and project management experience in environmental assessment, management of aquatic habitat resources and mitigation planning. They have designed, implemented and managed the aquatic resource components of numerous environmental impact assessments, monitoring programs and water resource projects including the development and implementation of site-specific habitat protection guidelines, mitigation strategies and sediment control and erosion protection plans.