

Natural Resources Services



The benefits of development are readily apparent. But sometimes the risks aren't. There are many aspects of your project that can be tricky and time-consuming. These include planning for wetland and waters delineation; evaluating protected species; tackling historical and archeological issues; navigating local, state, and federal permitting processes; and applying the intricacies of evolving regulations. That's just a few challenges you may face.

However, with the right team to turn to, those challenges are easily overcome.

At Apex, our nationwide team of scientific professionals has extensive natural and cultural experience with both public and private projects. We can help you:

- Understand the complexities of the regulatory environment
- Identify environmental constraints
- Evaluate avoidance, minimization, and permitting options
- Develop a timely, cost-effective strategy to achieve compliance
- Navigate the permitting process
- Foster practical and creative solutions to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability

And because we understand every development project is different, we ensure our innovative solutions are customized to your needs.

Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

With a thorough knowledge of the Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting process, our biologists and ecologists skillfully negotiate issues involving discharges to regulated waters, including:

- Jurisdictional waters and wetland determinations and delineations (federal and state compliance) in accordance with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) methods and Regional Supplement guidance
- Section 401 water quality certification
- Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Section 404 nationwide permit authorization and individual permits
- Section 10 River and Harbors Act, Crossing Navigable Waters
- State General Permit and Joint Permit programs
- Municipal floodplain and buffer zone permitting

State and Federal Endangered Species

Our biologists and wildlife scientists can help you identify, evaluate, and permit protected species issues through state agencies and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Our services include:

- Threatened and endangered species habitat studies
- Phase I, II, and III species surveys
- Section 7 and 10 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation and permitting support
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) compliance
- Early project scoping support (to streamline project timelines, avoid species active seasons, and minimize impacts to habitat)
- Mitigation planning
- Construction monitoring

Cultural Resources

We maintain a thorough understanding of archeological, historical, and tribal regulatory frameworks at the state and federal level with expertise that proves invaluable during project scoping and during environmental constraints analyses. This includes historic structures, historic archeology, and prehistoric archeology experts who can provide:

- Phase I, II, and III archeological and historical resource investigations
- Section 106 coordination for federal actions
- Historic standing structures assessment
- Tribal consultation
- Construction monitoring

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

We can help you successfully navigate the NEPA review process—required for all federal actions—through expert identification of environmental constraints, maintaining productive relationships with agency staff, understanding the regulatory framework and review process, and effectively coordinating with agencies and the project team to keep the project on schedule. NEPA evaluation includes not only regulated waters/wetlands, protected species, and cultural resources but also evaluates air quality, noise abatement and control, protected lands, light pollution, hazardous materials, contamination, environmental justice and any/all potential impacts associated with a proposed project.

Our experience spans pipeline construction, telecommunication installations, third party property transfers, city and county renovation projects, transportation facility and corridor studies, master plans for municipal development, water supply projects, and public utility projects. We understand the importance of interdisciplinary communication and people management for sensitive projects. To do that, we maintain or develop relationships with agency staff and as needed, serve as a liaison with local community members. Our team of experts can provide initial review, categorical exclusion (CE), environmental assessment (EA), and environmental impact statement (EIS), phases of the NEPA process.

Advanced Technical Services

Our Natural Resource team includes Certified Ecologists (CE), Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS), PhDs, listed species surveyors, restoration ecologists, Registered Professional Archaeologists (RPA), botanists and wildlife biologists. We also maintain state-specific certifications as applicable. In addition to preliminary natural resource evaluations and standard permitting packages, our team is adept at scope, design,

planning, and implementation for your complex natural resources needs. When impacts cannot be avoided, additional effort is sometimes required to demonstrate environmental due diligence and compliance. Our team provides site-specific, ecological-risk assessment, wetland mitigation planning and stream restoration services. We provide our clients and regulators with a thorough consideration of alternatives to facilitate a best-fit solution. We also manage post-construction projects to maintain permit compliance, move toward attainment of performance standards, and satisfy permit requirements in a timely and cost-effective manner.

To ensure you have the services you need when you need them, we also complement our solutions with additional expertise, as applicable. Our advanced natural resource capabilities include:

- Natural Channel Design (Rosgen Methods) stream restoration services and stream banking
- Wetland mitigation planning, permitting, design, and post-construction monitoring
- Nutrient management and nutrient banking
- Ecological risk assessments
- Invasive species treatment and management
- Watershed level regulatory permitting and program management
- Protected lands and special access property support (e.g. government or preserved lands)
- Treatment wetland design, construction, and management
- Environmental support for port and waterway development, coastal and inland waterways, and tidal programs
- Habitat enhancement and restoration