



SUCCESS STORY:

Customer:

Dillon Consulting Limited

Location:

Thunder Bay & Wawa, ON

Cansel Products/Services:

Xplore Technologies

RangerX Tablet;

Esri Collector for ArcGIS

RangerX Tablet with Esri Collector Software go Airborne

Biologists effortlessly collect data during aerial survey

“We are committed to producing work that is accurate, and for this we need the right tools to assist us in doing our job. Cansel was able to provide the guidance and assistance needed.”

*John Fairs, Associate and Daniel Bourassa, Biologist
Dillon Consulting Limited*

Background

Dillon Consulting has been providing professional consulting services to customers for over 60 years. Attention to detail, hard work and their ability to work under strict project conditions are the key pillars to their business and what their customers have come to trust and respect.

Working with clients in environmental management in the public and private sector means that Dillon understands how the level of data accuracy affects the technical outcome for a project, and subsequent follow-up work.

“A resource client recently contacted us for a raptor survey, and we needed the right tools to capture nesting locations and population size. In addition, we also needed to identify access points along a 500km transmission line where possible ground based surveys could be conducted at a later date,” explains John Fairs, Associate, Dillon.

The Challenge

Like many others, Dillon previously used the traditional method of paper maps to reference and mark locations of interest, and then re-enter onto digital maps back at the office. “Although the data is rather straightforward, our biologists frequently found themselves juggling stacks of maps while writing observations and markings on sheets of paper. The need to accurately and quickly collect information while in a helicopter is crucial. What can seem initially inconvenient can not only affect the outcome of the survey, but also can quickly become a safety issue in such a confined space,” says Fairs.





CHALLENGE:

Accurately and quickly collect aerial data for a raptor survey and identify access points along a 500km transmission line.

SOLUTION:

Easy-to-use software to track locations, collect data, report back, and a powerful mobile piece of hardware to run the software.

OUTCOME:

The Esri Collector software and RangerX Tablet together provide seamless integration and versatile mobility, allowing biologists to conduct data collection under tight timelines with easy syncing and reporting back at the office.

“We really couldn’t be more pleased with this solution. We don’t have to worry about location, environment or travel methods interfering with our work.”

Daniel Bourassa, Biologist, Dillon Consulting Limited

The Solution:

Brock Kingston, Mapping & GIS Specialist, Cansel, quickly identified a solution: “Dillon needed something rugged that would withstand long, mobile voyages in various weather conditions, while collecting and updating data in an efficient and accurate manner. The Esri Collector for ArcGIS, and Xplore Technologies’ RangerX Tablet was the perfect duo to achieve this.”

Become fully mobile

“Right away, the issue of shuffling frantically through maps was eliminated,” says Daniel Bourassa, Biologist, Dillon.

“Esri Collector is designed to work online or offline, update data in the field, log your coordinates, track and report, capture area features, and the RangerX was completely designed with the rugged, mobile-user in mind. It made sense,” says Kingston.

Eliminate time constraints

“Normally time is a concern when conducting a field survey,” says Fairs. “It’s a constant worry in the back of your mind – do I have enough battery life to complete the grid I’ve set out to measure? Sometimes a second pass is necessary and you should allot time for that. The RangerX has a battery lasting up to 10 hours so we can maximize every moment in the field.”

Stay connected, sync and report

“We never lost GPS signal; entering raptor nesting locations and possible route access points for ground-based surveys to be used later this spring was a breeze,” says Bourassa.

Field work takes you places without a data connection and the Esri Collector allows you to take your data offline. “We simply synced our data upon our return to the office, and were able to immediately work on the raptor reports for our client and follow-up access planning.”

The Results:

“We really couldn’t be more pleased with this solution,” says Bourassa. “We don’t have to worry about location, environment or travel methods interfering with our work. Esri Collector and the RangerX allow us to ensure we provide our clients the standard of accuracy we want, at the level of ease we want.”

“Cansel presented us with the seamless integration of two great products, and are always available for ongoing support or technical queries. This was a great solution thanks to Cansel’s effort, support and ‘keep it simple’ philosophy,” concludes Fairs.