

Digital Solutions for Post-Remediation and Reclamation Vegetation Management A Case Study from Northeastern Alberta

SustainTech 2026
March 4th, 2026



Introductions



Matt Wilkinson, MGIS
Associate GIS Analyst
mwilkinson@montrose-env.ca



Agenda

- Project Context and the “Why”
- Scoping a Solution
- Mobile Data Collection
- Web Mapping & Exploring Your Data
- Where Do We Go From Here?

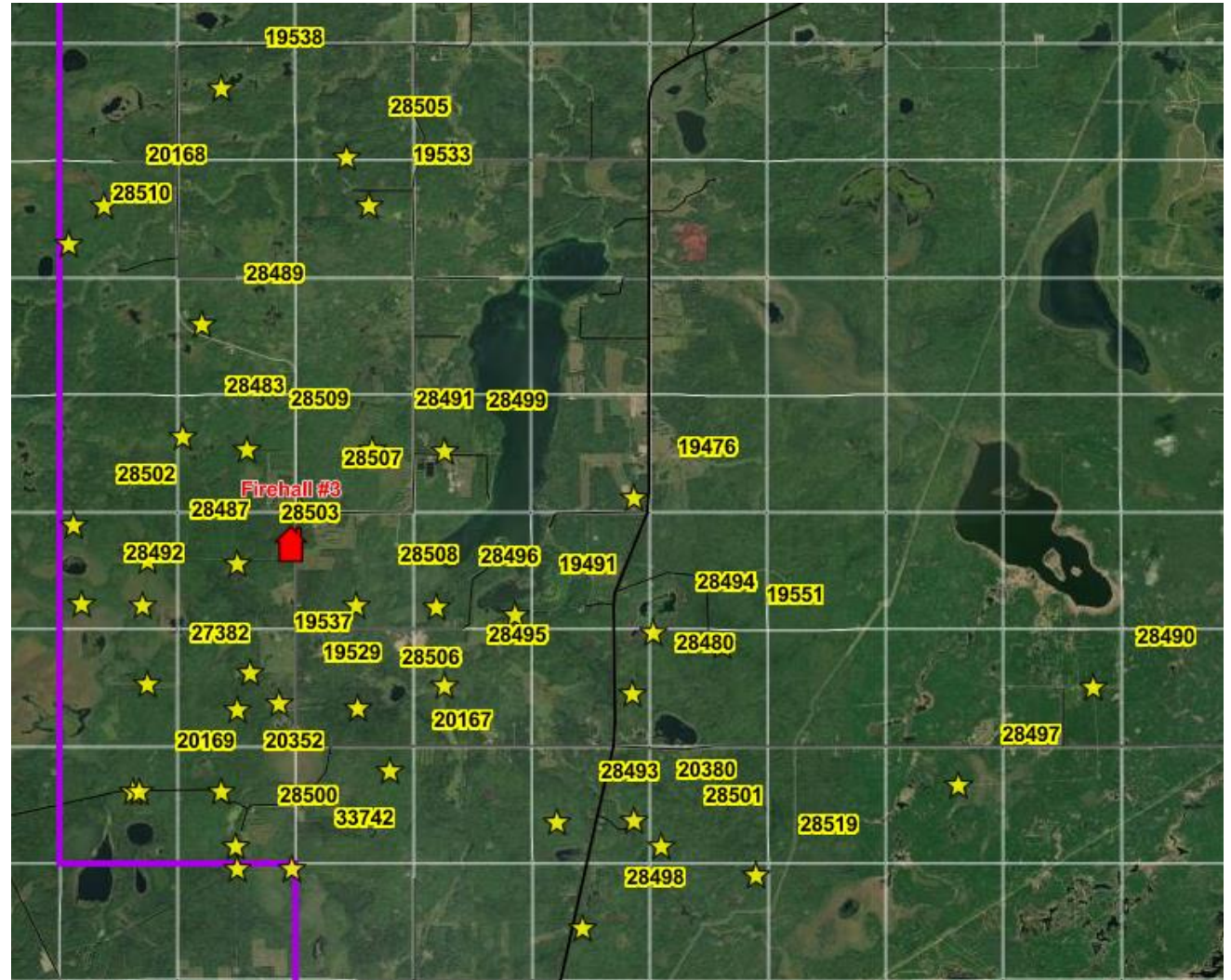


Project Context and the Why



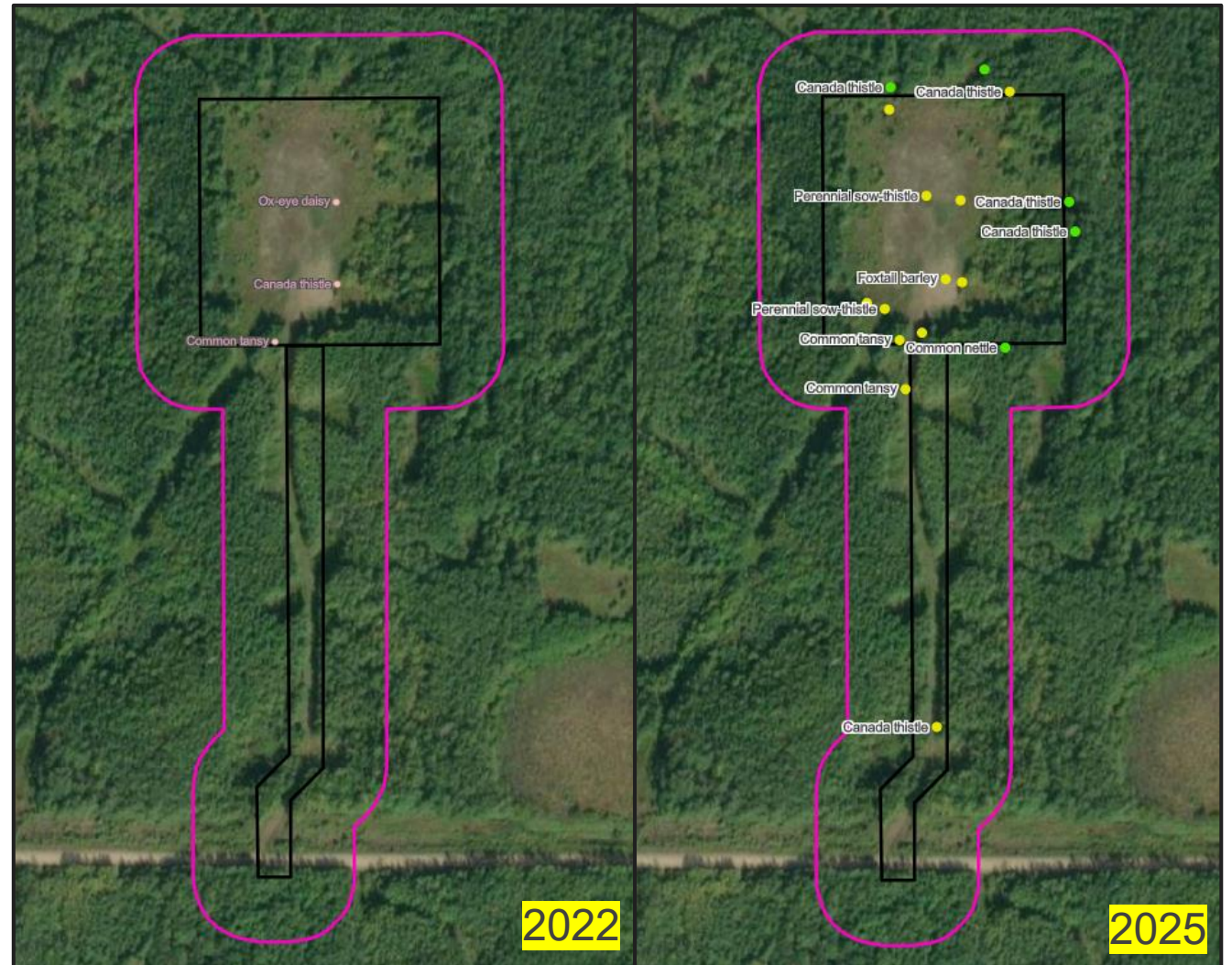
Project Overview

- Northeastern Alberta Portfolio
- Wellsites Including Forested, Tame Pasture, and Peatland Land Types
 - Approximately 50 sites
 - Supported portfolio since 2013
 - Lots of field notes!
- Vegetation Management
 - Site condition documentation
 - Weed control documentation
 - Determining readiness for DSA



Documentation

- Track site conditions, vegetation growth, and weed control over time.
- Historical documentation included hand-written field notes, Avenza, and photos.
- Lots of time spent during technical review!
- Mobile Data Collection:
 - 2022 | 75 field observations
 - 2023 | 181 field observations
 - 2024 | 487 field observations
 - 2025 | 427 field observations



Benefits of a Data Management Solution



“One-Stop Shop”



Review content and data spatially

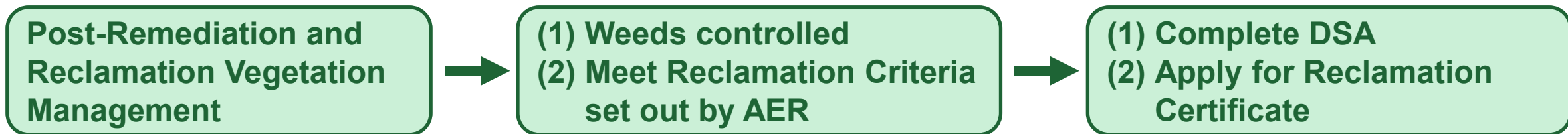


Can tease out trends and quantify



Motivation and Why

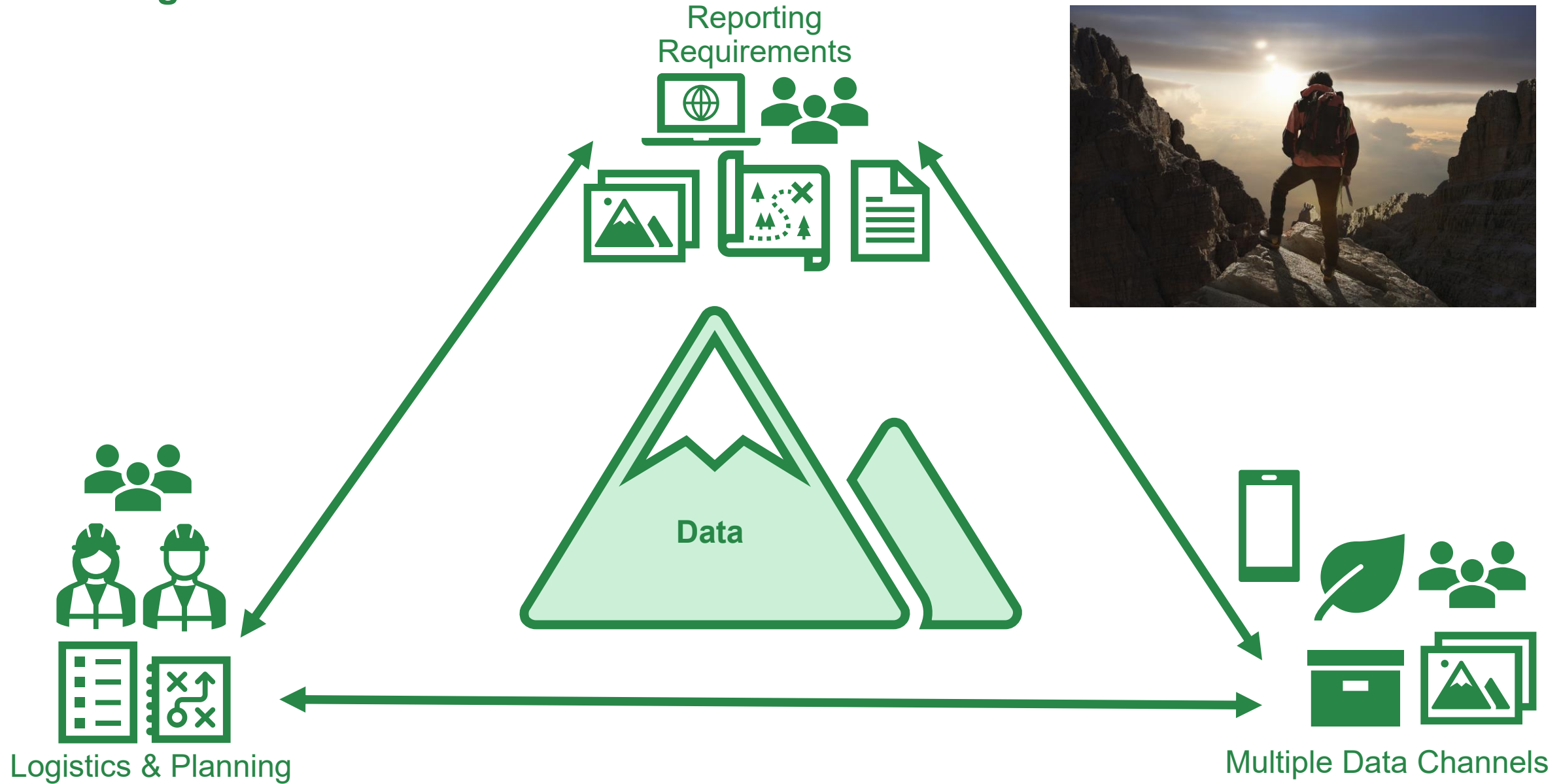
- Does the landscape, soil, and vegetation meet the Reclamation Criteria?
- Can we demonstrate the site is on a suitable trajectory towards the target vegetation community?
- Key Question: Have we controlled weeds to the point that the desirable vegetation will outcompete weeds?



Scoping a Solution



Scaling the Mountain



Scoping It Out



What do you need collect? What background information do you need? Offline? Do we have contractors?



What do you need to report? How do you need to report? What are we trying to improve? What are we trying to eliminate (e.g., transcription, file management)?



Attributes and data constraints?

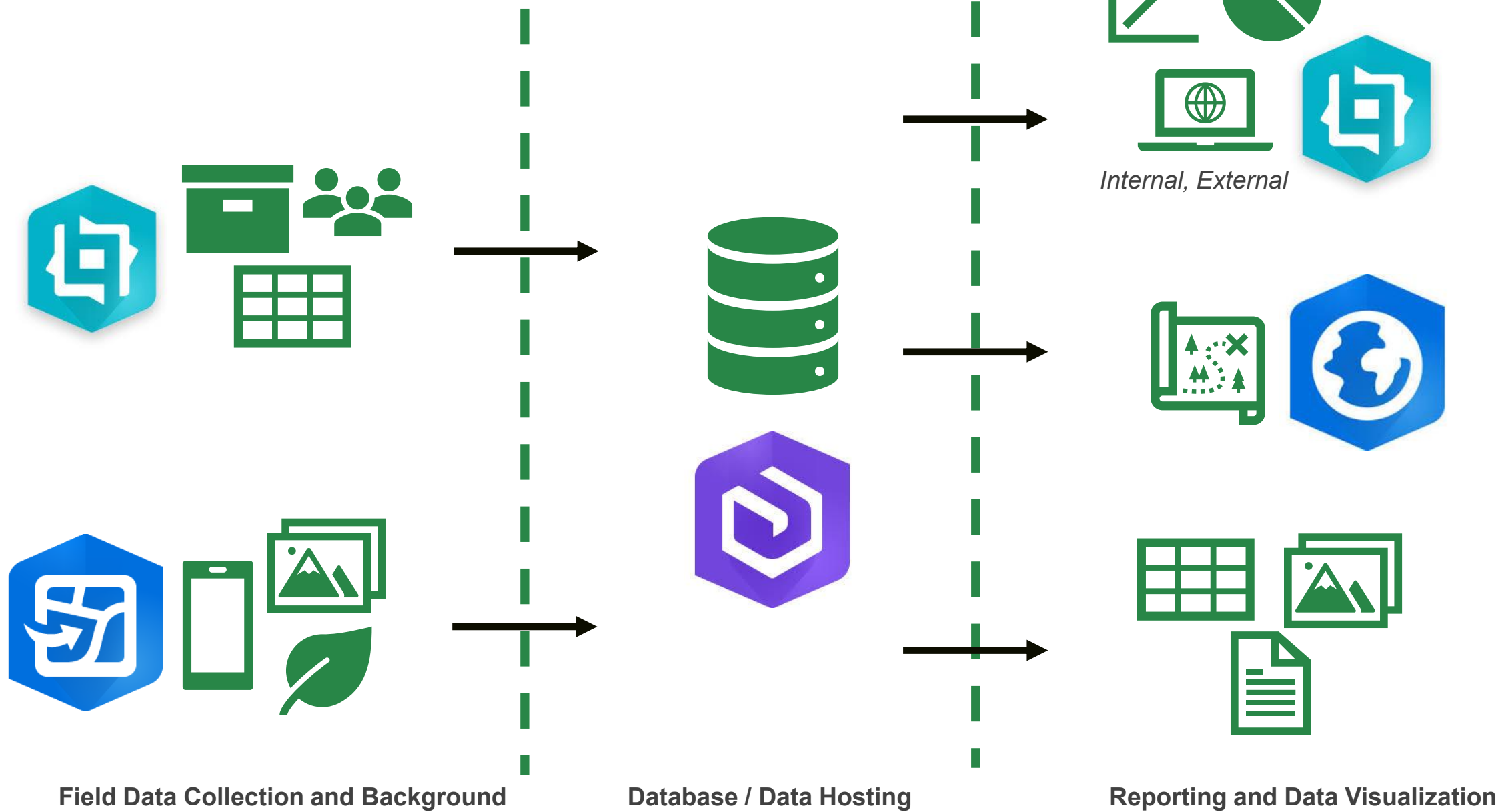


Off-the-shelf applications (e.g., ESRI) available? Does our client need access?



Making It Right-Sized

Data Flows



Internal, External

Field Data Collection and Background

Database / Data Hosting

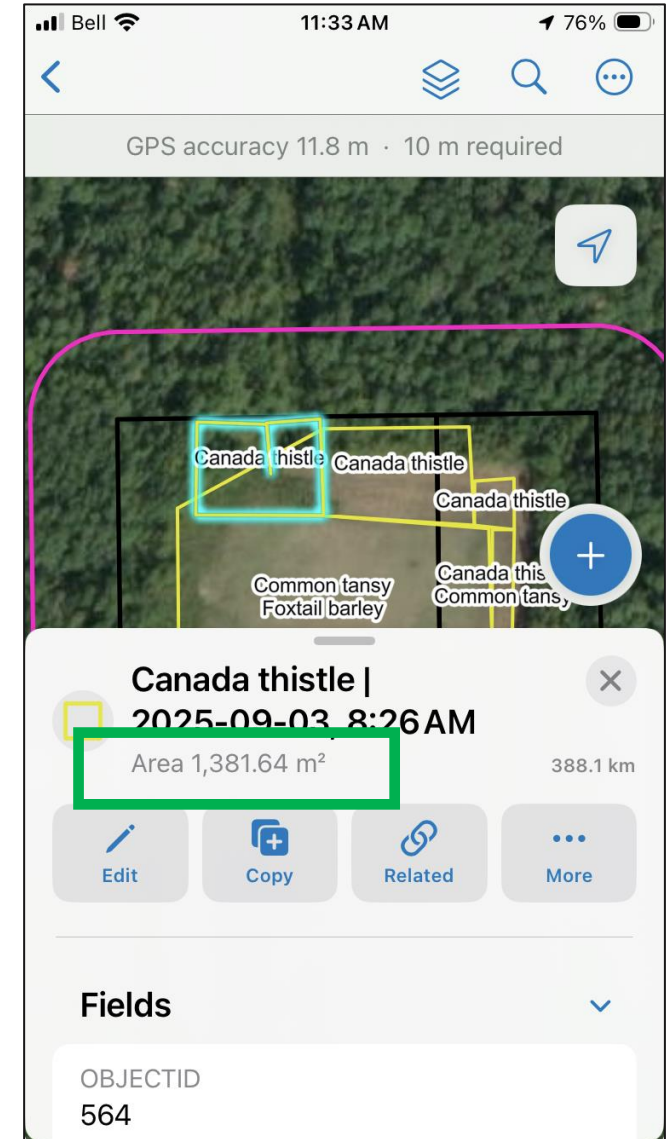
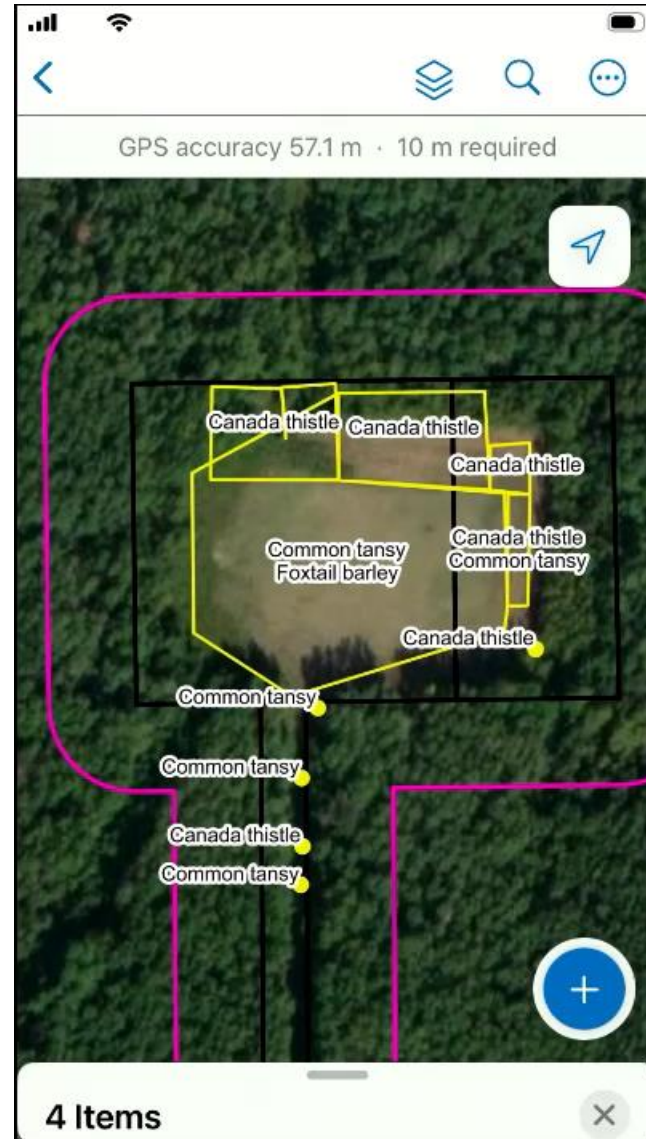
Reporting and Data Visualization



Mobile Data Collection



Points or Polygons?



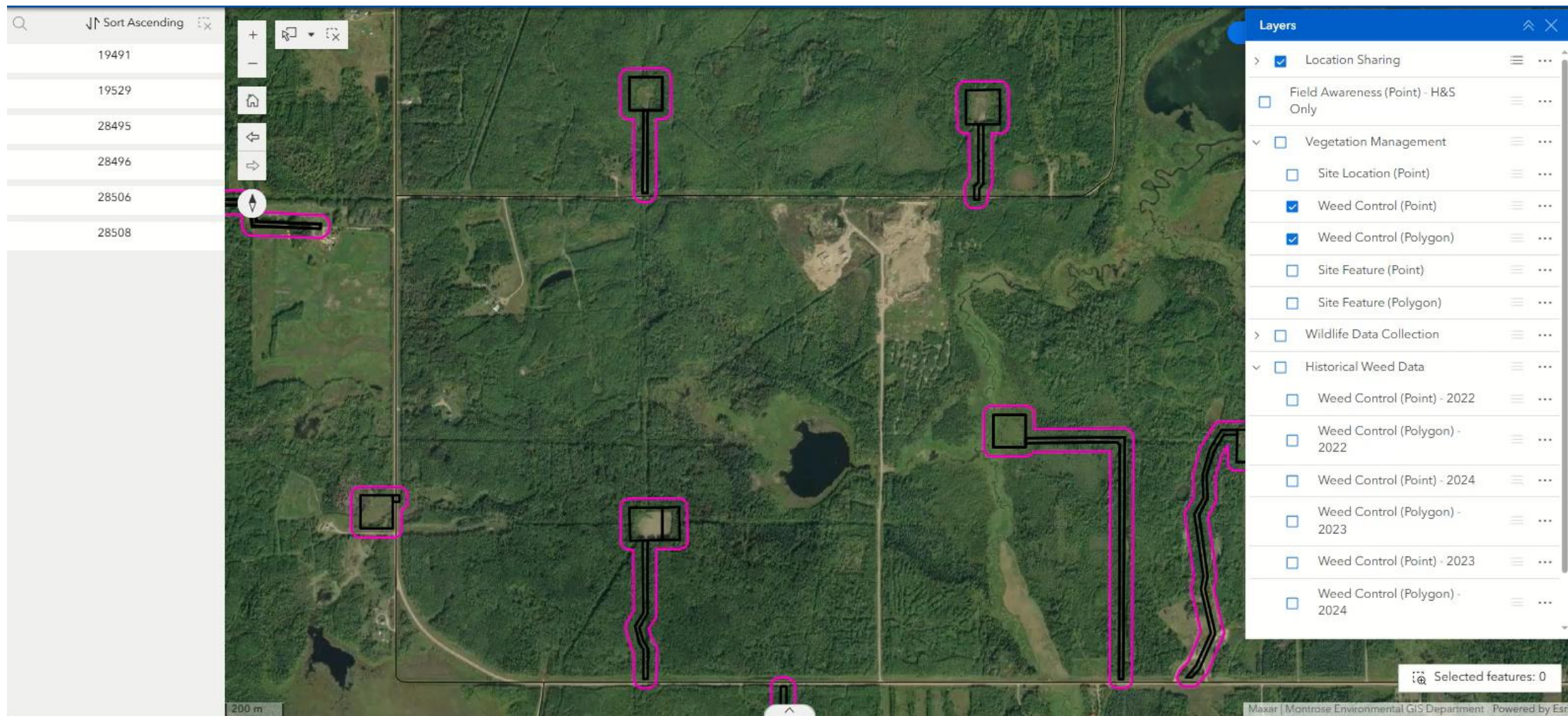
Through Time?



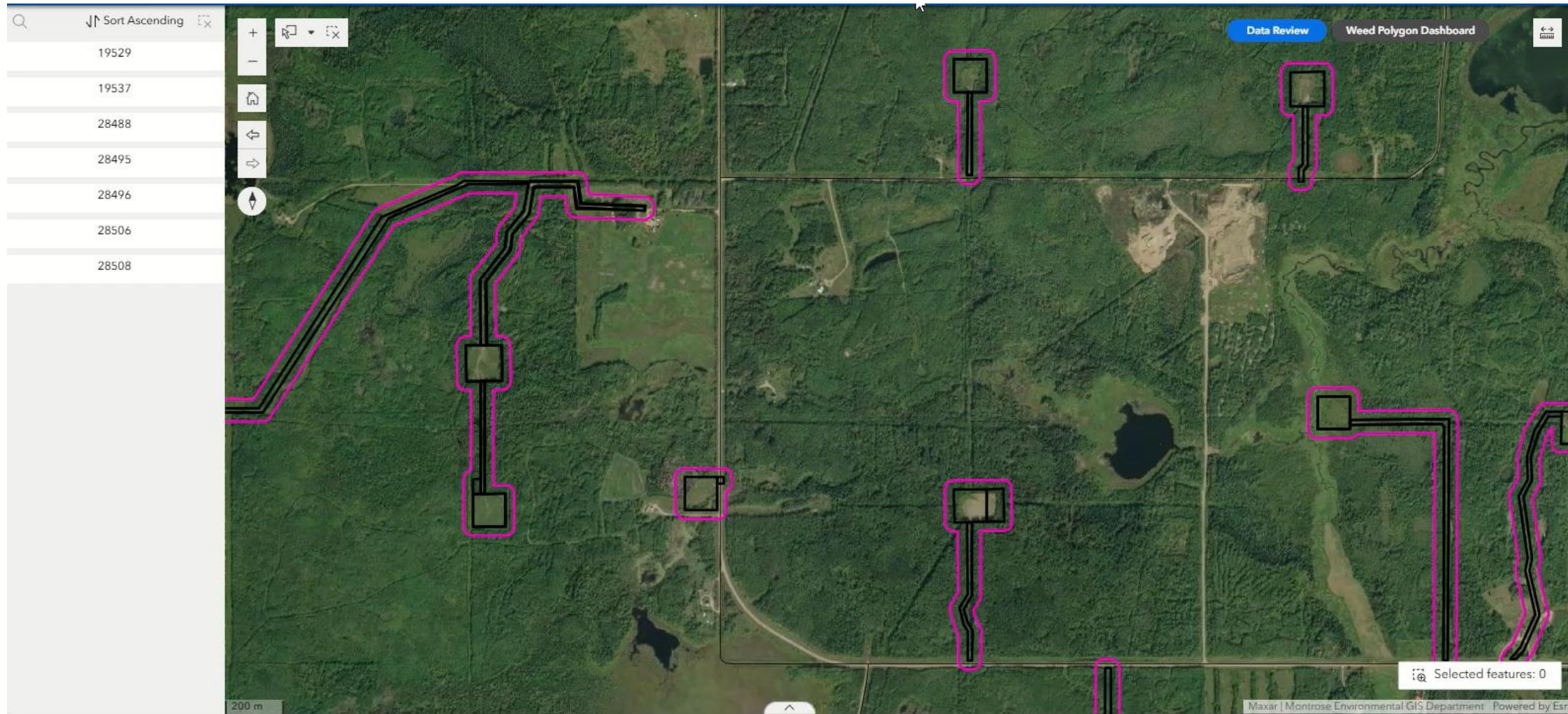
Web Mapping & Exploring Your Data



Observations Through Time



Tracking Progress (Sweep Requirements for Wildlife Act)



Attributes & Metadata

The screenshot displays a GIS application interface. On the left, a data table lists feature IDs. The main map area shows a satellite view with several irregular polygons outlined in pink, representing weed areas. Yellow and green dots are scattered within and around these polygons. The interface includes a search bar at the top left, a 'Sort Ascending' dropdown, and a list of feature IDs: 19491, 28480, 28495, 28496, 28506, and 28508. Below the list is a large grey area, likely for attribute details. The map has a scale bar for 200 meters and a north arrow. In the top right, there are buttons for 'Data Review' and 'Weed Polygon Dashboard'. A legend in the bottom right corner indicates 'Selected features: 0'. The footer text reads 'Maxar | Montrose Environmental GIS Department. Powered by Esri'.

ID
19491
28480
28495
28496
28506
28508



Trends

- Primary Weeds = Dominant Weed Species
- Area over time
- Demonstrated under control in area of perennial sow thistle over time
- **All done without compiling notes, moving files around, etc**

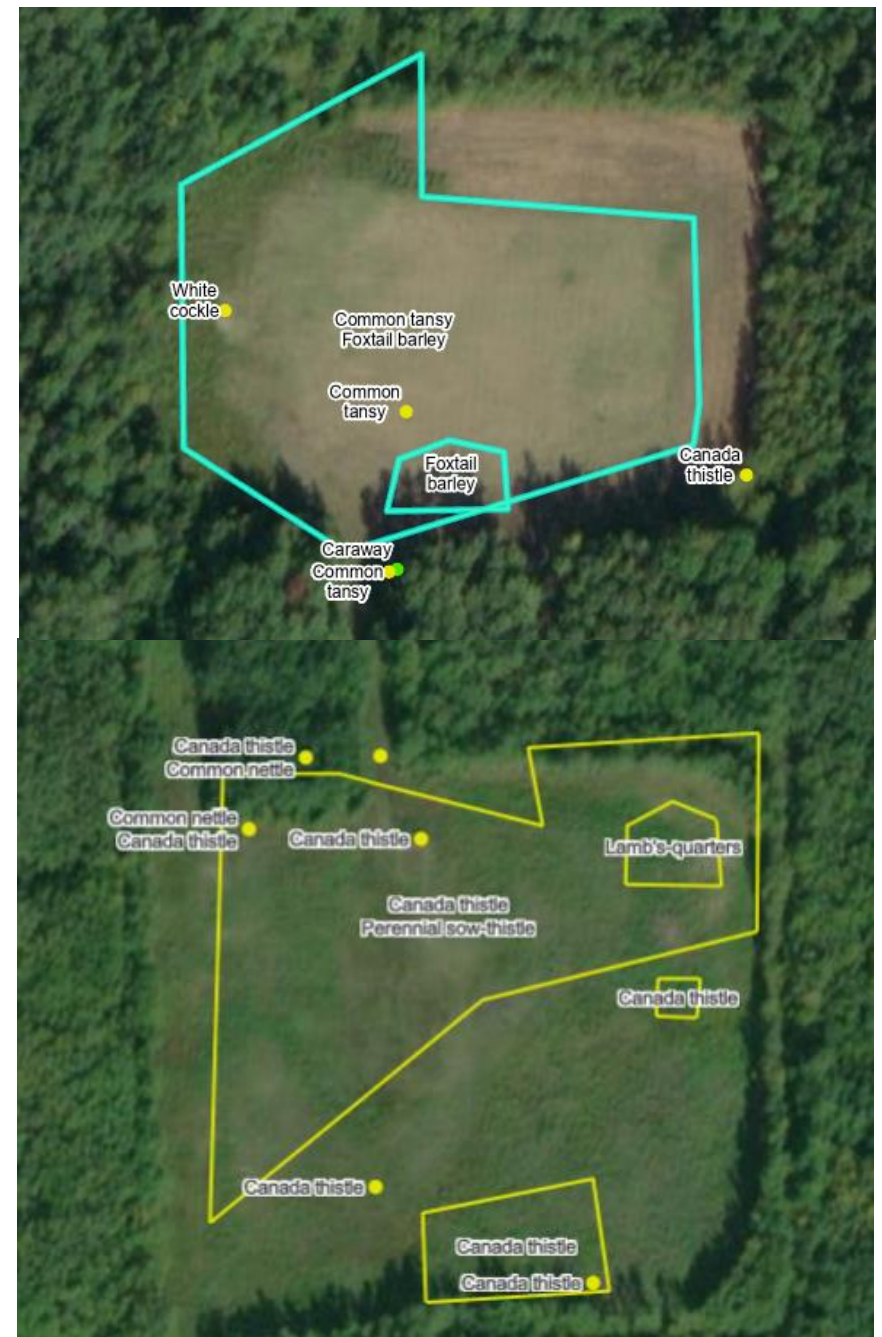


Where Do We Go From Here

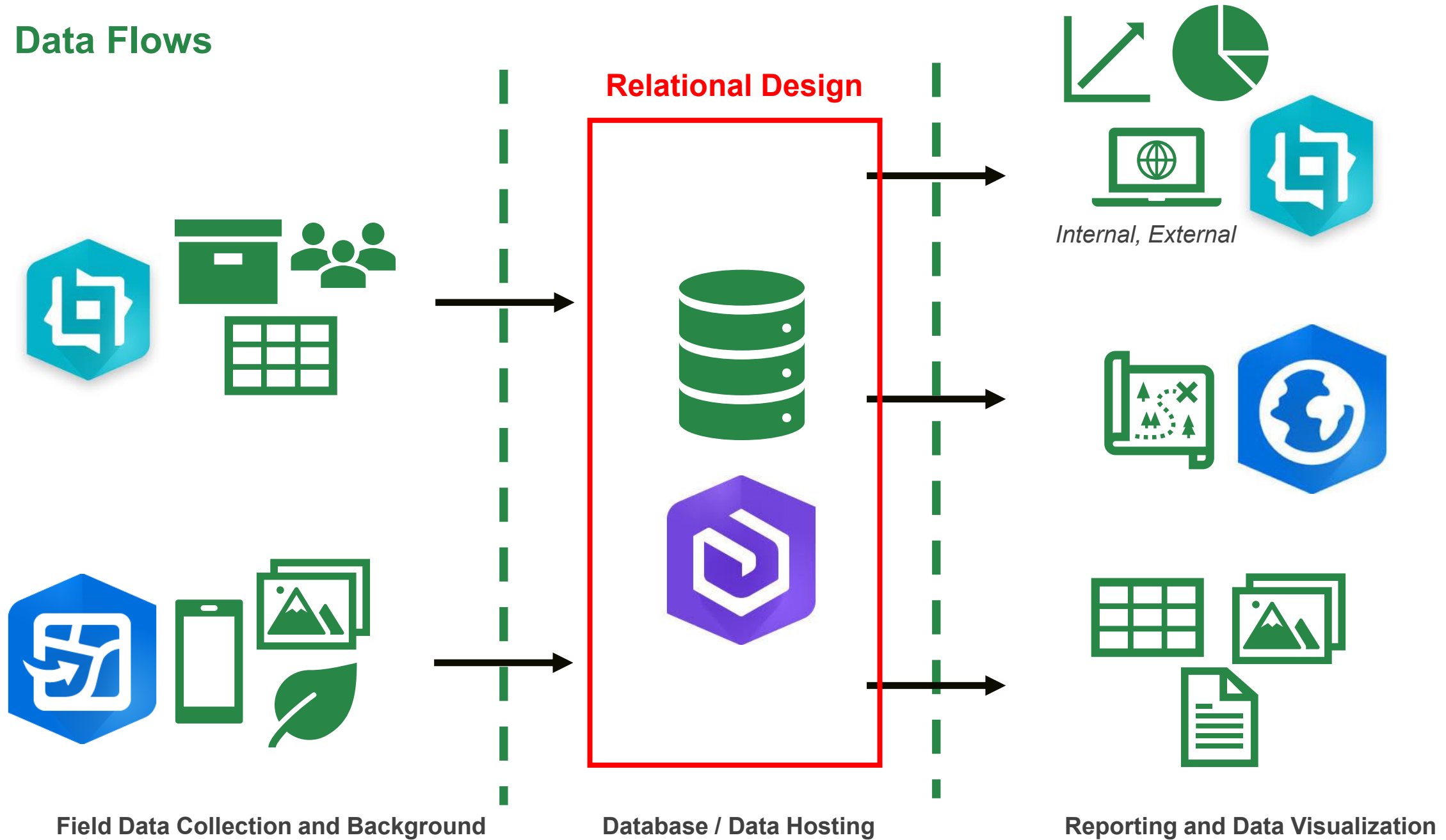


Benefits and Challenges

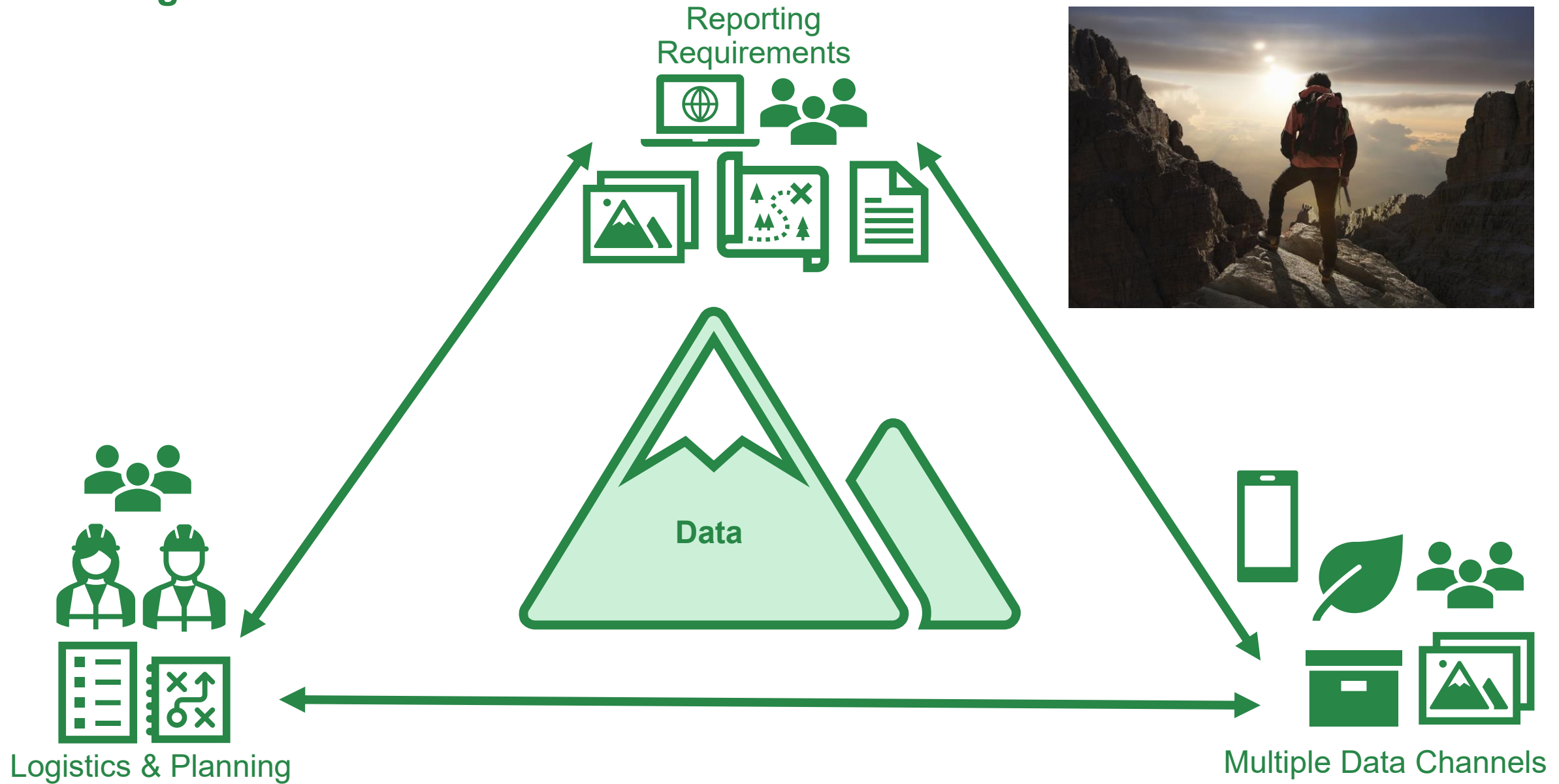
- Minimizing transcribing & error, navigation
- Sample design and observation
- Constraints and topology
- Self-serve Reports
- Backend Database Design To Accommodate
 - 1 → Many relationships
- Relatively “Free-form”



Data Flows



Scaling the Mountain



Acknowledgements

- Thank you to our colleagues Cassandra McKenzie, Sheila Luther, Sandy Lam and Janet Therrien for their project leadership, guidance, and technical contributions to this talk. This talk would not have been possible without their support.



Questions?



MONTROSE
ENVIRONMENTAL



For More Information



Matt Wilkinson, MGIS
Associate GIS Analyst
mwilkinson@montrose-env.ca

