

5 environmental field data challenges and when they surface



1

No signal at the site

Problem: Remote sites push crews back to paper backups or leave records stranded on a device for days

When you find out: The sync fails after demobilization, or the field book comes back incomplete



2

Sample ID and chain of custody gaps

Problem: A mislabeled bottle or a missing COC signature breaks the link between what was sampled and what was tested

When you find out: The lab EDD comes back and won't match the sample IDs in your records



3

Transcription and re-keying errors

Problem: Readings travel from field book to spreadsheet to database, and every handoff is another chance for a typo

When you find out: QA/QC flags values nobody on the crew remembers recording



4

Inconsistent collection across crews

Problem: Free text, mixed units, and seasonal staff with their own shorthand turn one program into a dozen datasets

When you find out: You try to compare this quarter's results to last quarter's and can't



5

Readings without proof

Problem: A value without coordinates, a timestamp, a photo, or a calibration record is a number you can't defend

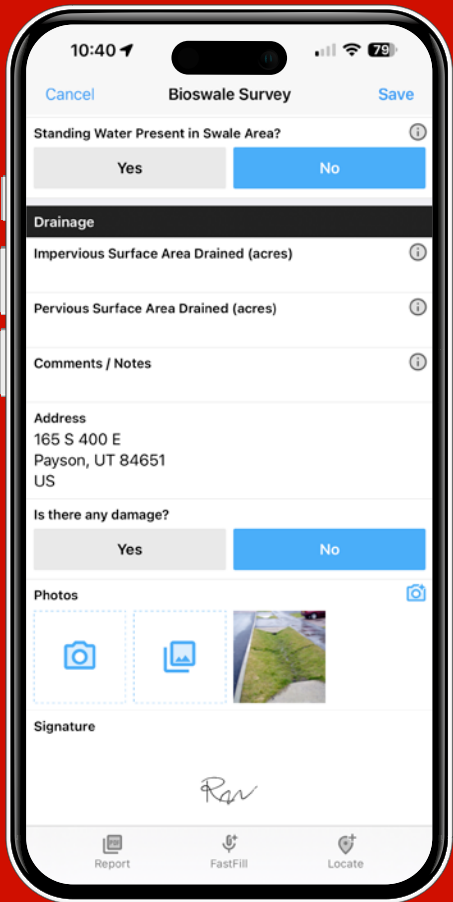
When you find out: A regulator asks for proof that the BMP was in place that day



The fix starts in the field

Every problem on this list traces back to the moment a reading gets recorded. Digital forms built with valid values, required fields, and automatic location and time stamps catch errors right there, even when offline.

Sign up for free demo to see how Fulcrum helps field teams catch errors before the lab, QA/QC, or regulator does.



Field data correctness, completeness, and consistency all benefit from a well-designed and implemented digital field form.

ITRC, Environmental Data Management Best Practices, Field Data Collection QA/QC

