

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: July 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 24

**Project Region: BC Interior
Spread 5A**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 806–885**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) has retained Indigenous Monitors as integrated members of its construction Environmental Inspection team. Indigenous Monitors work with Environmental Inspectors to monitor compliance with mitigation measures to minimize impacts to traditional resource use and cultural/heritage sites during construction. Indigenous Monitors have a strategic role in providing traditional knowledge directly and pragmatically to construction oversight practices and bring an Indigenous lens to daily environmental inspection activities.

This Overview Report provides highlights of the Indigenous Monitors' day-to-day work and key mitigation measures observed by the Monitors related to Project construction in the BC Interior Region. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key activities in the BC Interior Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 806 to 885 in Spread 5A and included monitoring environmental features, vegetation management, soil salvage activities, topsoil restoration, bridge installation, activities at the Black Pines Transmission Line and Traditional Land Use (TLU) and Heritage Resource sites. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for July 2021, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

The Project has a process for sharing information related to potential TLU and Heritage Resource chance finds during construction. The [Protecting TLU and Cultural Heritage Resources Fact Sheet \(link here\)](#) provides an overview of the chance find communication process. Applicable Indigenous groups are notified and engaged directly on potential chance finds.

For more information: email info@transmountain.com or call 1.866.514.6700.

Trans Mountain COVID-19 – Our Response

Trans Mountain is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation with the help of federal, provincial and local agencies. Trans Mountain's top priority remains the health and safety of its workforce, their families and our communities.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Soil Salvage

During construction activities, Indigenous Monitors were on-site performing monitoring and inspection duties related to soils including ensuring equipment arrives clean on-site, soil piles are placed within the survey limits of the right-of-way, soil piles are properly labelled, and that topsoil and transition piles have adequate buffers.

At KP 863, Indigenous Monitors were involved in inspecting the salvage and placement of topsoil and subsoil and were available if any potential heritage resources or items of traditional land use interest are unearthed during soil stripping operations. During the inspection the Indigenous Monitor confirmed the soil piles were within the surveyed limits. No concerns were identified.



Subsoil within log deck limits at KP 863.

Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to illustrate locations of and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and TLU areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years. In the event a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified traditional land use area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

Near KP 915 the Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in areas where trees were identified that were thought to be potentially culturally modified. Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity. Trees found during a CMT sweep were examined by the Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors on-site to collect initial information. The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Resource specialists were contacted for evaluation of the tree and potential mitigation. The engagement process with applicable Indigenous groups was initiated to share information about the resource and seek feedback. The assessment of this resource is in progress.



General area where CMT sweeps were conducted.

Bridge Installation

Bridge installation activities are ongoing near Moore Creek at KP 889. On-site erosion and sediment control mitigations may include sediment fences, swales, wattles, rock armouring, erosion control blankets and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted walk-throughs of the area to check for any potential culturally significant items; no culturally significant items were identified.

The Indigenous Monitors reviewed TMEP's bridge cleaning process, bridge installation drawings and foot traffic protocols and observed the use of filter cloth and rig mats for bridge protection. It was noted that spill barrels were placed adjacent to the creek and all appropriate signage was in place per the Environmental Protection Plan.

The IM will conduct followup monitoring under the bridge during heavy rainfall. No deficiencies were identified in the area.



Moore Creek bridge crossing at KP 889.

Black Pines Transmission Line

Construction of the Black Pines transmission line has commenced in a series of phased activities from the east side Highway 5 to the Black Pines Pump Station, west of the North Thompson River. Visible activities include site preparation, assembling and raising the towers, and installation of conductors and wires.

An inspection was conducted by an Environmental Inspector and an Indigenous Monitor at the Black Pines Transmission Line. The inspection included observing housekeeping items, equipment using drip trays, on-site stormwater management, soil buffers and placement locations and TLU signage. No environmental concerns were recorded at the time of the inspection.



Topsoil stripping activities.



Snow fencing installed for an archaeology site.

Revegetation at HDD Site

Trenchless construction methods allow for underground crossings that minimize disturbance to highways, railways and environmentally sensitive areas. There are different trenchless methods that can be used, depending on factors such as soil condition and length of crossing.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections where a previous drill rig was set up for a horizontal directional drill (HDD) entry site near Mission Flats.

The Indigenous Monitor inspections focused on appropriate signage and flagging and inspecting vegetation ground cover. It was noted that the site was on the right trajectory for re-vegetation. Native species were observed including Common Milkweed and Aspen saplings. Weed species were also identified. The Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector reported the deficiency and notified the team in charge of the herbicide application. The Environmental Inspector worked collaboratively with the contractor to remove the weeds by applying herbicide. The Indigenous Monitor continues to participate in follow-up inspections for this area.



Observing vegetation regrowth at an HDD entry site near Mission Flats.

Topsoil Restoration

Topsoil restoration is a vital step in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition by preparing the site for further reclamation activities, such as revegetation.

Mitigation measures implemented during topsoil Restoration include;

- Decompact and break subsoils to smooth the surface for re-contouring.
- Replace topsoil evenly over all portions of the pipeline construction footprint that have been stripped to pre-construction soil depths.
- Postpone topsoil replacement during wet conditions or high winds to prevent damage to soil structure or erosion of topsoil.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected pastureland around Black Pines near KP 806 and noted good housekeeping efforts and soil handling measures. No deficiencies were identified.



Topsoil replacement at KP 806.

Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided with daily on-site field support from Environmental Inspectors and office support from Indigenous Monitor Coordinators. Indigenous Monitors can also make specific support requests or submit questions through their daily report. Examples include but are not limited to: request for Project reports, input from an environmental resource specialist or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. Monthly requests and their completion status are noted below.

Status	Rolling Total and Type of Requests				
	Project Reports/Documents	Environmental Resource Specialists	Elder/Cultural Knowledge Holder	Other	Total
Total	6	0	3	0	9
Fulfilled	6	-	3	-	9
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

This report has been reviewed by the active Indigenous Monitor(s)

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