

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: March 2021**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26**

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

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 806–885 of Spread 5A**

### **Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview**

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project) 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 sediment control measures, active clearing areas, topsoil stripping and grading, wildlife encounters and culturally modified tree assessments. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for March 2021, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

**For more information: email [info@transmountain.com](mailto: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. Trans Mountain and its construction contractors are working diligently together to adhere to all advice and direction from government and health officials, while ensuring the safe uninterrupted operation of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the continued, safe construction of the Expansion Project. Measures being undertaken at construction sites include: temperature screening; following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers' orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

**For more information: [transmountain.com/covid19](https://transmountain.com/covid19)**

### **Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)**

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to locate and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and traditional use areas. Such locations have been identified via traditional use studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archeology 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 use area, the Traditional Land Use (TLU) Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

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.

An Indigenous Monitor assisted with a CMT assessment for trees found during a CMT sweep. Measurements were recorded to determine the diameter breast height (DBH). The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Communities and resource specialists were contacted for additional consultation and evaluation. Ongoing coordination is underway to assess findings.



Clearing view from south side of Dairy Creek gully.

### **Topsoil Stripping and Grading**

At KP 822, topsoil stripping and grading activities are taking place. When removing topsoil, there are many required mitigations including the inspection of topsoil pile(s) to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

The Indigenous Monitors have been involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil stripping mitigations. They also inspect the cleared area to investigate any potential chance finds that could be unearthed. No issues or chance finds were identified.



Topsoil stripping near KP 822 with hydrovac activity near by.

## Wildlife Encounters

Indigenous Monitors made records of wildlife markings while on the construction footprint. Wildlife observations included moose, mule and white tail deer and cougar markings. These observations are documented and reported to the Lead Environmental Inspector to ensure proper safety communication for the site. Pre-construction baseline surveys have been undertaken for the Project to understand wildlife activity and habitat features and how to best implement mitigations to reduce interactions between wildlife populations and the Project.

Mitigations for wildlife during construction include:

- Report any incidents or collisions with wildlife to Trans Mountain who will consult with the Appropriate Government Authorities and the local conservation officer, if applicable.
- Maintain a tight construction spread (i.e., stringing to backfilling) and construct the pipeline in an efficient manner to limit the duration of sensory disturbance to wildlife.
- Do not harass or feed wildlife. Do not store food in beds of pickup trucks or areas readily accessible to wildlife.



Mule deer observed near KP 821.

## Sediment Control

Site-specific sediment control measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from entering watercourses. The Indigenous Monitors inspect the right-of-way periodically during clearing to ensure sediment control measures are in place.

Near O'Connor Lake Road, the Indigenous Monitors observed workers maintaining sediment fencing that was installed. Proper installation of sediment fencing was recommended and implemented immediately by the contractor. The Indigenous Monitors identified signage and flagging and noted proper biosecurity measures being followed. There were no concerns identified at this location.



Sediment fence and culvert installed to mitigate sediment-laden runoff near KP 819.

### **Regulator Meetings**

In March, the Indigenous Monitors attended an online gathering hosted by the IAMC. The engagement was an online workshop organized to create opportunities for interaction between IAMC and TMEP IMs outside of in-field activities. This workshop provided an opportunity for IMs from both programs to gain an understanding of both the IAMC and TMEP Indigenous Monitoring Programs and create two-way dialogue for IMs from both programs to get to know each other and the work they do.

## 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	1	0	7
Fulfilled	6	-	1	-	7
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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