

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: May 2021

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

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

**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 environmental features, temporary construction lands, sediment control measures, Traditional Land Use (TLU) and Heritage Resource sites. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for May 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. 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

TLU Sites

During construction, cultural use areas are noted along the right-of-way. Such locations have been identified during traditional land use (TLU) studies conducted by Indigenous groups prior to construction. As part of the Environmental Protection Plan, there is a Traditional Land Use Sites Discovery Contingency Plan which outlines steps to take in the event previously unidentified TLU sites are identified during construction.

Indigenous Monitors monitored previously identified TLU areas along the right-of-way, ensuring mitigation is in place. Sites monitored include habitation sites and ceremonial sites near KP 859 and KP 810. Missing signage was identified by the IM and corrected with the IM, EI and contractor on-site.



TLU signage installed and confirmed near KP 810.

Environmental Features

Environmental features such as rare plants and rare ecological communities, wildlife species of concern, archaeological features, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental or cultural features that occur on or adjacent to the construction footprint are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced prior to commencing construction. The features are clearly marked so they can be protected during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected environmentally sensitive areas near KP 811, including plant gathering sites, habitation sites and trails to ensure the flagging/staking and signage remains in place and the appropriate mitigations are being followed, such as clearly marking all identified areas. Deficiencies were not observed at the time of inspection.



Signage observed near KP 811.

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 traditional land use areas. Such locations have been identified via traditional land use studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for over 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.

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 IMs and EIs on-site to collect initial information. Measurements were recorded to determine the diameter breast height (DBH). 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 near CMT sweeps conducted near KP 860.

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 Nobel Lake, the Indigenous Monitors observed workers maintaining sediment fencing that was installed. Proper installation and repair 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, culvert and straw wattles installed to mitigate sediment-laden runoff near KP 822.

Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are defined for the Project as preparatory works to support Project construction and include temporary camps, stockpile sites, equipment staging areas and borrow pits, as well as works on access roads within the first 10 km of each designated construction spread. Many of the sites addressed in the Temporary Construction Lands and Infrastructure Environmental Protection Plan are on lands that have been previously developed.

In May, a joint inspection was conducted by the EI and IM at the Merritt stockpile yard and the Merritt camp site. At the stockpile yard a small spill <500 ml of hydraulic fluid was identified. The spill response plan was enacted and the deficiency was documented. At the Merritt camp site, a bird nest was observed with an existing wildlife buffer around the feature. No concerns were identified. Waste management on-site was inspected, and a cardboard bin was recommended.



At the pipe yard near Chutter Ranch, end caps were inspected and confirmed on pipe.



Contaminated soil bins with signage on-site. Spot spill <500 ml identified and addressed.




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	2	0	8
Fulfilled	6	-	2	-	8
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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