INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: September 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 23

Project Region: Fraser Valley

Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP **1075.10–KP 1158**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining 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 impacts 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 Lower Mainland. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key Project activities in the Fraser Valley Region involving Indigenous Monitors included construction on Spread 6/7A and at Sumas Terminal. Activities included Heritage Resource Site monitoring, environmental feature and Traditional Land Use (TLU) site flagging and staking, biosecurity, wildlife management, construction site housekeeping/concrete management and Erosion and Sediment Control. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for September 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. 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

Environmental Feature and Traditional Land Use Site Flagging and Staking

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to check on flagging/marking and to verify buffer zones are clearly marked. As part of pre-construction activity, environmental features such as wildlife species of concern, rare plants and rare ecological communities, archaeological features, wetlands, watercourses, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental features are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced by Resource Specialist teams. The features are clearly marked so they can be appropriately protected during construction.

TLU areas have been identified through information and studies provided by Indigenous groups over several years of Project assessment and planning. During pre-construction activities on Spread 6, previously identified TLU sites, including culturally modified trees (CMTs), are being marked with flagging ribbon by Resource Specialist crews. In the event a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified TLU area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

In September, the Indigenous Monitors observed and participated in the flagging of previous identified CMTs near KP 1077 and inspected the flagging of riparian areas near watercourse BC 706c.

Flagging of riparian zones at watercourse BC 706c.

Navigable waters, water course signage inspected at BC 726 KP 1112+400.

Concrete Management

At Sumas Terminal, concrete is used in many of the construction activities. For example, concrete is poured into circular frames to form the new storage tank foundations and sprayed onto rebar to create reinforcement walls around the new tank areas.

During the pouring or spraying of concrete, environmental protection mitigations are implemented to isolate the concrete work and to prevent spillage of concrete or grout onto the ground or watercourses. These mitigations include ensuring all concrete work is completed during dry conditions and properly contained within sealed forms, using containments for any concrete waste storage and having spill kits available for the concrete trucks.

In September, the Indigenous Monitor at Sumas Terminal observed the contractor prepare and perform concrete pours. Mitigations like secondary containment and localization of concrete and grout were conducted properly.

Secondary containment measures being used in concerete pour at Sumas Terminal.

Rebar that will be filled with concrete to form berms at Sumas Terminal.

Construction Site Housekeeping

The Indigenous Monitor at Sumas Terminal conducts regular site inspections for general housekeeping measures. This includes observing and documenting garbage and recycling disposal, scrap metal management, waste storage and secondary containment of fuel and other hydrocarbons. Secondary containment measures include, but are not limited to, drip trays under inactive vehicles and equipment, and drip trays placed under hydrocarbon containers like gasoline and diesel, and paint aerosol spray cans.
At Sumas Terminal, if a deficiency is observed the contractor is notified immediately. The Indigenous Monitor performs a follow-up inspection to confirm the contractor has addressed the deficiency within the designated time frame, which is based on severity and risk of the deficiency. For example, in September after rainfall had occurred, a hard plastic containment unit was observed overflowing with stormwater. The contractor rectified the issue when notified.

Sumas Terminal laydown yard inspected for site housekeeping.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity measures are designed to reduce the introduction or spread of noxious weeds and soil pathogens or other crop diseases from construction activities. Biosecurity measures are also used in areas of special activity (e.g., organic farms). Biosecurity mitigations include cleaning stations to manage the risks associated with invasive, noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. Cleaning stations are properly flagged and include signage. Some cleaning stations may include a wash station where a disinfectant composed of a bleach solution is used to disinfect equipment, tools and footwear.

The Indigenous Monitors clean their vehicles, tools and footwear as part of working in biosecurity areas. Cleaning station and vehicle/equipment inspections are routinely performed to ensure mitigations are being followed.

Boot wash station at KP 1055+500, set up within 10 metres of watercourse BC 759d1.

Wildlife Management

Outstanding environmental feature baseline surveys and assessments for wildlife habitat features are being completed in the Fraser Valley prior to commencement of construction, as outlined in the Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC Pipeline Environmental Protection Plan. The key results of the surveys and assessments are taken into consideration for the pipeline construction environmental planning and determination of wildlife species salvage and mitigations.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the Trans Mountain Wildlife Resource Specialist conduct assessments of potential breeding and overwintering habitat for amphibians and other wildlife like the Giant Salamander, the Pacific Water Shrew, Mountain Beaver and Oregon Forestsnail. Assessments include the extent of wildlife critical habitat, potential salvage relocation sites and locations to install wildlife exclusion fencing. Exclusion fencing ensures wildlife overwinter outside the Project footprint and will not be impacted by construction activity. In September, the Indigenous Monitors observed the Trans Mountain Wildlife Resource Specialist conduct these assessments near Peach Creek at KP 1098+700 through KP 1100+000.

In September, the Indigenous Monitors also observed amphibian salvages and, monitored exclusion fencing near KP 1151+500 and the commencement of Oregon Forestsnail salvage efforts near Bridal Falls at KP 1077+000 to KP 1077+200. Also observed was the enhancement of Oregon Forestsnail habitat by adding mulch and woodchips near KP 1076. This large land snail is endemic to western North America and in Canada and occurs mainly in the Lower Fraser Valley. In 2002, the Oregon Forestsnail was designated as endangered and is protected under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).The snail habitat loss due to residential and commercial development continues to fragment and isolate remaining populations.

Seine netting used to exclude amphibians at KP 1151+500. Netting was observed as being in good condition with no rips or tears.

Oregon Forestsnails salvaged at 1077+300, recorded, then relocated.

Heritage Resource Site

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to identify 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 conducted over many years of Project planning.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the implementation of an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) conducted near KP 1162.5, KP 1164.8, KP 1136 and KP 1160. The assessment, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, may include visual inspection to identify features with predictable archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and subsurface testing (shovel testing) of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential.

In the event that an archaeological site is found, Trans Mountain completes the applicable reporting and applies for the required permits in alignment with the Heritage Conservation Act.

Ongoing AIA activities continue in the Fraser Valley.

Shovel test conducted by the Trans Mountain Resource Specialst near KP 1160 as part of the AIA pre-construction activity.

Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC)

Erosion and sediment control measures are monitored and inspected at Sumas Terminal to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas, including watercourses and the marine environment. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures. Before and after heavy rainfall, the Indigenous Monitor inspects exposed slopes and other construction areas to ensure they are covered with the appropriate ESC measures

In September, the Indigenous Monitor observed a deficiency with the sediment fencing installed outside the perimeter terminal fence alongside Wetland 2. They observed that a piece of the sediment fence was missing. The contractor was notified to replace the missing section of sediment fence.

Perimeter fence at Sumas Terminal with straw and sediment fence installed as ESC measures.

Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided 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	0	2	0	0	2
Fulfilled	-	2	-	-	2
Outstanding	0	0	-	-	0

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

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