

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: January 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 24

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

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 806–974**

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 974 in Spread 5A and included monitoring wildlife observations, temporary construction lands, horizontal directional bores (HDBs) and pad construction, topsoil salvage and grading, heritage resource sites and culturally modified tree chance finds. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for January 2022, 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 Traditional Land Use (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

Temporary Construction Lands

The Cando construction laydown yard in Kamloops is used for delivery and storage of materials and equipment. Indigenous Monitors conducted environmental inspections of the laydown yard to ensure Project requirements are being followed. This included observing and documenting general housekeeping, waste management, hazardous materials storage and vehicle and equipment parking.

During the inspection, the Indigenous Monitor and the Environmental Inspector identified misplaced debris, garbage and recycling, which was brought forward as a deficiency and resolved. Spill kits were inspected for volume and types of spill response material and to ensure the appropriate placement in relation to work fronts. Drip trays were inspected under stationary equipment to make sure they were present when parked. Some drip trays had collected melted snow, so fluids were properly drained from trays. Corrective action was applied for the identified deficiencies during the inspection.



Waste management bins requiring disposal.



Secondary containment requiring drainage from snow melt.

Bore Pad Construction near Jacko Lake

Near Jacko Lake, crews are constructing a bore pad for trenchless crossing activities. Trenchless crossings are used to safely cross underneath roads and railways, minimizing the impact on users. These techniques are also used for many watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas.

At KP 851, topsoil was stripped and segregated, and grading activities continue. Ground disturbance was observed within the designated limits. The ground near parked machinery was inspected for surface staining. No concerns were identified. Good housekeeping and proper waste management procedures were identified during the inspection. Environmental features at KP 851 near the active construction area were monitored for continued avoidance, appropriate signage and buffers.

The Indigenous Monitor participated in inspections focused on appropriate signage and flagging. Disturbed soil was inspected for potential chance finds. No potential heritage resource chance finds were identified throughout the inspection.



Bore pad construction at KP 851 near Jacko Lake.

Wildlife Observation

The Indigenous Monitors observed deer tracks during inspection work. During construction activity, mitigation measures are implemented including soil breaks to allow wildlife to safely cross the construction footprint and reporting any observed wildlife activity near construction.

Indigenous Monitors documented deer using the wildlife corridors along the right-of-way near KP 848.



Deer using wildlife corridors near KP 848.

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.

During pre-construction survey activities, previously identified TLU areas are marked with flagging ribbon by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program. Signage is also installed to indicate to construction crews where areas are not to be entered.

Indigenous Monitors inspected TLU areas and archaeological sites along the right-of-way to verify the staking and boundaries. Some sites included but are not limited to TLU-34, TLU-35 and TLU-36. The process to ensure delineation and understanding of archaeological sites and mitigation measures were reviewed by the Environmental Inspector, Indigenous Monitor, construction contractor and surveyors. A deficiency was documented identifying a broken stake and corrective action was taken to ensure accurate boundaries. Ongoing monitoring by the Indigenous Monitors continue at such sites.



Polygon delineation along the right-of-way.



Appropriate signage and buffers confirmed along right-of-way.



Installed buffers along right-of-way.

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 TLU area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

Near the Coldwater West Alternative Route, 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 continued to conduct 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 and Knowledge Holders of Indigenous Monitor's communities were contacted for evaluation of the tree and potential mitigation. The engagement process with Indigenous groups was initiated to share information about the resource and seek feedback. The tree was determined to be culturally modified. The feature was flagged and a buffer was placed around the tree and continued avoidance was recommended.



General area near the Coldwater Reroute where CMT sweeps were conducted ahead of clearing activities.

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. 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	1	8	0	15
Fulfilled	6	1	8	-	15
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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