

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: April 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 25

**Project Region: Coquihalla Hope
Spread 5B**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 990–1075**

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 Coquihalla Hope 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 Coquihalla Hope Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 990 to 1075 in Spread 5B and included monitoring heritage resource chance find procedures, timber salvage, temporary construction sites, topsoil removal and conducting culturally modified tree sweeps. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for April 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

Heritage Resource Chance Find

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 that have been conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years.

The Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the Heritage Resource Site Discovery Contingency Plan during soil stripping activities near the Coquihalla River Park at KP 1024 where a deer bone was discovered by the IM and Environmental Inspector.

Construction activities were halted immediately and the area was buffered to allow for ongoing assessments with the Archeology Resource Specialist, Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector. As part of the Contingency Plan, Trans Mountain initiated the communication process with Indigenous groups related to notification and engagement on potential Traditional Land Use and Heritage Resources chance finds. The archaeologist determined the bone was from a deer.

Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are defined for the Project as preparatory work areas to support Project construction and include temporary camps, stockpile sites, equipment staging areas. Many of the sites addressed in the Temporary Construction Lands and Infrastructure Environmental Protection Plan are on previously developed lands.

Indigenous Monitors participated in joint inspections with the Environmental Inspector at the Skagit laydown yard in Hope, BC. Key aspects of the inspections included housekeeping and waste management with corrective actions noted, including proper waste disposal and using drip trays. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed and implemented at site. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of during the inspection. Corrective actions were applied during the inspection.



Chance find near KP 1024, deer bone.



Skagit yard inspection for general housekeeping.



Waste management corrective action applied during inspection.

Timber Salvage

Trans Mountain has a Timber Salvage Plan outlining practices for management and handling of trees that are cleared along the right-of-way. Any merchantable timber is delivered to mills or, if on private land, the landowner is compensated.

Trans Mountain is working with Indigenous communities that have identified timber salvage interests. In some areas, communities have identified timber that can be salvaged for teepee poles, ceremonial purposes or firewood.

The Indigenous Monitors have been involved in inspecting the removal of the merchantable timber as per the Timber Salvage Plan. At KP 1040 near the Coquihalla Campground, the environmentally sensitive area was monitored during the removal of timber as ongoing Archaeological Impact Assessments continue in the area. Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections to confirm the installation of signage and barriers to avoid environmentally sensitive features were in place. Indigenous Monitors worked with the loader on-site to monitor log integrity. This prevents waste of merchantable timber. In warm weather conditions, topsoil tracking is a high priority. Rutting, admixing and compaction are closely monitored while the haul trucks are on-site.

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. If 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.

The Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in areas where trees thought to be potentially culturally modified were identified. Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity.



Timber removed along the right-of-way for processing and transport near KP 1040.



General area of CMT sweeps.



General area of CMT sweeps.

Topsoil Removal

When removing soil in construction areas, required mitigation includes segregation of topsoil from root zone material, proper storage to reduce potential erosion, effective labelling and signage, and inspection of soil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

The Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring and inspecting such soil salvage mitigations. The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after soil stripping to identify any potential archaeological chance finds. A potential archaeological chance find was identified.

Near Hope, the Indigenous Monitors participated in the implementation of the Heritage Resource Site Discovery Contingency Plan where a potential heritage resource feature was discovered. Construction was halted and the chance find was buffered to allow for ongoing assessments with the Resource Specialist, Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector. Trans Mountain initiated the communication process for chance finds of Traditional Land Use and Heritage Resources sites.

Further inspections were conducted near the area and no additional potential chance finds were identified. Ongoing assessments with the Archaeological Resource Specialist continue in the area.



Soil removal and soil screening for potential chance finds near Hope.

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 requests 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	8	0	4	0	12
Fulfilled	8	-	4	-	12
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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