

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: March 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

**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 right-of-way clearing, timber salvage, cleaning stations, temporary construction sites, topsoil removal, conducting culturally modified tree sweeps and Traditional Land Use (TLU) site inspections. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for March 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 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

Right-of-Way Clearing

Project right-of-way clearing involves the removal of trees and vegetation in areas along the pipeline. During this process, the surveyed Project right-of-way is cleared by removing the trees and brush. The topsoil is salvaged and stored along the edge of the Project right-of-way so it may be spread back out during reclamation. During the winter months, snow removal activities are required.

At KP 1048 near Chawathen Creek, the Indigenous Monitors inspected clearing activities, including documenting housekeeping, erosion and sediment control measures, buffers and signage for environmentally sensitive areas. No rare or medicinal plants were identified by the Indigenous Monitors in the workspace. No concerns were identified during the inspection.



Clearing activities continue at KP 1048.

Traditional Land Use Sites

During construction, cultural use areas are noted along the right-of-way. Such locations have been identified during traditional use studies conducted by Indigenous groups prior to construction. As part of the Environmental Management Plan, the TLU Sites Discovery Contingency Plan outlines steps to take in the event previously unidentified traditional use sites are identified during construction.

Indigenous Monitors inspected previously identified cultural use areas along the right-of-way, ensuring mitigation was in place including signage and documentation of any current use.

Trans Mountain also facilitated tours for Indigenous visitors to observe construction activity and discuss the construction process, environmental mitigation measures and how the right-of-way will be reclaimed.



Signage and flagging confirmed along the right-of-way.

Cleaning Stations

Biosecurity measures are designed to reduce the introduction or spread of noxious weeds and soil pathogens or other crop diseases from construction activities. Biosecurity mitigations include level 1 cleaning stations to manage the risks associated with invasive, noxious and prohibited noxious weeds.

The basic procedure is to remove accumulated soil or vegetative debris from openings, tracks, tires and wheels. Cleaning is completed in designated areas and a visual inspection of the equipment or vehicles is completed before leaving the site.

Indigenous Monitors inspected a level 1 cleaning station at KP 1048 where they observed appropriate signage in place, sufficient equipment cleaning material and that the cleaning station was constructed to EPP specifications. Utility crew members were observed brushing off boots and tires before entering the right-of-way.



Level 1 cleaning station near KP 1048.

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 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 previously developed lands.

Indigenous Monitors participated in joint inspections with the Environmental Inspector at the Popkum laydown yard. 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. Debris was identified and disposed of during the inspection. Corrective actions were applied during the inspection.



Waste management corrective action applied during inspection.



Popkum yard inspection for general housekeeping.

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.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in the implementation of the Heritage Resource Site Discovery Contingency Plan where a potential fire cracked rock was discovered. Construction was halted to allow for ongoing assessments with the Resource Specialist, IM and EI. Trans Mountain initiated the communication process for chance finds of Traditional Land Use and Heritage Resources sites outlined in approved CER documents (e.g., Environmental Protection Plan, Resource Specific Mitigation Tables).

Further inspections were conducted near the area by the EI, IM and archaeologist, and no additional potential chance finds were identified. Ongoing assessments with the Archeological Resource Specialist continue in the area.



Soil removal activities.

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.



General area of CMT sweeps.

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 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.



Timber removed and placed along the right-of-way for processing and transport.

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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