INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: February 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 22

Project Region: Fraser Valley

Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored: KP 1075–1165

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 Fraser Valley. 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. Activities included monitoring at heritage resource sites, environmental features and Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites, erosion and sediment control, clearing and timber salvage, and Sumas Terminal.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for February 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. 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 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.

In February, the Indigenous Monitors observed Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) conducted along the right-of-way on Spread 6 and 7A. The assessments, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, included visual inspections to identify features with archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural or terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential and sub-surface testing (shovel testing) of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential.

If 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.

Archaeological site and excavation unit box assembly.

Resource specialists conducting shovel testing on Spread 6.

Environmental Features and TLU Site

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to ensure buffer zones are clearly flagged and staked. 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.

In February, the Indigenous Monitors inspected Culturally Modified Tree (CMT) flagging at Bridal Falls near KP 1076 and KP 1077, as well as participated in a pre-construction CMT locating walk-throughs with the Environmental Inspector and the contractor at KP 1143.91 to 1144.22. All pre-identified CMTs were located and flagged off effectively. The Indigenous Monitors also inspected TLU staking and signage at various locations including KP 1139.66 and KP 1117.52.

Staking observed during a walk-through of KP 1140.000 to KP 1146.600.

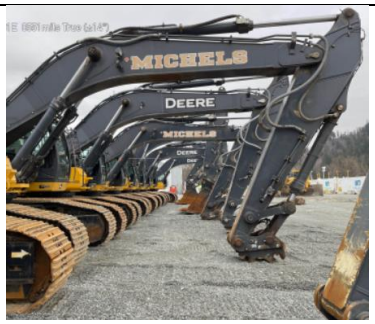
CMT flagging and buffer near KP 1143.91.

Construction Site Housekeeping, Waste Segregation and Spill Response

Indigenous Monitors conduct 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.

In February, monitoring included an inspection at Lackaway Yard, which also included observation of erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures like check dams and spill response. During the inspection at Lackaway Yard, a fuel spill was identified and the Environmental Inspector addressed the deficiency with the contractor.

In February at KP 1160.000, a hydrocarbon sheen was identified near the pipeline trench. Digging of the trench was halted and the Indigenous Monitor observed the contractor clean up the affected area using a hydrovac to collect contact ground surface water. The contact water was contained and disposed of at a Trans Mountain-approved waste disposal facility accordance with the Trans Mountain Spill Response Contingency Plan.



Inactive heavy machinery at Lackaway Yard.

Sumas Terminal

In February at Sumas Terminal, the Indigenous Monitor observed environmental mitigation measures relating to ESC, including placement of sediment fencing and straw waddles along the Tank Bay 104 access road. These measures were installed in anticipation of increased vehicle and equipment traffic along this arterial terminal access. The Indigenous Monitor observed a piece of sediment fencing along a wetland area in need of repair. The Environmental Inspector logged the deficiency and addressed the necessary fix with the contractor.

The Indigenous Monitor observed a utility line located near the fire-water pond above Tank Bay 104 at Sumas Terminal. To locate buried utility lines, hydrovacs are used to identify underground utilities using water at high pressure. The Indigenous Monitor observed that these areas were backfilled with native soil and in a timely manner.


Extended length of sediment fence and straw waddle along the terminal main access road.


Hydrovac holes above Tank 104 backfilled to prevent wildlife from entering.

Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC)

ESC measures are monitored and inspected to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to sensitive environmental features downstream. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

At KP 1077.550 to 1077.900, the Indigenous Monitors observed ESC measures such as sediment fencing installed under wooden access matting.

Wing wall sediment fencing installed under access matting at KP 1077.900.

Right-of-Way Clearing and Timber Salvage

Project right-of-way clearing involves the removal of trees and vegetation in areas along the Project footprint. During this process, the right-of-way is cleared by removing trees and brush. The topsoil is salvaged and stored along the edge of the right-of-way so it may be spread back out during reclamation. Prior to clearing activities, site-specific pre-clearing walk-throughs and meetings are conducted that will identify existing and potential environmental issues and/or constraints. The pre-clearing walk-throughs are done a day or two before any activities.

In February, the Indigenous Monitors participated in pre-clearing walk-throughs at KP 1132 and KP 1140 with the Environmental Inspector and contractor to ensure appropriate staking, flagging and signage of environmental features were in place prior to tree falling activities.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected clearing activities along the right-of-way at Bridal Falls Golf Course (KP 1077.600 to 1077.900) and Ledgeview Golf Course (KP 1117.200 to 1117.900). The inspection included documenting topsoil storage, good housekeeping measures, fencing installation and accurate buffers and signage for environmentally sensitive areas. No concerns were identified during the inspection.

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

The Indigenous Monitors have been involved in inspecting the removal and storage of the merchantable timber as per the Timber Salvage Plan.

Pre-clearing walk-through near KP 1132.300.

Topsoil Stripping and Storage

Indigenous Monitors observed topsoil stripping, grading and storage activities at Bridal Falls KP 1077.98 to KP 1077.6 and Ledgeview Golf Course KP 1117.4 to KP 1117.6.

Indigenous Monitors inspect to ensure environmental mitigation measures are in place. Equipment is to arrive on-site clean; soil piles are separated and within the limits of the right-of-way, soil piles are properly stored and labelled. Stripped areas were monitored for potential chance finds that could be unearthed. If a deficiency were found, the Indigenous Monitor would report it to an Environmental Inspector for corrective action, discuss with the contractor on-site or, in some cases, perform the corrective action upon identifying the deficiency. No environmental concerns or potential chance finds were identified during the inspection.

Course woody debris and topsoil material covered at KP 1077.700.

Stripped sub-surface soil stored on top of geofabric at KP 1117.6.

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 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	0	2	0	0	2
Fulfilled	-	2	-	-	2
Outstanding	-	0	-	-	0

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

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