

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: September 2023

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

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, reclamation, wildlife management, surface water pump-off, site housekeeping, environmental features flagging and signage, and erosion and sediment control (ESC).

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for September 2023, 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. [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.

Reclamation

Subsoil is decompacted to alleviate compaction caused by construction activities before topsoil replacement. Acceptable topsoil depths are confirmed by an Environmental Inspector (EI) during final cleanup. Multiple measurements are taken of topsoil replacement quality and depth. After the contractor has properly prepared the ground for seed, the area is seeded with the approved mix that reflects the vegetation profile from pre-disturbance.

Indigenous Monitors inspected various reclamation activities in the Fraser Valley, including discing for soil decompaction, topsoil replacement, confirming topsoil depth, erosion and sediment control measures, confirmation that proper seed mixes are applied and monitoring regrowth and stability. Indigenous Monitors worked with Environmental Inspectors to ensure mitigation measures were in place and working as intended during reclamation activities.



Monitoring regrowth in previously reclaimed area KP 1076.

Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, the Indigenous Monitors record and report wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. They also inspect signage and wildlife buffers to ensure they're effectively in place to prevent incidental contact. Indigenous Monitors also routinely observe and participate in wildlife sweeps for various species of wildlife.

The Indigenous Monitor observed the Resource Specialist conduct wildlife sweeps at various construction work areas, including KP 1076 and KP 1163. At KP 1163, the Indigenous Monitor observed the Resource Specialist conduct a salvage for Pacific Water Shrews, which are protected under the Species at Risk Act. No Pacific Water Shrews were discovered. Near KP 1076, the Indigenous Monitor observed the Resource Specialist conduct assessments of the Oregon Forestsnail exclusion plots that were installed in 2021. These plots provide salvaged snails with a natural habitat to live and breed in during construction activities and are monitored and assessed by the Resource Specialist.



Oregon Forestsnail exclusion plot monitored near KP 1076.

Pump-Off

To keep trench excavation and other construction site areas dewatered and stable during pipeline construction, water that accumulates from precipitation or groundwater seepage is pumped off to an approved location either on or off the construction footprint.

Near KP 1098, an Indigenous Monitor observed that water accumulating on-site was pumped off to a settling containment system and filter bags. Water flowing out of the filtration system was discharged upland to a well-vegetated area. The settling containment systems were inspected and functioning as intended and no sediment loading was identified at the discharge points.



The dewatering system near KP 1098 observed functioning as intended.



Pump in secondary containment and all mitigations in place at KP 1098.

Site Housekeeping

The Indigenous Monitors regularly conduct inspections of construction areas for general housekeeping measures. This includes observing and documenting waste management practices and hazardous materials containment, as well as inspecting that spill kits are effectively placed and stocked with absorbent materials.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted housekeeping inspections in temporary construction sites and various areas in the Fraser Valley. Indigenous Monitors also checked that secondary containment was placed underneath machinery and stored petrochemicals such as paint and gasoline. No environmental concerns were noted.



Waste disposal area clean and bins properly labelled at Lackway yard in Chilliwack, BC.



Inspection completed on hydrovac activities.

Environmental Features Flagging and Signage

Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to ensure buffer zones are clearly flagged and staked. As part of pre-construction activities, 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. Indigenous Monitors inspect TLU and archaeological areas with a focus on sites near active construction to ensure mitigation measures are in place to protect TLU and Heritage Resources.

Indigenous Monitors inspected multiple locations, including TLU sites and archaeological sites. No concerns were identified.



TLU signage inspected near KP 1101.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Site-specific erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from leaving the right-of-way or from entering watercourses and wetlands. Key areas where ESC measures are required can include soil excavations, exposed slopes, soil stockpiles and locations near watercourses.

On-site ESC mitigations may include sediment fences, swales, wattles, rock armouring, erosion control blankets and hydroseeding, coarse woody debris (CWD), as well as water drainage control measures.

ESC measures continue to be a major focus. Indigenous Monitors inspected erosion control blankets secured with willow stakes, rock armouring, swales and placement of CWD. No concerns were identified.



CWD and other ESC installed near KP 1112.



ESC measures in place at KP 1077.

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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