

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: August 2023
Project Region: North Thompson
(Spread 3/4A and Spread 4B)

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 25
Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
Spread 3/4A: KP 470–696
Spread 4B: KP 697–764

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 North Thompson 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 North Thompson Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 470–KP 696 in Spread 3/4A and reclamation monitoring KP 697–KP 764 in Spread 4B and included temporary construction lands, wildlife management, watercourse reclamation inspection, and Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites. Construction on Spread 3/4A and 4B is now more than 99 per cent complete, with final cleanup and reclamation activities ongoing. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for August 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 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.

Spread 4B Reclamation

Subsoil is de-compacted to alleviate compaction caused by construction activities before topsoil replacement. Acceptable topsoil depths are confirmed by an Environmental Inspector (EI) during final cleanup. 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 on Spread 4B, including mat removal, discing for soil decompaction, topsoil replacement, confirming topsoil depth and confirmation that proper seed mixes are applied, bird sweeps conducted before reclamation activity and maintenance of Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) measures.

Indigenous Monitors worked with Environmental Inspectors to ensure mitigation measures were in place during reclamation activities and that proper topsoil depths were confirmed. The Indigenous Monitor reviewed daily communications about bird sweeps conducted and locations of active nests. Monitoring of ESC measures is ongoing. No environmental concerns were identified.



Hydroseeding complete on slope at KP 738.



CWD being placed at KP 702.



Topsoil replacement near KP 702.

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 and equipment staging areas. Many of the sites, addressed in the Temporary Construction Lands and Infrastructure Environmental Protection Plan, are on previously developed lands.

The Blue River Camp Community closed at the end of August 2023. An Indigenous Monitor inspected the Blue River Camp during initial demobilization activities in August. The inspection focused on ongoing housekeeping during the work. No issues were identified. The Indigenous Monitor is expected to inspect the site again as demobilization continues.



Blue River Camp



Blue River Camp.

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 and other mitigations to ensure they're effectively in place to prevent incidental contact. Indigenous Monitors also routinely observe and participate in wildlife sweeps and salvages for various species of wildlife.

The Indigenous Monitor conducted bird sweeps with the Environmental Inspector in simplified habitat between KP 489 and KP 616. They discussed the nesting bird season, mitigation measures that are in place and the transition out of the Restricted Access Period. No new nests or concerns were identified during the sweeps and mitigations were in place at previously identified nests.



General area monitored for bird activity.

Watercourse Restoration Monitoring

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourses are prescribed in the provincial permits and the watercourse crossing plans, and in some cases, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) authorization. Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include but are not limited to biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, salvaging of stream bed material, fish salvage, water quality monitoring and sediment/erosion control. When in-stream work is complete, Indigenous Monitors regularly monitor watercourse crossings. Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are monitored; these measures mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas and watercourses.

Indigenous Monitors inspected the effectiveness of restorations completed for several watercourses in Spread 3,4A, including BC-39c at KP 534, BC-83 at KP 558 and BC-93 at KP 563. The Indigenous Monitor observed site housekeeping efforts, recontour of the bank and transplant areas, including erosion control blanket, willow stakes in riparian zones, reseeding in previously excavated and backfilled areas, and rock armouring and stream bed material replacement. These mitigations were installed and working as planned.



Creek restoration complete BC-39c KP 534.



Creek restoration at BC-93 KP 563.



Restoration complete BC-83 KP 558.

TLU Sites

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 and stakes by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program. Signage is also installed to indicate to construction crews that a feature is present in the area.

Indigenous Monitors inspected TLU areas and archaeological sites to verify staking and signage remains in good standing condition. Sites inspected include but are not limited to TLU-30, TLU-31 and TLU-32. Ongoing monitoring by the Indigenous Monitors continues at such sites.



Mitigations in place at TLU-32.



Mitigations in place at TLU-30.



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

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

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