

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: February 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 24

**Project Region: North Thompson
(Spread 3/4A and Spread 4B)**

**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 470–696 in Spread 3/4A and 697–764 in Spread 4B and included pump station inspections, soil salvage, wildlife management, watercourse crossings and heritage resource site inspections. 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 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

Pump Station Inspections

In February, an Indigenous Monitor and an Environmental Inspector conducted environmental inspections at McMurphy Pump Station and the Hargreaves Trap Site following the measures outlined in Trans Mountain's Facilities Environmental Protection Plan. The inspections included site general housekeeping, waste segregation, recycling and equipment inspections (ensuring proper use of drip trays).

The inspection at the McMurphy Pump Station (KP 667.2) included a follow up on last month's corrective action on waste separation. The Indigenous Monitor followed up and confirmed this corrective action was completed. Offices and lunch trailers were moved away from construction to provide room for construction material in what had become a crowded site. The Indigenous Monitor noted the site now has sufficient room for construction activities. No concerns were identified at the time of inspection.

An Indigenous Monitor requested to do an inspection at the Hargreaves Trap Site KP 491.5 and this was coordinated with an Environmental Inspector. While on-site, regular communication with the blasting crew working on-site was maintained. Sandblasting and coating were underway on-site. Erosion and sediment control measures were inspected and in good repair; waste segregation was executed properly; and open excavations were properly delineated with signage, snow fence and larger physical barriers when needed. Drip trays were also in place under stationary equipment. No concerns were found at the time of inspection.



New location of offices and lunch trailers at McMurphy Pump Station KP 667.



McMurphy Pump Station KP 667.



Hargreaves Trap Site KP 491.5.



Blasting crew working near Hargreaves Trap Site.

Soil Salvage

During construction activities, Indigenous Monitors were on-site performing monitoring duties related to soils, including ensuring equipment arrives clean on-site, soil piles are placed within the survey limits of the right-of-way and soil piles are properly labelled.

At KP 526, Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring the salvage and placement of topsoil and were available if any potential heritage resources or items of TLU interest were unearthed during soil stripping operations. During the inspection, the Indigenous Monitor confirmed the soil piles were within the surveyed limits and no potential chance finds were identified.



Topsoil stripped and graded in Riparian Buffer Zone at KP 526 Canoe River BC-36.



Top soil separated from upland soils and staked at KP 526 Canoe River BC-36.

Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, the Indigenous Monitors record and report wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. They also participate in discussions with the Environmental Inspection team and Resource Specialists relating to wildlife protection strategies and monitor and inspect that mitigation measures like environmental feature signage and buffers are effectively in place.

On February 5, sweeps for raptor activity and nesting were executed at regular intervals in areas where construction activity might have an impact on the birds. The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps, including raptor sweeps alongside the Resource Specialist. All active nests occupied by any species of bird or its eggs require protection and are to be avoided. When an active nest is identified, buffer zones are established and signage is installed. No active raptor nests were identified in February. Migratory bird sweeps will begin in this region in April.



Raptor sweep completed at KP 612.9.



Raptor sweep completed at KP 620.

Watercourse Crossings

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of the watercourses at Camp, Canoe, Finn, Foam, Dora, Dominion and Albreda Creeks and Thunder River are prescribed in the provincial permit and the watercourse crossing plan. Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include but are not limited to biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, stream bed material, fish salvage water quality monitoring and sediment/erosion control.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the contractor prepare and execute in-stream work at various locations. In BC-82a Albreda River, BC-151 Miledge Creek and BC-56 Camp Creek, the upstream water was diverted downstream of the crossing area to maintain natural flow conditions and water quality. The Indigenous Monitor also observed and assisted with fish salvage and reclamation. Several streams completed reclamation in February. Indigenous Monitors talked to Resource Specialists about how turbidity is controlled through the stages of construction, what is done if turbidity increases and how erosion and sediment control measures are installed during reclamation. No environmental concerns were found during these inspections.



Diffusers in place at Camp Creek KP 543.1 BC-56.



Ditch for Camp Creek crossing KP-543.1 BC-56



Finn Creek reclamation complete BC-201 KP 663.9.



Miledge Creek reclamation complete BC-151 KP 588.9

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.

During pre-construction survey activities, previously identified TLU areas are marked with stakes and flagging ribbon by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program. Signage is also installed to indicate to construction crews where areas are not to be entered.

Near KP 515, an Indigenous Monitor inspected archaeological sites to ensure the sites were clearly marked. The process to ensure delineation and understanding of archaeological sites and mitigation measures were reviewed by the Environmental Inspector, Indigenous Monitor, Construction Contractor and Surveyors. The Indigenous Monitor spoke with the Resource Specialists on-site about the ongoing work, with no potential chance finds discovered. Monitoring by the Indigenous Monitor continues at these sites.



Monitoring of trenching and backfill within the boundaries of an Archy site..



Access to site with flagging in place.

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 and 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	1	0	1
Fulfilled	-	-	1	-	1
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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