

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: July 2022**

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

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 23**

**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 culturally modified tree (CMT) sweeps, included wildlife mitigation monitoring, subsoil/topsoil reclamation, pump station and water pump-off. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for July 2022, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

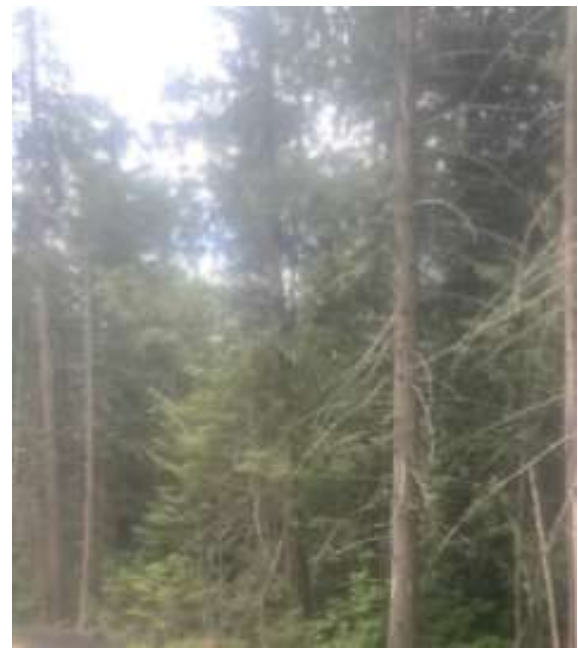
The Project has a process for sharing information related to potential Traditional Land Use (TLU) and Heritage Resource chance finds during construction. The [Protecting TLU and Cultural Heritage Resources Fact Sheet \(link here\)](#) provides an overview of the chance find communication process. Applicable Indigenous groups are notified and engaged directly on potential chance finds.

**For more information: email [info@transmountain.com](mailto:info@transmountain.com) or call 1.866.514.6700.**

### Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables (RSMT) 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 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.

An Indigenous Monitor inspected the site of a previously identified CMT near KP 640. The site-specific mitigations were followed as described in the Resource Specific Mitigation Table. No concerns were identified during the inspection. If a potential CMT were identified, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan would be implemented. Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity.



General area of CMT monitoring.

### Pump Station Inspections

An Indigenous Monitor and an Environmental Inspector conducted environmental inspections at the Blackpool Pump Station, 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).

At the Blackpool Pump Station (KP 732), soil was being hauled in for final grade work and fence installation was underway. The indigenous monitor confirmed that proper housekeeping and waste separation were in use and that the mitigations for active bird nests were in place, including buffer zones and signage. No concerns were identified.



Blackpool Pump Station KP 732.



Blackpool Pump Station KP 732.

## 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 relating to wildlife protection strategies and monitor and inspect that mitigation measures like environmental feature signage and buffers are effectively in place.

Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps including amphibian, migratory nesting bird and badger sweeps alongside the Resource Specialist prior to clearing and/or other construction activity. Nesting birds that require protection include species of migratory birds and those listed federally and/or provincially. Active nests require mitigation (e.g., avoidance or monitoring).

Resource Specialists performed sweeps in all areas where active construction is or will soon be underway. An Indigenous Monitor joined bird sweeps between KP 578 and 652. After bird sweeps were completed, the Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspectors confirmed that proper buffers and signage were in place and continue to communicate daily about active bird nest locations and mitigations. No issues were identified during these inspections.



Bird buffer signage in place KP 650.



Bird nest chance find near KP 578.



Bird nest buffer KP 602.



### Subsoil Topsoil Reclamation

Environmental Field Guides (EFG) outline TMEP standards of construction activity. Contractors are guided by the EFG to complete their work.

Subsoil is de-compacted to alleviate compaction caused by construction activities before topsoil replacement. An Indigenous Monitor worked with an Environmental Inspector to confirm acceptable topsoil depths and quality during final cleanup. Multiple samples were taken of topsoil at increments across the reclaimed area.

When the contractor has properly prepared the ground for seed, a sub-contractor is employed to seed areas with a seed mix approved by a TMEP Reclamation Specialist that reflects the vegetation profile from pre-disturbance. Indigenous Monitors regularly monitor reseeding and discuss seed mixtures with the Resource Specialist. No concerns were identified.



Topsoil replacement KP 715.



Reclamation ongoing KP 750.

### Pump-Off

To keep trench excavation areas dewatered and stable during pipeline construction, water that accumulates from precipitation or groundwater seepage is pumped off and relocated to an approved location either on or off the construction footprint. At KP 742, water accumulating in the excavated pipeline trench was pumped off to a settling containment system. Water flowing out of the filtration system was discharged upland to a well-vegetated area.

An Indigenous Monitor inspected to ensure the settling containment system was functioning as intended and that no sediment loading was identified at the discharge point. It was observed that pump-off water was released a minimum of 50 m from the nearest watercourse, replacement materials were readily available, including sediment control devices, pumps, spills kits and secondary containment, and housekeeping of off-construction footprint locations. No deficiencies were identified.



Pump-off sediment containment working as intended at Lemieux Creek KP 744.



Pump-off location KP 739.

## Watercourse Crossings

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of the watercourses 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.

An Indigenous Monitor observed the contractor prepare and execute in-stream work at BC-3 KP 490. The upstream water was diverted downstream of the crossing area to maintain natural flow conditions and water quality. The Indigenous Monitor talked with the Resource Specialist about water quality monitoring during in-stream work, and observed and assisted with fish salvage and restoration. During stream bank and bed restoration, Indigenous Monitors discussed with the Resource Specialist the efforts made to recreate fish habitat using various-sized rock. No environmental concerns or deficiencies were found during these inspections.



Pumps instream BC-3 KP 490.



Restoration work BC-3 KP 490.

## 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	0	-	1	-	1
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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