

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: July 2023

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

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

**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 restoration inspections and erosion and sediment control. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for July 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. 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

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.



Topsoil replacement and ongoing reclamation KP 734.



Monitoring regrowth on hill at KP 721.

Watercourse Restoration Inspection

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourse crossings 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 instream 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. On-site ESC mitigations may include sediment fences, swales, wattles, rock armouring, erosion control blankets and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

Indigenous Monitors inspected the effectiveness of restorations completed at BC-12 KP 495, BC-56 KP 545, BC-80 KP 556, BC 82a KP 557, BC-90 KP 561, BC-117 KP 579, BC-144 KP 586, BC-174 KP 602, BC-189e KP 626, BC-193 KP 630 and BC-243a KP 653. This included observing site transplant areas, including erosion control blanket, willow stakes in riparian zones, reseeding in previously excavated and backfilled areas, rock armouring and stream bed material replacement. No deficiencies were identified.



Restoration monitoring BC-174 KP 602.



Restoration monitoring BC-117 KP 579.

Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are 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.

An Indigenous Monitor inspected the Vavenby Yard. This site is being used for office facilities, a construction yard for storage of equipment and other construction material during construction. This site is in the process of demobilization. Much of the equipment and material has been moved to other areas of the Project.

Key aspects of the inspections included housekeeping and waste management, including proper waste disposal and using drip trays. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed at site. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of during the inspections.



Vavenby yard inspection.

Wildlife Management

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

The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps, including raptor and nesting bird sweeps prior to construction activities between KP 489 and KP 647 on Spread 3/4A. The Indigenous Monitors reviewed daily communications about active nests, their mitigations and swept areas on the Project footprint. All mitigations were in place during inspection.



General area of bird sweep KP 500.

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 ESC mitigations, including erosion control blankets secured with willow stakes, rock armouring, swales and placement of CWD. No environmental issues were identified.



ESC installed on steep slope at KP 536.



ESC installed on steep slope at KP 501.

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)

CONTACT US:
Trans Mountain

info@transmountain.com
1.866.514.6700
transmountain.com

@TransMtn
youtube.com/transmntn
PO Box 81018
Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0

