INDIGENOUS MONITOR
OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: May 2022
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 470–696 in Spread 3/4A and 697–764 in Spread 4B and included an inspection at the Blue River camp community, pre-construction monitoring, wildlife management, topsoil stripping, and erosion and sediment control (ESC). The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for May 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

Blue River Camp Community

The Blue River Camp Community located near Blue River, BC has completed construction and is open to accommodate up to 550 people working on and supporting the Project. The camp community is anticipated to operate until September 2023. Run by Tsetsk'wem Management Services, the camp is a Joint Venture between Simpcw Resource Group and ATCO, a partnership formed specifically for the Expansion Project.

An Indigenous Monitor completed an inspection with an Environmental Inspector at the camp to ensure mitigations were in place. The Indigenous Monitor confirmed that construction was confined to the approved footprint. Noxious or hazardous weeds were not identified at the time of inspection. All signage and barriers were in place. No deficiencies were noted during inspection.

Blue River Camp Community KP 609.

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.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps including amphibian, migratory nesting bird and badger sweeps (KP 710) 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. Indigenous Monitors joined the Resource Specialist to conduct bird sweeps between KP 570 and 759. All mitigations were in place at the time of inspection.

Bird sweeps KP 759.

Badger sweep KP 710.

Pre-Construction Monitoring

During pre-construction survey activities, any previously identified environmentally sensitive 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 where areas are not to be entered.

Pre-construction monitoring took place at an access road near KP 731. The Indigenous Monitors observed the flagged and staked environmental features. No concerns were identified at the time of inspection. Ongoing monitoring will be conducted at such sites as construction continues.

Future access road KP 731.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are monitored and inspected to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas, including watercourses and the marine environment. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

During spring snow melt and rainfall in the region, the Indigenous Monitors alongside the Environmental Inspector checked ESC measures in active construction areas. At KP 715, multiple ESC measures were observed in place and working as planned. The vegetation cover was becoming established and the sediment fence and straw wattles were working well. At KP 738, the topsoil pile was covered and labelled. No concerns were noted during inspection.

ESC measures in place at KP 715.

Topsoil pile covered and labelled at KP 738.

Topsoil Stripping

When stripping soil in construction areas, required mitigation includes segregation of topsoil from rootzone material, proper storage and covering to reduce potential erosion, effective labelling and signage, and inspection of topsoil stockpiles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

During the inspection, soil stripping and grading activities were monitored for cultural and heritage chance finds. The Indigenous Monitor inspected the soil piles and stripped area for any potential finds unearthed. Other soil handling mitigations documented include segregation of topsoil from root zone material, proper storage to reduce potential erosion, effective labelling and signage, and inspection of soil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way. The Indigenous Monitors observed that compliance measures were being adhered to and no potential chance finds were identified during the inspection.

Soil pile inside boundary KP 570.

Soil pile separation; no potential chance finds in stripped area KP 570.

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 (beyond any reports or documents requested and shared through day-to-day team activity on-site), 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)