

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: August 2021**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 20**

**Project Region: Jasper to Mount  
Robson Reactivation**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 322–461**

### **Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview**

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining 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 TMEP construction.

Operations and maintenance work, including integrity digs and sleeve replacements occurring along the deactivated pipeline segments in Jasper National Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park is not part of TMEP nor subject to TMEP Conditions. However, Trans Mountain will be including Indigenous Monitors during certain operations and maintenance work in reactivation areas as it relates to preparing for future TMEP construction 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 Jasper to Mount Robson Reactivation 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 Jasper to Mount Robson Reactivation Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 322–461 and included monitoring riparian reclamation, danger tree assessments, wildlife observation and management, and amphibian salvage. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for August 2021, 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.**

### **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](https://transmountain.com/covid19).**

## Wetland Riparian Reclamation

During reclamation of wetland riparian zones, Resource Specific Mitigation Tables contain data from pre-disturbance assessments, which determine planting requirements to ensure appropriate habitat restoration.

Construction has been completed through some wetland areas as planned. Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures were monitored near Devona Creek. 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.

Key mitigation during construction in Devona Creek includes having heavy equipment on matting, constructing containment berms/barriers and the restriction of vegetation removal only to the area necessary for pipe installations.

In August, Indigenous Monitors inspected the installation of the various mitigation measures at Devona Creek. They made note of the proper installation of sediment control measures before isolation was removed and that the water flowing in the creek was not sediment laden after removal of isolation. No environmental concerns were found at this site during this inspection.



Devona Creek with isolation KP 341.



Devona Creek post-isolation KP 341.



Erosion and sediment control/riparian reclamation at Devona Creek.

## Danger Tree Assessments

Danger Trees are trees that create a hazard to the public, workers or the safe operation of facilities due to their proximity to the construction site, roads, trails or structures.

Danger Trees on the edge of the Project's footprint are assessed so every reasonable effort is made to retain them. If necessary, Danger Trees are modified to remove dangerous portions. This is the preferred alternative to complete removal, understanding that removal of suitable nest trees is undesirable.

In the Reactivation area, Danger Trees are not removed from locations greater than one tree length from the construction site (project footprint), trails, electrical conductors or structures.

In August, Indigenous Monitors were called upon to inspect trees that were labelled as Danger Trees and ensure they were not Culturally Modified Trees (CMT). Indigenous Monitors inspected Danger Trees at KP 326 and KP427 and determined they were not culturally modified. Once they confirm the trees in question are not culturally significant, they can be removed.



Danger Tree Near KP 427, Dig 44.

### **Vegetation Management**

Trans Mountain conducts routine vegetation management on the right-of-way and at facilities. Trans Mountain is responsible for managing problem vegetation including:

- Noxious weeds that pose a hazard to people, animals or crops.
- Invasive weeds, which are plants that have been introduced into the environment that threaten naturally occurring and indigenous plants.

Trans Mountain also identifies and protects rare plants in the construction footprint. Indigenous Monitors observed and assisted a Subject Matter Expert (SME) from the University of Alberta in performing an experimental transplant of *Fissidens Grandifrons* moss in a stream. This transplant will be closely monitored in the coming months as the project works to develop a deeper understanding of what can be achieved in environmental stewardship.



Moss *Fissidens Grandifrons* transplant near KP 348 in JNP.

### **Wildlife Observation and Management**

Wildlife observation and management is ongoing. The Indigenous Monitors participate in discussions relating to wildlife protection strategies with the Environmental Inspectors and Trans Mountain Wildlife Resource Specialists and monitor and inspect that mitigation measures are effectively in place.

Trans Mountain has adopted Restricted Activity Periods guided by Environment and Climate Change Canada. For this area, the dates of Restricted Activity Periods (RAP) for raptors are March 15 to August 31. Dates of RAP for migratory birds are April 19 to August 24.

In August, Indigenous Monitors conducted raptor and migratory bird sweeps as the RAP windows closed in Jasper National Park. They focused on the area around several dig sites between KP 380 and KP 450. Monitoring continued after the migratory bird period ended and the focus became raptor presence. There were no signs of nesting activity in these areas at the time of the inspections.



Dig 57 access road.






## 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: request for Project reports, input from an environmental resource specialist or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. Monthly 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	1	-	-	-	1
Fulfilled	1	-	-	-	1
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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