

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: May 2021

Project Region: Lower Mainland

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 20

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
Spread 7 KP 1165.2.8–1174.9**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project) 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 impacts 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 Lower Mainland. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key Project activities in the Lower Mainland region involving Indigenous Monitors included construction at Westridge Marine Terminal (WMT), Burnaby Terminal, Sumas Terminal and on Spread 7. Activities included Traditional Land Use (TLU) site monitoring, construction housekeeping, tunneling through Burnaby Mountain, environmental features and wildlife observations. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for May 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 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. Measures being undertaken at construction sites include: temperature screening; following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers' orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Construction Site Housekeeping and Spill Response

The Indigenous Monitors regularly conduct inspections of the various construction areas for general housekeeping measures. This includes observing and documenting garbage and recycling disposal, scrap metal management, waste storage, fuel storage and proper use of vehicle and equipment spill kits.

Limiting human and wildlife interactions is a key mitigation measure in the Environmental Protection Plan and keeping garbage bins sealed shut on the various construction sites is crucial. In May at Burnaby Terminal on the L150 Yard, the Indigenous Monitor reported to the Environmental Inspector that the recycling and garbage bins were overflowing. The contractor was notified and the bins emptied. Addressing this deficiency would keep racoons who roam the site from scavenging in the bins.

While conducting the construction housekeeping inspections, the Indigenous Monitors also report any observed spills left from vehicles or machinery. The Environmental Inspector is immediately notified and approves methods to clean up the impacted soil as prescribed in the Environmental Protection Plan-Spill Contingency Plan. Effects from small spot spills can generally be minimized and will not result in the suspension of activities if appropriate actions such as containing and cleaning up the substance are promptly implemented. For example, in May a hydraulic fluid leak on Upper Road at Burnaby Terminal was reported to the Environmental Inspector and the contractor was notified to clean up.



Racoon paw prints near the Burnaby Terminal manifold area. Keeping trash receptables sealed tightly helps to discourage wildlife from scavenging.

Fraser River Horizontal Directional Drill

Construction activity on the Fraser River Horizontal Drill (HDD) was on hold during the month of May, however, routine inspections were conducted of the completed entry pad area on the south side of the river. These inspections included observing if the perimeter fencing was maintained and that the protective wooden matting previously installed had not been displaced or eroded.



Entry pad for the Fraser River HDD on the south side of the river.

TLU Sites

During construction, previously identified cultural use areas are monitored along the right-of-way. Such locations have been identified during TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups prior to construction. As part of the Environmental Protection Plan, there is a Traditional Land Use Sites Discovery Contingency Plan which outlines steps to take in the event previously unidentified TLU sites are identified during construction.

On Spread 7, the Indigenous Monitors monitored previously identified TLU areas along the right-of-way, ensuring mitigations were in place including flagging buffers and correct and visible signage. On Construction Work Package (CWP 61), the Indigenous Monitors observed the condition of the TLU signs had become compromised due to weather. The Environmental Inspector was notified and the TLU signs were fixed or replaced. A recommendation was made to the contractor and Resource Specialist that all TLU signs throughout the spread be replaced with sturdier materials better suited to the weather conditions in the Lower Mainland.



TLU signage on Spread 7.

Environmental Features

On CWP 63 (Colony Farm), the Indigenous Monitors observed the assessment of a cottonwood wildlife tree by the Resource Specialist to confirm the appropriate mitigations required for protecting the tree's root system. The wildlife tree is located off the right-of-way, however, after the root compaction assessment was conducted, the Resource Specialist recommended a geotextile sheet be placed in the vicinity, with gravel placed on top and finally covered with protective wood matting. The Environmental Inspection informed the contractor and the recommended mitigations were installed.



Mitigation measures installed near a wildlife tree on Colony Farm to limit any potential damage to the tree's roots.

Burnaby Mountain Tunnel – Soil and Rock Spoils Management

As part of the Expansion Project, Trans Mountain is constructing an underground tunnel to connect Burnaby Terminal and WMT, avoiding impacts on residents and existing infrastructure. Trans Mountain's contractor is using a tunnel-boring machine (TBM) to construct a 2.6-km tunnel through Burnaby Mountain, starting at WMT. For more information about the tunnel visit the Trans Mountain website [here](#).

The Portal Area at WMT is the level staging area where the TBM was first assembled and the excavation started. In May, as the excavation of soil and rock by the TBM began, the Indigenous Monitor at WMT observed and monitored the management of soil and rock spoils produced by this activity.

From the face of the TBM excavation in the tunnel, soil and rock spoils are loaded into steel boxes (muck cars) via a conveyor belt inside the TBM. The muck cars are moved on rails by a locomotive from the TBM through the excavated tunnel area to the Portal Area for unloading. Once there, the material is unloaded into a lock block containment bin referred to as a "muck bin." From there, the muck (soil and rock spoils from tunnelling) are loaded into dump trucks and transported to a Trans Mountain-approved temporary storage site. At this site, samples are collected and submitted to the lab for analysis of metals and contaminants of potential concern. Once the results are received, the material will be transferred to the appropriate Trans Mountain-approved disposal facility.

The Indigenous Monitor at WMT will continue to observe the TBM construction activities and monitor the handling and management of tunnel spoils and other environmental mitigations associated with the TBM activities.



Muck pit for tunnel spoils in Portal Area at WMT.



Crane lifting muck car off rail tracks in Portal Area at WMT. The muck car will be dumped in the muck bin.

Wildlife Observation and Management

Wildlife observation and management is ongoing in the Lower Mainland. 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.

At Burnaby Terminal, the Indigenous Monitor participated in a wildlife sweep of the southeast corner of the terminal prior to construction activity cutting and pigging of a pipe. 22 snakes were found, including 20 garter snakes and two red racer snakes, as well as one salamander. The snakes were relocated to a safe area on the terminal perimeter fence and the salamander was relocated to the Burnaby Terminal retention pond.

In May, there was little activity occurring on Spread 7 at CWP 62/63 (Colony Farm), however, the Indigenous Monitors alongside the Wildlife Resource Specialist, inspected daily that the wildlife fencing was maintained and effective, and that no safety hazards existed.

In May, there were numerous bear sightings near Sumas Terminal outside the perimeter fencing. The Indigenous Monitor continuously inspected the perimeter fencing to ensure there were no holes or access points for wildlife in the fencing. The Indigenous Monitor at Sumas Terminal also participating in amphibian salvages with the Trans Mountain Wildlife Resource Specialist.



One of the Red Racer snakes found at the southeast corner of Burnaby Terminal and relocated to a safe area.



Indigenous Monitor holding a garter snake that was relocated to a safe area.

Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided 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	0	0	0	1
Fulfilled	1	-	-	-	1
Outstanding	0	-	-	-	0

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

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