

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: April 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 20

**Project Region: North Thompson
(Spread 3/4a and Spread 4b)**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) Spread 4b: 697–
764 and Spread 3,4a:470 696**

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 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 included monitoring and inspecting Traditional Land Use sites monitoring, environmental feature flagging, wildlife observation and management, and topsoil stripping. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for April 2021, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

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. Trans Mountain and its construction contractors are working diligently together to adhere to all advice and direction from government and health officials, while ensuring the safe uninterrupted operation of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the continued, safe construction of the Expansion Project. 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

Traditional Land Use Site Monitoring

Traditional Land Use (TLU) as well as Heritage Resource, areas have been identified through information and studies provided by Indigenous groups over multiple years of Project assessment and planning. During pre-construction activities, previously identified TLU sites, including CMTs, are marked with flagging ribbon by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program.

During the month of April, the Indigenous Monitors on Spread 3,4a and 4b performed pre-activity walkthroughs with the Environmental Inspector and contractor. During these walkthroughs prior to mainline clearing, environmental features, including previously identified TLU sites and CMTs, are inspected to confirm they are clearly marked with snow fence and avoidance buffers are implemented with feature flagging.

In April, during pre-activity walkthroughs, including CMT surveys, the Indigenous Monitor on Spread 3,4a and Spread 4b participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in areas where potentially culturally modified trees were identified. The Indigenous Monitor assisted with CMT assessments for these trees. The areas were flagged off and communities and Trans Mountain Resource Specialists were contacted by the Trans Mountain Indigenous Relations department for additional consultation and evaluation. Ongoing coordination is underway to assess findings.



Birch tree at KP 520 with frost damaged on stem. This tree is a wildlife tree and located outside the right-of-way.

Environmental Features

Environmental features such as rare plants and rare ecological communities, wildlife species of concern, archeological features, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites and any other sensitive environmental or cultural features that occur on or adjacent to the construction footprint are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced prior to commencing construction. The features are clearly marked so they can be protected during construction.

The Indigenous Monitor inspected environmentally sensitive areas to ensure the flagging/staking and signage remains in place and reports to the Environmental Inspector if any repairs are required. They also monitor that the appropriate mitigations are being followed when working near environmental features.



Environmental feature signage indicating wildlife habit area.

At the Raft River Entry (KP 712) on Spread 4b, the Indigenous Monitor observed the clearing contractor hand fell trees adjacent to and within known archeological features. The crew successfully felled all the trees in the archaeological feature areas with no ground disturbance observed.

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.

In April, the Indigenous Monitors also participated in wildlife sweeps including amphibian and migratory nesting bird sweeps alongside the Trans Mountain 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. All active nests occupied by any species of bird or its eggs require protection and are to be avoided.

Areas that were swept for migratory nesting birds with the Indigenous Monitors include the Mann Creek exit site, Roundtop Road, the Raft River exit, Road 257, Finn Creek, Chappell Creek and between Road 131–52 .

An active Merlin's nest was identified near the Mann Creek exit site. The nest and birds are monitored to avoid disturbance.

At KP 637, one juvenile Columbia Spotted Frog was identified and documented during an amphibian sweep. The recommended mitigation for clearing was to hand fall trees on the riparian zone with timber to be felled directly onto the right of way to avoid disturbance to wildlife.



Bird nest sweep conducted between Road 131 to Road 152. No nests were identified during sweep.

Topsoil Stripping and Grading

When removing/stripping topsoil, there are many required mitigations including the inspection of topsoil pile(s) to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

The Indigenous Monitors have been involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil stripping mitigations. They also inspect cleared areas to investigate any potential chance finds that could be unearthed. If a chance find does occur, the environmental inspector is immediately notified and the Heritage Resource Chance Find Contingency Plan enacted. The area would be flagged off and communities and Trans Mountain Resource Specialists contacted by the Trans Mountain Indigenous Relations department for additional consultation and evaluation.



Flagging buffer put in place per the Heritage Resources Chance Find Contingency Plan.




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	0	0	0	0	0
Fulfilled	-	-	-	-	-
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](https://www.youtube.com/transmntn)


 PO Box 81018
 Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0

