

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: August 2021

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

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
Spread 3/4A: 470 – 696
Spread 4B: 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 monitoring Pump Station construction, conducting Culturally Modified Tree sweeps, performing amphibian sweeps and salvage, and inspecting and monitoring the performance of erosion and sediment control measures on steep slopes. 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 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

Pump Station Inspection

As part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, 12 new pump stations are being added to the pipeline system, 11 for the new pipeline and one for the existing pipeline. Pump stations are a critical component of the operations of the pipeline system. They contain electric motors to drive the pumps that maintain the pressure and flow rate in the pipeline.

In August, Indigenous Monitors did routine inspections of Blue River, McMurphy and Black Pool pump stations in the North Thompson Region. The pump stations are at various stages of construction. The Indigenous Monitors looked for general housekeeping measures. This included observing and documenting garbage and recycling disposal, scrap metal management, waste storage, fuel storage and proper use of vehicle and equipment spill kits.

Waste or construction materials that are not properly secured or disposed of are flagged to the Environmental Inspectors and contractor site services crew for cleanup. The recycling bins are also inspected to make sure waste is properly segregated into the right categories, which include metal, wood, general waste, construction waste and bottles. Minor housekeeping deficiencies were corrected at these sites.



Blue River pump station.



McMurphy pump station.



Black Pool pump station.

Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to locate and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and traditional use areas. Such locations have been identified by TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years.

In the event a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified TLU area or resource, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

This plan was activated by the discovery of potential chance finds near the Blue River Camp temporary site in the region. An Environmental Inspector and Indigenous Monitor were deployed to collect preliminary information and glean any initial insights from the Indigenous Monitor regarding the potential significance of the finds. When the features were assessed, in consultation with Indigenous communities, mutually agreed upon buffer zones were established. The new buffer zones were delineated with temporary fence and signage before construction activity resumed in the area.

Indigenous Monitors also conducted CMT sweeps in the North Thompson Region, between KP 598 and KP 627 in preparation for upcoming construction activities. These pre-activity sweeps have a focus on CMTs, however, they offer the Indigenous Monitors another chance before construction begins to look for other features relating to Traditional Land Use. There were no new CMTs discovered during this inspection period.



CMT walkthrough KP 627.



CMT walkthrough KP 614.

Amphibian Salvage

One of the Project requirements is to create an inventory of incidental wildlife observations and to follow contingency measures for the discovery of wildlife species of concern. Species of concern refers to wildlife with higher sensitivity to disturbance from Project activities during sensitive life stages like breeding and overwintering.

Wildlife sweeps are conducted in areas where Project construction activities are occurring and will occur. In addition, amphibian salvages are conducted prior to the commencement of heavy equipment activity at specific identified stream dwelling, amphibian watercourses and other construction areas, in accordance with amphibian salvage approval and/or permit conditions.

Indigenous Monitors worked with Environmental Inspectors to identify the presence of amphibians in an isolated wetland. Indigenous Monitors assisted with salvage activities and ensuring buffer zone barriers remain in place for the duration of salvage. No outstanding concerns remain at KP 616.



Amphibian buffer zone established KP 734.45 to 736.48.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Construction on steep slopes presents several challenges beyond those of regular construction. Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are among the most important. 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 multiple erosion control measures working in tandem near KP 560 and confirmed they were properly installed and in good working order. Topsoil was covered with a tarp to prevent wind erosion, and the use of multiple sediment fences were effective and in good repair. Course woody debris, wattles, rock armouring and coconut mesh were also inspected near KP 557 and found to be working well. No deficiencies were found during this inspection.



Rock Armouring near KP 557.



Multiple sediment control measures near KP 560.




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 and 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	1	0	1
Fulfilled	-	-	1	-	1
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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


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