

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: April 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

Project Region: Yellowhead (Spread 2)

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
134–337**

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 Yellowhead region. 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 Yellowhead Region involving Indigenous Monitors were focused around KP 134-337 and included culturally modified tree assessments, watercourse monitoring and associated mitigations for topsoil removal, pipe installation and slash debris removal. 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: following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; and enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Traditional Land Use (TLU) Sites

During construction, cultural use areas are noted along the right-of-way. Such locations have been identified during traditional use 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.

Indigenous Monitors monitored previously identified TLU areas along the right-of-way, ensuring mitigation was in place including signage and documentation of any current use.

Trans Mountain also facilitated tours for Indigenous visitors to observe construction activity and discuss the construction process, environmental mitigation measures and how the right-of-way will be reclaimed.



Construction progress west of Hinton.

Watercourse Monitoring

Construction has been completed through some wetland areas as planned. Key mitigation during construction in wetland areas includes using equipment working on mats to construct containment berms/barriers and restriction of vegetation removal only to the area necessary for pipe installations.

At KP 191, the Indigenous Monitors inspected signage and boundaries and confirmed use of straw wattles and geo-tech fencing. There were no deficiencies identified in this area.



Erosion and sediment control measures in place at Carrot Creek.

Topsoil Removal

When removing topsoil in construction areas, required mitigation includes; segregation of topsoil from root zone material, proper storage to reduce potential erosion, effective labelling and signage and inspection of topsoil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits. Wildlife have shown to be using soil breaks put in place to allow for travel across the right-of-way.

The Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil salvage mitigations. The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after topsoil stripping to identify any potential archeological chance finds. No archeological chance finds were identified.



Soil piles steaked and labeled with geotech matting near KP 177.

Pipe Installation and Trench Backfill

Pipeline installation and backfill activities continue along Spread 2.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected excavated soil placed in the trench over the installed pipe. Soil is placed in a mound over the pipe to compensate for soil settlement. The Indigenous Monitors observed the subsoil being backfilled over the pipe prior to topsoil being replaced and ensure backfill activities are confined to the construction right-of-way. No concerns were identified.



Installed pipe with fibre optic leak detection system near KP 191.

Slash Debris Removal

During clearing activities, woody debris typically remains along the right-of-way after the trees have been removed. Some of this debris (also known as slash) is removed through burning or mechanical mulching. If the debris is burned, permits are obtained and appropriate government authorities are notified prior to the commencement of burning. Areas to perform burning are carefully considered and occur where the topsoil or root zone material has been salvaged.

Weather forecast is monitored to limit the effects of smoke in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (e.g., homes). Burning is monitored at all times and fire equipment is on-site.

The Indigenous Monitors were on-site performing monitoring and inspection duties during the debris removal. Flagging, signage and good housekeeping were observed. No concerns were identified.



Burning activities monitored near KP 333.

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	6	1	2	-	9
Fulfilled	6	1	2	-	9
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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