

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: June 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 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 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 vegetation management, identifying wildlife markings, watercourse monitoring, Traditional Land Use (TLU) site monitoring, conducting Culturally Modified Tree sweeps and pump station inspections.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for June 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.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

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.

At KP 140, near Road 58, Canada Thistle, a common noxious weed of Alberta, was identified. Management methods may include herbicide spraying, mechanical and/or hand-picking methods. In no-spray zone areas, hand picking is a preferred management method.

The Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector reported the Canada Thistle, notified the team in charge of the herbicide application, and indicated that the area was within a TLU no-spray zone. TMEP is currently investigating other means of mechanical weed control for the location.



Weed inspection conducted by Environmental Inspector and Indigenous Monitor near KP 140 and TLU-13 and TLU-14.

Wildlife Encounters

Indigenous Monitors recorded wildlife markings on the construction footprint, near KP 293. These observations are documented and reported to the Lead Environmental Inspector.

Pre-construction baseline surveys have been undertaken to understand wildlife activity and habitat features and identifying mitigations to reduce interactions between wildlife populations and the Project.

Mitigations for wildlife during construction include:

- Report any incidents or collisions with wildlife to Trans Mountain, who will consult with the Appropriate Government Authorities and the local conservation officer, if applicable.
- Maintain a tight construction spread (i.e., stringing to backfilling) and construct the pipeline in an efficient manner to limit the duration of sensory disturbance to wildlife.
- Do not harass or feed wildlife. Do not store food in beds of pickup trucks or areas readily accessible to wildlife.



Deer rub on tree identified by Indigenous Monitors near KP 293.

Watercourse Monitoring

Construction has been completed through some wetland areas as planned. Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures were monitored near Carrot Creek at KP 192. 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 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 192, the Indigenous Monitor inspected signage and boundaries and confirmed use of berms, silt fence, geo-tech with wing walls throughout clear span and straw wattles. The Indigenous Monitor will conduct follow-up monitoring under the bridge during heavy rainfall. No deficiencies were identified in the area.



Erosion and sediment control measures in place at Carrot Creek.

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.

Indigenous Monitors monitored previously identified TLU areas along the right-of-way, including plant harvesting sites, habitation sites and ceremonial sites near KP 134. Monitoring activities include ensuring mitigation was in place such as signage and documentation of any current use.

Trans Mountain and the Indigenous Monitors conducted tours for Indigenous visitors to observe construction activity and discuss the construction process and environmental mitigation measures. Knowledge holder visits were executed to confirm the medicinal plant species at previously identified TLU sites.



Right-of-way and TLU site monitoring near TLU-12 at KP 134.

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 via traditional land use 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.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in CMT sweeps east of KP 132. No CMTs were identified during the June sweeps.

In the event a previously unidentified CMT is discovered, the TLU and/or Heritage Resources Site Discovery Contingency Plan will be implemented. The area will be flagged off for additional evaluation. Communities and resource specialists will be contacted for additional consultation and evaluation.



East of KP 132, CMT sweeps conducted by Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors.

Pump Station Inspections

Indigenous Monitors participated in joint inspections with the Environmental Inspector at Hinton Pump Station.

Key aspects of the pump station inspections included housekeeping and waste management inspections. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed with no concerns identified.



General site progress observed at Hinton pump station.



Spill kits and spill response procedures inspected at Hinton pump station.

TLU and Heritage Resources Training

In June, Indigenous Monitors from each region of the Expansion Project participated in a two-hour online live training session focused on TMEP's TLU and Heritage Resources Contingency Plans, processes and communications.

The training sessions were regionally focused to incorporate common TLU and heritage resource types in the various Project regions (Alberta, BC Interior and the Lower Mainland), and participants were encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives. Sharing of Indigenous Monitor stories and experiences would highlight the resources for the team to be looking for on the landscape as construction progresses.



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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