

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: August 2020

Indigenous Monitors days on-site: 25

**Project Region: Jasper to Mount
Robson Reactivation
(Hinton to Hargreaves)**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
327–465**

Indigenous Monitors on Trans Mountain Reactivation Activities – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP) is retaining Indigenous Monitors as integrated members of its construction Environmental Inspection team. Indigenous Monitors work with Environmental Inspectors to monitor compliance with approved mitigation measures to minimize impacts to traditional resource use and cultural/heritage impacts during TMEP construction.

Operations and maintenance work, including integrity digs and sleeve replacements occurring along the deactivated pipeline segments in Jasper National Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park, is not part of TMEP nor subject to TMEP Conditions. However, Trans Mountain will be including Indigenous Monitors during certain operations and maintenance work in reactivation areas, as it relates to preparing for future TMEP construction activities.

This Overview Report provides highlights of the Indigenous Monitors' day-to-day work and key highlights observed by the Monitors in the Jasper to Mount Robson Reactivation region (Hinton to Hargreaves), specifically Jasper National Park. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activities to Indigenous groups. During this reporting period, key activities in the Jasper to Mount Robson Reactivation region involving Indigenous Monitors included inspection and monitoring activities related to topsoil stripping, Traditional Land Use site monitoring, erosion and sediment control, reclamation and wildlife observation and management.

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 our 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

Topsoil Stripping

When stripping topsoil in construction areas, required mitigation includes: segregation of topsoil from rootzone material, proper storage and covering 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.

The Indigenous Monitors have been involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil stripping mitigations. The Indigenous Monitors also investigate the construction areas before and after topsoil has been stripped to identify any potential archeological chance finds.



Topsoil stripped access road.

Traditional Land Use and Heritage Resource Sites

Traditional Land Use areas have been identified through information and studies provided by Indigenous groups over multiple years of Project assessment and planning. Heritage Resource Sites have been identified and assessed during baseline studies. During pre-construction survey activities, previously identified Traditional Land Use and Heritage Resource areas are marked with flagging ribbon by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program. Signage is also installed to indicate the area to construction crews.

The Indigenous Monitors performed monitoring and inspection activities to ensure environmental features, including identified Traditional Land Use areas and Heritage Resource Sites, have been staked, flagged and signed in advance of construction activities and are observed during construction.



Heritage resource buffers in place at a dig site, placed near topsoil pile.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Site-specific erosion and sediment control measures are required to minimize the loss of soil material from stockpiles, prevent sediment from entering watercourses or wetlands and promote effective drainage across the Project footprint. Topsoil and subsoil stockpiles are monitored for signs of erosion and the Environmental Inspector may recommend specific measures to minimize the potential for erosion based on site-specific conditions, which may include tarping of piles, watering down piles, packing piles or installing silt fencing.

The Indigenous Monitors worked with the Environmental Inspectors and the construction crews to ensure erosion and sediment controls are functioning as intended.



Silt fence near watercourse.

Reclamation

Reclamation is an important step in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition similar to the site's condition prior to the construction activity.

Mitigation measures implemented during reclamation of Reactivation dig sites include replacing salvaged topsoil/root zone material and surface soils in proper sequence over all upland portions of the construction site where soil cover was stripped and reseeding the site as soon as feasible using the approved seed mix to reduce or avoid soil erosion and to establish long-term cover.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected and monitored reclamation activities, including hydroseeding of various completed Reactivation dig site construction areas.



Hydroseeding equipment.



Hydroseeding equipment in use.

Wildlife Observation and Management

Indigenous Monitors inspect reclaimed construction areas for returning wildlife and participate in wildlife sweeps (e.g., walking around looking for wildlife or signs of wildlife like scat or wildlife trees) in areas where construction activities are occurring or are about to occur. Some of the species observed during wildlife sweeps conducted include ground squirrels, elk, deer, golden eagles, and several species of raptors.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps and bird sweeps, alongside Trans Mountain's Resource Specialists. One of the Indigenous Monitors also participated in a ground squirrel salvage alongside the Trans Mountain's Resource Specialist and a Parks Canada representative.



Preparing for ground squirrel salvage. The burrows must be uncovered so the squirrels can be carefully removed if present.



Elk observed during monitoring of worksite.