

Press Release, For Immediate Release: July 18, 2022

Public groups confront Trans Mountain over environmental destruction near Bridal Veil Falls Park

Unceded Xwchiyo:m (Cheam) Sto:l-o Territory (Chilliwack, BC) – A Notice of Motion is being prepared for Canada Energy Regulator (CER) regarding illegal habitat destruction for the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline. In early June, several environmental groups joined forces to protect the sensitive area around Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park; [a red-breasted sapsucker nest stopped work](#).

Three groups have united to protect sensitive wildlife habitat around Bridal Falls. The Pipe Up Network (Pipe Up) is based in the Fraser Valley, while the Community Nest Finding Network and Protect the Planet are based in Metro Vancouver.

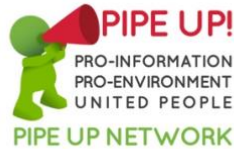
The Pipe Up Network (Pipe Up) is preparing a Notice of Motion identifying **how the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), formerly National Energy Board, is not properly enforcing [the Conditions](#) and laws permitting the pipeline expansion**. Over the last 10 years, three [Auditor General reports](#) ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) have confirmed failures in enforcement by CER. By submitting a Notice of Motion, PIPE UP places these incidents [on the public record](#).

According to Lynn Perrin of Pipe Up, "This small area is important for wildlife and people, and its value is even more crucial now that the neighbouring lands were clearcut. In addition to nesting birds, the wetlands are home to amphibians such as the threatened coastal giant salamander (*Dicamptodon tenebrosus*). The area also has mature trees and rare species of plants, all crucial to threatened barn owls and other birds."

Peter Vranjkovic of Protect the Planet said, "This spring, Trans Mountain's contractors cleared an area full of migratory and nesting birds. This work was in contravention of legislation protecting migratory birds and species at risk. I filed a complaint with the CER about this on July 4th, but am not optimistic anything will change due to the conflict of interest. The pipeline is owned by the same people who control CER."

The same contractors intended to clear an area between South Popkum Road and the Bridal Falls Forest Service Road in early June. A local resident stopped the work out of concern for the active bird nests, and then brought in the Community Nest Finding Network (CNFN) to help further. After CNFN located and documented active bird nests, a biologist was brought in to confirm their presence, thus pausing work until the young birds fledge.

Sara Ross of CNFN, said, "It appears that Trans Mountain's biologists are either given insufficient time to find nests and protect wildlife, or they are not motivated to



find anything. Every time the CNFN has been on a Trans Mountain site immediately prior to tree-felling, we have discovered nests where they are about to cut (or where they are already cutting). The most famous incident occurred [on April 12th 2021, when an Environment Canada Officer witnessed the destruction of a hummingbird nest by Trans Mountain contractors.](#)"

In the June 2022 incident, without notice to local residents, Trans Mountain contractors arrived and began swiftly clearing a wide swath of land east of the Forest Service Road. As mentioned, logging was halted by a concerned landowner and by CNFN. Lynn Perrin, who has been [monitoring Trans Mountain for years](#), said, "This is yet another willful violation not only of environmental regulation, but also of the conditions Trans Mountain agreed to as part of the approval of the Expansion project."

The groups are concerned that Trans Mountain has not followed all the environmental conditions under which the project was considered, with further concern that the CER has not been more assertive in enforcing those conditions. They have requested for the consideration of options that will spare trees, habitat and wildlife, such as rerouting the new pipeline around the area or using horizontal directional drilling. **At minimum, the groups are calling for a complete halt of tree cutting during peak nesting season.**

In addition to the above, a grant from West Coast Environmental Law is supporting three individuals from the groups to hire an environmental lawyer, Ian Moore, in order to consider legal options for saving the remaining habitat.

Media Contacts:

Pipe Up Network: Lynn Perrin (604) 309 9369

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Community Nest Finding Network: Sara Ross (778) 898 0464

Media Resources: images and video footage available at [this link \(https://mega.nz/folder/MY9GgZ6b#FeIFwulGK7yPBGUIJUpmsA\)](https://mega.nz/folder/MY9GgZ6b#FeIFwulGK7yPBGUIJUpmsA)

Background Resources:

[Office of the Auditor General of Canada, Dec. 2011. Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development. Ch1: Transportation of Dangerous Products.](#)

[Canada Energy Regulator public record, Intervenor submissions from Pro Information Pro Environment United People Network](#)