

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Water Supply and Streamflow Conditions:

Issued: 15 July 2009

Following a dry June, most of British Columbia has received rainfall during the first half of July. Across much of the province, rainfall amounts were near normal, with some exceptions:

- Much of the north (Upper Fraser, Peace) and south east (east Kootenay) received widespread normal or above normal amounts, with very heavy localized rain in some areas.
- The south central interior (Similkameen, Okanagan, Nicola, southern portions of the South Thompson (e.g., Chase, Salmon Arm), and central Columbia (e.g., Revelstoke) received light and scattered rain (but with some localized heavier amounts).

The rainfall has augmented river levels in some areas, but notable low flows continue in the South Interior, particularly in the Okanagan, Similkameen, Nicola, southern portions of the South Thompson, and central portions of the Columbia:

- Tulameen River, Similkameen River (at Hedley) are at 10-20 year return period low flows.
- Camp Creek (west of Summerland) is at a 10-year return period low flow.
- Vaseux Creek is at a 5-year return period low flow.
- Nicola River and Coldwater River are at 20-year return period low flows.
- Chase Creek and Salmon River (Salmon Arm) are at 20-year return period low flows.
- Columbia River at Donald is at 20-year return period low flow.

Outlook

Environment Canada is forecasting hot and dry weather for the south and central interior for the next 7 days, with no significant rainfall anticipated. River levels in these areas mentioned above will continue to decline, and low flows are expected to become more significant and widespread.