

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Water Supply and Streamflow Conditions

Issued: September 21, 2009

A series of frontal waves brought substantial amounts of precipitation to Vancouver Island and the South Coast over the past week. As a result, there are no low flow issues evident at this time. Some moisture pushed over the Coast Mountains and into the upper Tulameen and Similkameen basins as well, improving water levels of those rivers. The Nicola, South Thompson, Okanagan and Kettle basins have been dry, receiving no significant rainfall. River levels in the South Thompson and Okanagan are generally near 5-10 year return period low flows. The Kettle River and West Kettle River are very dry, and are below their previous low flow of record.

- **Extremely Dry** (near or below previously recorded low for the date):
 - o Kettle River and West Kettle River
- **Dry** (5-10+ year return period low flow)
 - o South Thompson – Nicola River, Chase Creek, lower Salmon River near Salmon Arm;
 - o Okanagan - Camp Creeks, Vaseux Creek, and likely other ungauged rivers in the Okanagan;

Areas of Low Flow Concern:

Thompson Basin: No substantial precipitation has occurred in the basin over the past week. All of the gauged streams continue to be below or well below their median flows to date.

- The upper Nicola River and Coldwater River (Brookmere and Merritt) continue to be near 5-year return period low flows.
- The Salmon River at Falkland and Salmon Arm, and Chase Creek, continue to be near 5-year return period low flows.
- The North Thompson River at McLure and the South Thompson River at Chase are both near 5-10 year return period low flows.

Okanagan River and Kettle River Basin: No significant precipitation has occurred in the Okanagan and Kettle basins over the past week.

- The Kettle River and West Kettle River at Westbridge are at or below their historic low flow of record. The Kettle River at Ferry (upstream of Grand Forks) is below its previous low flow of record.
- Vaseux Creek (in the southern Okanagan, east of Oliver), and Camp Creek (west Okanagan valley) are near 10-year return period low flows.
- Mission Creek (Kelowna) is near a 5-year return period low flow.

Similkameen River Basin: Frontal storms affecting the South Coast over the past week have pushed over the Coast Mountains and brought some rainfall into the Similkameen and Tulameen basins.

- The Tulameen River is near a 2-4 year return period low flow.

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- The Similkameen River is near its median flow for the date.

South Coast: The past week brought periods of significant rain to the South Coast. Gauged rivers are at or near their median flows for the date. There are no low flow issues evident at this time.

Vancouver Island: The past week brought periods of significant rain to the South Coast. Gauged rivers are at or near their median flows for the date. There are no low flow issues evident at this time.

Outlook:

The current weather forecast calls for sunny and warm weather for the South Interior and South Coast over the next 5-7 days, with the possibility of near record temperatures (28-32 degrees) in the South Thompson, Nicola, Okanagan and Kettle basins tomorrow and Wednesday. There is no rain in the forecast for the South Interior for the next week. River levels throughout the South Interior are expected to fall over the next 7 days.