BC Environment
River Forecast Centre

Flood Warning: Puntledge River (Courtenay) 11Jan2009 8:00PM
Browns River (Courtenay)

Flood Watch: Nanaimo River

Moderate to heavy rainfall is continuing across central and east Vancouver Island, to 7PM. The Jump Creek snow pillow has recorded a rainfall of 6 mm/hr for the past 6 hours; and the Wolf River snow pillow has recorded 8 mm/hr for the past 6 hours. With the elevated freezing level, significant snowmelt is continuing.

The **Puntledge River at Courtenay** is rising steadily and is at a discharge of 480 cubic metres per second (m^3/s) at 6PM, an increase from120 m^3/s at noon. It is currently near a 25+ year return period.

The **Browns River at Courtenay** is rising, and is near a 20-year return period.

The **Tsolum River at Courtenay** is falling slowly, but remains near a 10-year return period level. It may begin to rise again tonight, given the heavy rainfall conditions in the area.

The **Oyster River** (between Courtenay and Campbell River) has begun to rise again after peaking earlier today, and is approaching a 5-year return period level.

The **Nanaimo River** has begun to rise again and is currently at a discharge of 560 m^3/s, near a 3-4 year return period. It will continue to rise overnight until the rain eases considerably.

With the ongoing steady rainfall, these rivers (and others) will continue to rise tonight. They are not anticipated to peak until the rain eases considerably, possibly Tuesday morning

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A ***High Streamflow Advisory*** means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

A ***Flood Watch*** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A ***Flood Warning*** means that river levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.