

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Warning: Puntledge River (Courtenay)

12Jan2009 6:00AM

Browns River (Courtenay)

Tsolum River (Courtenay)

Flood Warning: Nanaimo River

Rainfall has eased considerably or ended across most of Vancouver Island. At the Jump Creek (west of Nanaimo) and Wolf River (west of Campbell River) snow pillows, rainfall ended near midnight last night. Environment Canada has ended their Rainfall Warning. The freezing elevation remains elevated and snowmelt is continuing, maintaining some water input to rivers.

Rivers in the Courtenay area remain very high. The Tsolum River has not yet peaked (to 4AM, the latest data available). Other rivers across Vancouver Island have generally started to recede after peaking early this morning.

The **Tsolum River at Courtenay** rose overnight and is currently still rising slowly as of 4AM (the latest data available). It is well above flood stage at a 50-year return period level (almost the same level it peaked at during the Nov-2009 flood event).

The **Puntledge River at Courtenay** rose to a high peak of 540 cubic metres per second (m^3/s) at midnight, and has subsequently dropped to 180 m^3/s at 5AM. It is still above flood stage, near a 5 year return period level.

The **Browns River at Courtenay**: the water level gauge appears to have suffered damage, and the current water level or discharge is indeterminate.

The **Oyster River** (between Courtenay and Campbell River) peaked at 312 m^3/s at 1AM and has started to fall slowly. It is currently at a 5-10 year return period level, at 270 m^3/s .

The **Cruikshank River** (Courtenay area) peaked at 350 m^3/s near 1AM and is now dropping. It is currently at 300 m^3/s .

The **Nanaimo River** peaked at a discharge of 700 m^3/s at 1AM (near a 5 year return period level) and has just started to drop.

The **Englishman River** (Parksville) peaked at 280 m^3/s (below a 2-year return period) and has since fallen to 240 m^3/s .

The **Chemainus River** rose to a peak near 300 m^3/s (below a 2-year return period) and has just started to drop.

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.

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The **Cowichan** River (Duncan) rose to a peak of 260 m³/s, and appears to be at its peak now.

The **Ash River** (north of Port Alberni) rose to a peak of 325 m³/s (near a 4-5 year return period level). It has fallen slightly but is currently maintaining near that peak level.

Rivers will remain high today as the accumulated rainfall and snowmelt drains from their respective basin areas. The forecast from Environment Canada is for only light and/or scattered rain today and tomorrow, with temperatures cooling. However, another warm and wet frontal system is forecast to push across Vancouver Island again Thursday and Friday.

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