

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory:

03June2010 1:00PM

- **Nicola River at Merritt, and downstream**

The water level on the Nicola River through Merritt, and on the river downstream of Merritt, is at bankfull (slightly below a 2-year return period level), producing some localized flooding on agricultural fields. The water level is expected to rise slightly today and tonight, but no significant flooding is expected.

Rainfall in the Nicola River basin during May was two to three times greater than normal. This high rainfall, occurring at the end of the snowmelt runoff period, resulted in higher than anticipated inflows to Nicola Lake. The Nicola Lake water level is presently above its full pool elevation, and rising slowly. Releases from the lake are being managed to minimize the rate of rise of the lake level while maintaining flows through Merritt at or near channel capacity.

Another frontal rain system is forecast for the Nicola basin tomorrow, but only light rain is expected. This may produce further increases in river levels. The current Nicola River flow and Nicola Lake conditions are expected to persist for the next 5 to 7 days. No changes in the release rate from Nicola Lake are anticipated at this time.

Staff from the Ministry of Environment is closely monitoring the hydrologic conditions and will issue additional advisories as needed.

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.