BC Environment
River Forecast Centre

Central Coast Update – Flood Warning: Salloomt River and Bella Coola River 25Sep2010 6:50AM

The BC River Forecast Centre is upgrading the High Streamflow Advisory for the Central Coast to a Flood Warning. This is in effect for the Salloomt River, the Bella Coola River, and other tributaries of the Bella Coola River, and other smaller rivers and streams on the Central Coast.

The intense frontal system has stalled over the Central Coast, with a strong south-westerly feed bringing significant precipitation. Heavy rainfall has been recorded at the MoFR Fire Weather station at Hagensborg, averaging 9 mm/hour for the last 16 hours, and has accumulated a total of 144 mm over the past 24 hours.

The WSC hydrometric station (08FB004) on the Salloomt River has risen from a water level of 0.74 m at the start of the heavy rainfall, to its most recent water level reading of 2.01 m, which is above a 2-year return period water level (1.8 m), and is approaching a 5-year return period of2.15m. Other tributaries of the Bella Coola River have likely surpassed 2-year levels this morning. The mainstem of the Bella Coola River is currently at 3.83 m, above a 2-year return period of 3.42 m, and slightly below a 5-year return period of 3.97 m.

Environment Canada is forecasting for the front to start to move southward by late this morning, with the rainfall turning to showers in the afternoon. An additional 50-70 mm of precipitation is forecast for today. Rivers will continue to rise this morning, and will likely begin to recede later this afternoon as the rainfall subsides.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update this afternoon, or earlier if conditions warrant.

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.