BC Environment
River Forecast Centre

Update – Flood Warning: North Vancouver Island
– Flood Watch: West Vancouver Island 25Sep2010 6:00PM

The BC River Forecast Centre is continuing the Flood Warning for North Vancouver Island, and issuing a Flood Watch for West Vancouver Island.

The intense frontal system has remained stalled over the Central Coast and northern Vancouver Island throughout the day. 24 hour rainfall totals range from 86 mm at the Naka Creek MoFR Fire Weather Station on north-eastern Vancouver Island to 285 mm at the WSC Pugh Creek hydrometric gauge (08HF012). In the last six hours, rainfall has eased over the north Island, but is increasing in intensity over the mid-Island in the Gold River area as the front moves south.

In response to the heavy rainfall, rivers on the north Island rose sharply overnight, peaking between 02:00 and 03:00 PDT. Levels on Pugh Creek are receding slowly. There is widespread flooding in Port Hardy as local creeks have overtopped their banks, and a local state of emergency has been declared.

Rivers on the west coast of Vancouver Island are currently rising in response to the increasing rainfall intensity. On the mid-Island, the Gold River near Ucona (08HC001) has risen 3 m in the last 24 hours, and is currently rising at an average of 0.3 m/hr. The Heber River near Gold River (08HC005) and Tofino Creek near the Mouth (08HB086) show similar trends. Given Environment Canada's forecast of continued rainfall (30-50 mm overnight), rivers on West Vancouver Island will likely reach 2-year return period levels by late this evening.

The front is forecast to weaken as it continues to move south, and rivers are expected to begin to recede overnight as the front passes.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update Sunday morning 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.