BC Environment
River Forecast Centre

Update – Flood Warning: Bella Coola River and Central Coast
26Sep2010 11:30PM

The Flood Warning for the Central Coast is continuing. This is in effect for all rivers on the Central Coast including:

- Bella Coola River and tributaries
- Kingcome River

The leading edge of the second frontal system arrived on the Central Coast early this evening. In the Bella Coola valley, light showers were recorded at the MOT Bella Coola RAWS starting at 7PM, and at 9PM at the MOF Fire Weather station at Hagensborg. Further south, the MOF Fire Weather station at Machmell also began to record light showers at 7PM. Rainfall has just been reported at the Bella Coola townsite at 10:30PM, and is increasing in intensity.

The Salloomt River (WSC 08FB004) has continued to recede this afternoon, and has maintained a water level of 1.5 m this evening, which is a flow of 56 m^3s^{-1}. The data from the Bella Coola River above Burnt Bridge (WSC 08FB007) indicates that it receded to a water level of 4.9 m around noon today, and has maintained that level. However, there are local reports that the river continued to recede throughout the afternoon and this evening. It is likely that yesterday's peak flow caused some damage to the hydrometric station on the Bella Coola River, and data from the WSC real-time web site should be used with caution.

The Kingcome River above Atlatzi River (WSC 08GF008) has also receded throughout the day. Its most recent water level reading is 5.52 m at 9PM, almost half of its peak water level yesterday of 10.62 m.

The Environment Canada forecast is for the precipitation to change to rain, at times heavy, overnight and Monday morning, changing to showers Monday afternoon. For Bella Coola, forecast precipitation amounts are 15-25 mm tonight, and 30-40 mm for Monday. Precipitation amounts may be slightly higher on the inlets further south. Soil conditions on the Central Coast are saturated from the past 2 days of rain. River levels will begin to rise again quickly in response to this next system.

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