

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Update – Flood Warning: Bella Coola River and Central Coast 27Sep2010 10:45AM

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 second frontal system is currently moving through the Central Coast. Showers in the early evening changed to light rain (1-3 mm/hour) for most of the overnight period. Rainfall intensity began to increase around 6AM this morning, and the most recent data to 9AM shows 7-8 mm/hour was recorded at the MOF Fire Weather stations at Hagensborg and Talchako, and the MOE automated snow pillow at Burnt Bridge. Rainfall intensity has just started to increase at the coastal inlets to the south. The MOF Fire Weather station at Machmell (above Owikeno Lake) measured 3 mm/hr at 8AM.

In response to the precipitation, the Salloomt River (WSC 08FB004) began to slowly rise at 5AM. It's most recent water level reading at 8:30AM was 1.63 m, which is a flow of $68 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and still below the 2-year bankfull flow of $84 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$. It has been rising at an average rate of 3 cm/hour for the last 3 hours. Local reports indicate that the Bella Coola River water level continued to recede overnight, but then levelled off early this morning. It is expected to start to rise this morning with the increased rainfall intensity in the valley.

The Kingcome River above Atlatzi River (WSC 08GF008) has also continued to recede slowly overnight. Its most recent water level reading is 5.15 m at 8AM.

The Environment Canada forecast is for 20-30 mm of rain today, and an additional 10-15 mm of rain or showers tonight. The showers will end late Tuesday morning, with a ridge building over the coast by mid-week. Soil conditions on the Central Coast are saturated from the past 2 days of rain. River levels will rise today with the additional rain. The Bella Coola River will likely peak this evening as the precipitation eases. Tributaries to the Bella Coola River will likely peak earlier, late this afternoon or early this evening. As the frontal system moves southward, rivers on coastal inlets further to the south will likely peak late this evening or overnight tonight.

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.