

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Update – Flood Warning: Bella Coola River and Central Coast 27Sep2010 7:00PM

The Flood Warning for the Central Coast is continuing. This is in effect for all rivers on the Central Coast including the Bella Coola River and tributaries. For updates on the Kingcome River Flood Warning, see the Vancouver Island Update at:

http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/advisories/FloodWarning_2010Sep27_1800_VI.pdf

The frontal system currently moving through the Central Coast brought heavy rain (5-8 mm/hour) to the Bella Coola valley today starting at about 8AM. Rainfall in the valley began to ease early afternoon. As of mid-afternoon, most climate weather stations have reported only light rain or showers (0.5-2 mm/hour).

In response to the heavy rainfall this morning, the Salloomt River (WSC 08FB004) rose quickly to a 2-year return period discharge by 10AM, and the water level peaked at 2.05 m at a discharge of $115 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ by 1PM. With the decline in rainfall intensity, the Salloomt River has receded slowly this afternoon. The last data reported at 5:30PM shows a water level of 1.84 m at a flow of $90 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, just above the 2-year return period flow of $84 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

The Bella Coola River measured at the water level gauge on the Nuxalk First Nation reserve began to rise slowly at 6AM this morning. The rate of rise increased over the morning with the arrival of the heavier rainfall, and by mid-day was rising by 17 cm/hour. As the rainfall eased, by late this afternoon, the rate of rise has decreased to a rate of 7 cm/hour up to 5PM. From 6AM to 5PM, the water level has risen 1.09 m.

The Environment Canada forecast for tonight is for an additional 10-15 mm of rain or showers tonight. The showers will end Tuesday morning, and there is no precipitation in the forecast from Wednesday to Friday. With the continuation of light precipitation overnight, the Bella Coola River will continue to rise this evening, and will peak overnight tonight or tomorrow morning. Tributaries to the Bella Coola River have likely reached their peak this afternoon and will continue to slowly recede.

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