BC Environment
River Forecast Centre

Update – Flood Warning: Bella Coola River and Central Coast
28Sep2010 6:00PM

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. Although rivers are dropping, water levels still remain high.

Light showers continued to be recorded at the MOT Bella Coola RAWS station up to 4PM, and the Bella Coola Airport until early this afternoon. All others climate stations in the valley have not reported precipitation since mid-morning.

The Bella Coola River has slowly receded throughout the day. The river level measured at the gauge on the Nuxalk First Nation reserve shows an average decline of 6 cm/hour since 9AM. The Salloomt River (WSC 08FB004) is also receding slowly. The water level has fallen at an average rate of 2 cm/hour over the past 6 hours, and as of the last data reported at 2:30PM is at 1.53 m and a flow of 59 m^3s^{-1}. There are local reports that other tributaries of the Bella Coola River are also receding, but water levels still remain high.

Precipitation should end late this afternoon, changing to cloudy periods overnight. The Environment Canada weather forecast for Thursday to Saturday is a mix of sun and cloud and temperatures above seasonal normals. The water level is expected to continue to recede overnight and tomorrow.

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