

# BC Environment

## River Forecast Centre

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### Update – Flood Warning: Central Coast 19Oct2010 1:30PM

- **Tributaries of the Bella Coola River**

The BC River Forecast Centre is upgrading the advisory for the tributaries of the Bella Coola River to a **Flood Warning**. This advisory currently does not include the mainstem of the Bella Coola River.

Environment Canada has issued a Rainfall Warning for the Central Coast – Coastal Sections. Although this Rainfall Warning does not include the Bella Coola valley, moderate to heavy precipitation (3-5 mm/hour) is continuing to be recorded at weather stations in the valley. The Environment Canada forecast is for an additional 15-25 mm of rain today, easing early this evening. An additional 10 mm is forecast overnight, and 5-10 mm for Wednesday.

Flooding has been reported on tributaries on the southern side of the valley (Thorsen Creek and Nusatsum River), and river levels in other streams are approaching bankfull (Snootli and Nuklikonnik creeks). Given the weather forecast for continued rain today, river levels will continue to rise throughout the day, and are expected to peak tonight. Depending on the amount of rainfall received, other tributaries of the Bella Coola River may also approach or exceed bankfull. The mainstem of the Bella Coola River will also exhibit an increase in water level, but based on the current rainfall forecast, is not expected to approach flood level.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update Wednesday morning, or earlier if conditions warrant.

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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.