Ministry of Natural Resource Operations
BC River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch 12Dec2010 11:45AM

- **Fraser Valley**

High Streamflow Advisory

- **Metro Vancouver**
- **Howe Sound**

The BC River Forecast Centre is maintaining the Flood Watch for the Fraser Valley, and the High Streamflow Advisory for Metro Vancouver, the North Shore, and Howe Sound.

Environment Canada has maintained the Rainfall Warning for the South Coast, including Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and Howe Sound. The southwesterly flow bringing subtropical moisture to the BC south coast is forecast to produce another 20-30 mm of rain throughout today for these areas. Rainfall is expected to end in late afternoon today. Freezing levels are currently rising over the Lower Mainland, and are currently peaking near 1500 m, and are expected to lower to 1200 m this evening.

Moderate rainfall has been recorded over the Lower Mainland overnight, with storm precipitation totals ranging from 40-60 mm, and 100 mm at the Chilliwack River snow pillow (1D17P). Precipitation amounts are lower for Howe Sound, ranging from 35 mm in the valley to 60 mm at the higher elevations.

The Nicomekl River (WSC-08MH155) and the Alouette River (08MH005) are currently rising at 0.2-0.3 m/hour, and are expected to reach 2-year return period discharges of 59 m^3/s and 43 m^3/s (respectively) early this afternoon. Slesse Creek (08MH056) is rising at 0.18 m/hour, and will likely reach a 2-year return period discharge of 84 m^3/s in the early afternoon.

While rivers in Howe Sound have risen slowly overnight, they remain well below levels of concern. Given the current weather forecast, river levels are expected to continue to rise throughout today, peaking late in the day or overnight, depending on the timing and amount of precipitation received.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update Sunday afternoon, 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.