

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre

UPDATE – Kettle and Kootenay Regions

Issued: 17May2011 12:00 PM

The BC River Forecast Centre is maintaining a **Flood Warning** for:

West Kettle River

The BC River Forecast Centre is maintaining a **Flood Watch** for:

Kettle River

The BC River Forecast Centre is downgrading or maintaining a **High Streamflow Advisory** for:

Granby River near Grand Forks

Salmo River near Salmo

Moyie River (near Yahk)

River levels have risen through Monday and into Tuesday due to precipitation through the region. Precipitation rates varied from 5-10mm. Temperatures remained low through the system, and precipitation fell as snow at higher elevations. As a result, snowmelt and rainfall contribution to runoff were slightly lower than expected for rivers through the region.

The **West Kettle River** at Westbridge (WSC 08NN003) rose through Monday, and is levelling off Tuesday morning. Current flow levels are at a 10-year return period flow of 160 m³/s.

Water level on the **Kettle River** near Westbridge (WSC 08NN026) rose through Monday and is currently at 2.66m, with a flow of 200 m³/s. This is approaching 2-year return period flow.

The **Granby River** near Grand Forks (WSC 08NN002) rose through Monday and into Tuesday, and is currently levelling off. Current flows are at 229 m³/s, slightly under the 2-year flow level.

The **Moyie River** at Eastport (USGS 12306500) is currently flowing at 128 m³/s and is levelling off. This is currently below the 2-year flow level of 149 m³/s.

The **Salmo River** near Salmo (WSC 08NE074) peaked on Monday at 202 m³/s, below the 2-year flow level of 246 m³/s.

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.

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A high pressure system is forecast to move through British Columbia over the next few days and Environment Canada is forecasting warmer temperatures through the region. River levels throughout the region are expected to recede over the next day or two. The warmer weather into Wednesday and Thursday will drive further snow melt and this will then push river levels up throughout the region in the late-week.

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

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