

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch - Moyie River (near Yahk)

High Streamflow Advisory: West Kootenay including Salmo River near Salmo

Issued: 16May2011 11:45 AM

The BC River Forecast Centre issuing a **Flood Watch** for the Moyie River (near Yahk) , and a **High Streamflow Advisory** for the Salmo River near Salmo. High streamflows are expected on small to medium sized watersheds throughout the South Interior/Kootenay.

Snowpacks through the region are elevated due to accumulation through April, and a delay in the onset of spring melt. May 1st snowpack was 142% of normal through the Kootenay region. River levels have risen through the past week with warmer weather and snow melt throughout the region. Snowmelt at the Moyie Mountain snow pillow (2C10P) has been approximately 20-25mm/day over the past few days. Snow is still abundant at higher elevations, and on-going melt will continue to feed runoff to rivers in the region.

In response to the snow melt, rivers have been rising over the past week. The Moyie River at Eastport (USGS 12306500) is currently flowing at 135 m³/s, and is rising. This is currently below the 2-year flow level of 149 m³/s. The Salmo River near Salmo (WSC 08NE074) is at 193 m³/s, below the 2-year flow level of 246 m³/s.

An upper low pressure system is forecast to push through southern British Columbia. Environment Canada has forecast this system to deliver 10-15mm of precipitation through Monday. Rivers will respond to this rainfall and on-going snow melt, and are forecast to rise through Monday into Tuesday. The Moyie River is expected to reach a 2-year flow levels and flows may exceed bankfull levels. Flows on the Salmo River are expected to remain below the 2-year flow level. High streamflow is expected in other small to medium sized watersheds throughout the region.

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