

# Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

## BC River Forecast Centre

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### UPDATE – Flood Warning: Central Coast

Issued: 24 September 2011 12:30 PM

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

- **Central Coast** (including Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Kingcome, Owikeeno Lake/River's Inlet, and surrounding areas)

A number of frontal systems have been delivering, or are forecast to deliver, heavy rain throughout regions of North and Central Coast of British Columbia. Rainfall over the past 48 hours has been in the 100 mm to 200 mm range at BC Fire Weather Stations and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Stations at Machmell, Bella Coola, Hagensborg and Scar Creek. Rain eased mid- to late-day Friday through most areas.

River levels peaked late Friday and into Saturday morning throughout the region. The Bella Coola River above Burnt Bridge (WSC 08FB007) reached a flow of 900 m<sup>3</sup>/s, or approximately a 50-year flow. This is slightly below the 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/s estimated flow during the flood on this river in late September, 2010. The Bella Coola River above Burnt Bridge has dropped to 740 m<sup>3</sup>/s at present, 0.45 m below last night's peak, and is continuing to drop at 5 cm/hour. The Homathko River at the mouth (WSC 08GD004) is currently at 2770 m<sup>3</sup>/s, or approximately a 50-year flow, and holding steady. The Kliniklini River East Channel (Main) near the mouth (WSC 08GE002) is currently at 2575 m<sup>3</sup>/s and holding steady.

Additional heavy precipitation is forecast through the BC Central Coast through Sunday, with rainfall amounts of 50 mm to 100 mm, and localized amounts up to 125 mm forecast from Environment Canada. Rainfall is forecast to be heaviest in the area of River's Inlet and Kingcome, but may reach as far north as the Bella Coola River watershed.

Rivers may drop or hold steady through Saturday, but are expected to begin rising later on Saturday and into Sunday in response to the next system of rain. Significant additional rises in river levels are expected on the Kingcome River, Kliniklini River and Wannock River (River's Inlet), and depending on the location and intensity of rainfall associated with this next rainfall event, potentially on the Bella Coola River and tributaries.

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