Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
BC River Forecast Centre (http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/)

UPDATE: 26November2011 7:50PM

Flood Warning:

- **Zeballos River**

Flood Watch:

- **North Vancouver Island**
- **West Vancouver Island**

High Streamflow Advisory:

- **East Vancouver Island**
- **South Vancouver Island**

The BC River Forecast Centre is **upgrading** the advisory to a **Flood Warning** for the Zeballos River. The **Flood Watch** is being **maintained** for north Vancouver Island (north of Campbell River) and west Vancouver Island (including areas around Bamfield, Tofino, Gold River, and north of Zeballos). The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** the **High Streamflow Advisory** for east Vancouver Island and south Vancouver Island (including areas from Campbell River south to Duncan).

A low pressure system currently off the Gulf of Alaska is pulling warm moist air from the sub-tropics on to the British Columbia coast. Significant rainfall has already fallen, with over 80mm of precipitation being observed over the past 12 hours at north Vancouver Island weather stations (Artlish, Naka, Effingham). Rainfall rates remain high at present. Environment Canada has maintained a rainfall warning for Vancouver Island (North Vancouver Island, West Vancouver Island, Inland Vancouver Island, East Vancouver Island) with rainfall amounts of 50 to 100 mm forecast into Sunday morning.

Temperatures have risen through this event, with freezing levels currently well above 1100m. As of 7:00pm, temperatures at the Jump Creek snow pillow (1113m) were at 4.8 degrees, however the snow pack had not yet transitioned into melt at elevation. Some snow melt may have occurred at lower elevations, and be contributing to additional runoff.

Rivers on north Vancouver Island and west Vancouver Island have been rising rapidly in response to the heavy rain today. The Zeballos River near Zeballos (08HE006) is currently at 4.5

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.

m and rising at 19 cm/hour. Flow at the Zeballos River gauge is approximately 625 m^3/s, or a 5-year flow level. With current observed precipitation rates and additional forecastd rain, the Zeballos River is expected to continue to rise at the current rate into Saturday evening, with peak levels late Saturday or early Sunday morning. Pugh Creek near Nawhitti Lake (Water Survey of Canada guage 08HF012) is currently flow at approximately 35 m^3/s, or between a 2-year and 5-year flow. On eastern Vancouver Island, river levels have just started to rise in response to rainfall, and are currently below levels of concern.

Rivers are expected to rise through Saturday evening in response to the forecast rainfall and snowmelt, with peak levels late Saturday or into early Sunday for north Vancouver Island and west Vancouver Island. Rivers on east Vancouver Island are expected to peak early to late morning on Sunday. For the lower reaches on tidally influenced rivers, periods of very high tides (enhanced storm surges) are expected on Sunday which may exacerbate flood level if peak river levels coincide with high tides. Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the BC Ministry of Environment are forecasting sea levels to peak in Victoria at 1:00pm 1:00pm on Sunday. At Point Atkinson peak sea levels are forecast for 8:00am on Sunday (http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/juandefuca/storm_surge/storm_surge.htm)

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

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