

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre (<http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/>)

UPDATE: High Streamflow Advisory – Lower Fraser River

Issued: 24 June 2012 4:00 PM

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

- **Lower Fraser River**

As of 2:00 PM on Sunday, the Fraser River at Hope (08MF005) is flowing at approximately 11,500 m³/s, and has dropped slightly from a peak of approximately 11,900 m³/s on Friday. River levels at Hope are expected to remain elevated (>11,000 m³/s) through the weekend and into early next week.

The main pulse of water from last week's rainfall over the Interior has now worked its way down through the lower Fraser River (through Mission and downstream). River levels around Mission and downstream are expected to hold steady through the early part of the week as local inflows (e.g. from the Harrison River) offset declining flows from upstream on the mainstem Fraser. There is the potential for small rises or drops through Tuesday and Wednesday. The Fraser River at Mission (08MH024) is currently at 6.36 m and the most recent modelling completed today is forecasting rises to 6.5 m through Wednesday.

For daily updates of 5-day forecasts of water levels and timing of daily peak levels for various locations down the Lower Fraser River, see the River Forecast Centre website:

http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/bulletins/Freshet2012/WL_Prediction.pdf

Heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt occurred over the weekend, particularly in the Thompson River basin (a major tributary to the Lower Fraser River) and to a lesser extent the Upper Fraser River. Typically it takes 6 days for water from rain and snowmelt in these headwaters to travel down to the Lower Fraser Valley. Due to heavier rain across the Fraser River tributaries, another pulse of water is expected to travel downstream through this week. While there may be slight drops in river levels along the Lower Fraser River this week, significant additional rise is expected over the Friday to Monday (June 29th – July 2nd) period next week. Current forecasts are estimating the flows to be in the range of 12,500 to 13,500 m³/s at Hope, and a height of 6.7-7.3 m at the Mission gauge. These forecasts consider the water that is currently in the tributaries. Any significant additional rainfall over the week may cause the forecast to increase.

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