

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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

UPDATE- Provincial Flood Forecast – Update on Warnings, Watches, Advisories Issued: 27June2012 10:00AM

The following are the current provincial flood watches, warnings and advisories:

NORTH INTERIOR (Skeena, Omineca, Peace)

- Quesnel River – Flood Watch
- Fraser River (from Quesnel to the Fraser Canyon) – Flood Watch
- Fraser River (at Prince George and upstream) – High Streamflow Advisory (**DOWNGRADED**)
- North-West Region (including Skeena River, Bulkley River and tributaries) – High Streamflow Advisory (**DOWNGRADED**)
- Nechako River near Prince George – High Streamflow Advisory

SOUTH INTERIOR (Cariboo, Thompson, Okanagan, Kootenay)

- South Thompson River and Shuswap Lake – Flood Warning
- Shuswap River upstream and downstream of Mabel Lake (including around Enderby and Lumby) – Flood Warning
- Thompson River (including Kamloops area and Kamloops Lake) – Flood Warning
- East Kootenay (including Elk River)– Flood Watch (**DOWNGRADED**)
- West Kootenay – Flood Watch
- Upper Columbia Region – Flood Watch
- Kicking Horse River – Flood Watch
- North Thompson River and tributaries – Flood Watch
- Nicola River below Nicola Lake to Merritt – High Streamflow Advisory
- Chilcotin Region – High Streamflow Advisory

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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Rivers have been responding to rapid snowmelt and wet conditions over the past 2-3 weeks. Heavy rainfall occurred through the Okanagan, Shuswap, Chilcotin and Kootenay regions over the weekend has led to significant river level rises in these areas. Heavy rainfall is forecast through the Kootenay and Upper Columbia Region yesterday, and in particular areas of the East Kootenay. Rainfall amounts over the past 24 hours were 25-50 mm in the East Kootenay, 15-25 mm in the West Kootenay, and 10-35 mm in the Upper Columbia. Rises in these areas are currently rising and are expected to continue to rise through today.

A summary of current conditions:

- Fraser River at South Fort George (08KE018) is currently at 9.41 m. The river reached peak levels yesterday and are expected to recede through today and the rest of the week.
- The Bulkley River at Smithers (08EE005) is currently flowing at 830 m³/s (2 to 5-year flow) and is dropping. Further rises are possible if rainfall is heavy in the watershed over the next few days.
- The Skeena River at Usk (08EF001) is currently at 5000 m³/s (2-year flow) and has dropped 1.2 m since yesterday. Additional rises are possible if rainfall is heavy in the watershed over the next few days.
- Shuswap Lake at Salmon Arm (08LE070) is at 349.39 m (30-year level). Lake levels are expected to remain high for several days and then begin to decline. Significant additional rises are not expected unless heavy rainfall occurs.
- Shuswap River near Enderby (08LC002) has dropped slightly since yesterday and is currently flowing at 515 m³/s. Levels are expected to slowly drop through the week. Similar conditions are expected on Mabel Lake and Mara Lake where peak levels have been reached. Lake levels are expected to remain elevated for several days and then begin to decline, unless significant additional rainfall occurs.
- South Thompson River at Chase (08LE031) is at 1470 m³/s (30-year flow). The river is expected to see very limited additional rise today. River levels are expected to remain elevated for several days and then begin to decline.
- Slocan River near Crescent Valley (08NJ013) is currently at 505 m³/s (5 year flow) and rising at 5 m³/s per hour, or 2 cm/hour. Some additional rises are expected throughout the day.
- The Kootenay River at Kootenay Crossing (08NF001) is currently at 42 m³/s (10-year flow) and is expected to see some additional rises throughout the day.

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- Elk River at Fernie (08NK002) is currently at 275 m³/s (2-5 year flow) and is expected to see some additional rises throughout the day.
- The Kicking Horse River at Golden (08NA006) is currently at 4.6 m (estimated 250 m³/s or 2-year flow), and has dropped 40 cm over the past 2 days. Some small rises are possible today.

Conditions in the Lower Fraser River are provided in a separate advisory.

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

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