

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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

Flood Watch: Kootenay

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The BC River Forecast Centre is **upgrading** the advisory to a **Flood Watch** for rivers in the **Kootenay Region** including:

- **West Kootenay**
- **East Kootenay**

A large-scale upper low pressure system has developed across British Columbia and has delivered significant moisture across the province. Rainfall amounts in the West Kootenay over the past 24 hours have been in the 20-30mm range, and in the 5-25mm range in the East Kootenay.

River levels have been rising in response to this precipitation. Smaller creeks and rivers are near peak levels from this rainfall, with flows on Duhamel Creek above Diversions (WSC 08NJ026) currently cresting at 11.5 m³/s, or a 5 to 10-year flow level, and Redfish Creek near Harrop (WSC 08NJ061) cresting at 13 m³/s, or a 20-year flow level. Larger river systems are still responding to the rainfall and are currently rising. Slocan River near Crescent Valley is currently at 473 m³/s, or 3.62 m, and rising at 7 m³/s per hour, or 3 cm/hr. This is between a 2-year and 5-year flow.

The current weather system is expected to continue to deliver rain throughout the Kootenay region Tuesday evening and into Wednesday. Environment Canada is forecasting rainfall amounts of 30 to 40 mm Tuesday night and an additional 10 to 20 mm of rain on Wednesday with the possibility of local areas seeing higher amounts, particularly in the East Kootenay.

Smaller rivers may see a brief period of decline through Tuesday afternoon. All rivers in the area are expected to see additional rises Tuesday evening and through Wednesday. Flood conditions are possible on rivers through the region, including in the Elk River, Slocan River, and Salmo River.

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.