

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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

UPDATE: Flood Watch: Kootenay and Upper Columbia

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The BC River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** the **Flood Watch** for rivers in the **Kootenay and Columbia Regions** including:

- **West Kootenay**
- **East Kootenay**
- **Columbia (ADDED) including Illecillewaet, Kicking Horse and surrounding rivers**

A large-scale upper low pressure system has developed across British Columbia and has delivered significant moisture across the province. Rainfall amounts in the Kootenay and Columbia region over the past 48 hours have been in the 25-60mm range. River levels have been rising in response to this precipitation.

Current flows in the region include:

- Elk River at Fernie (08NK002): 350 m³/s (approximately 5-year flow)
- Slocan River near Crescent Valley (08NJ013): 514 m³/s (approximately 5-year flow)
- Duhamel Creek above Diversions (08NJ026): 14.8 m³/s (10-20 year flow)
- Illecillewaet River at Greely: 260 m³/s (approaching a 2-year flow)
- Kicking Horse River at Golden: 230 m³/s (2-year flow and rising rapidly)

Most of the river response so far has been the result of rainfall yesterday. Heavier rain overnight will lead to additional rises in rivers throughout the region today.

Environment Canada has a rainfall warning in effect for the region, and additional rainfall is expected today and into tomorrow, with rainfall totals in the 20 to 40 mm range through the region. Rivers are expected to continue rising through Thursday, and potentially into Friday, and flood conditions are possible on most river systems through the region.

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.