

# Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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

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### UPDATE- Provincial Flood Forecast – Update on Warnings, Watches, Advisories Issued: 2July2012 9:15AM

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

#### NORTH INTERIOR (Skeena, Omineca, Peace)

- Stuart River and Stuart Lake – Flood Watch
- Nechako River near Prince George – High Streamflow Advisory
- North-West Region (including Skeena River, Bulkley River and tributaries) – High Streamflow Advisory (**ENDED**)

#### SOUTH INTERIOR (Cariboo, Thompson, Okanagan, Kootenay)

- Shuswap Lake – Flood Warning
- South Thompson River - Flood Watch
- Shuswap River at Mabel Lake and downstream (including around Enderby) – Flood Watch
- Thompson River (including Kamloops area and Kamloops Lake) – High Streamflow Advisory
- Nicola River below Nicola Lake to Merritt – High Streamflow Advisory
- West Kootenay – High Streamflow Advisory
- East Kootenay (including Elk River)– High Streamflow Advisory (**ENDED**)
- Chilcotin Region – High Streamflow Advisory (**ENDED**)

Smaller rivers in the province continue to improve due to a transition to cooler weather and lower rainfall rates over the past several days. Lingering issues are still present on larger rivers and lakes through the Interior as runoff from heavy rainfall and snowmelt over the past month works its way downstream. Heavier rainfall on Saturday in the West Kootenay has led to high river levels over the past 2 days, and rivers throughout the region are now dropping. Rain over the next few days is expected in the Upper Fraser watershed and areas of the South Thompson drainage.

A summary of current conditions:

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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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- The Stuart River near Fort St. James (08JE001) is currently flowing at 473 m<sup>3</sup>/s (10-year flow) and rising. The Stuart River (and Stuart Lake) is forecasted to continue to rise for approximately 2 weeks, with additional rises of 10-20 cm above present level expected.
- In the north-west region, rainfall over the weekend has worked its way through river systems, and river levels across the region (including the Bulkley River, Skeena River and tributaries) are now dropping. The weather is expected to improve through the week, and river levels are expected to continue to decline.
- Shuswap Lake at Salmon Arm (08LE070) is at 349.34 m (30-year level). Lake levels are dropping at 1-2 cm/day. With rainfall over the region over the weekend, and the potential for more rain over the next 1-2 days, lake levels are expected to slow the rate of drop, and there is the potential that the lake level will hold steady over the next 1 to 3 days.
- On the Shuswap River downstream of Mabel Lake (and Mabel Lake itself), small rises are possible (5-10 cm rise) are possible over the next 1-3 days as a result of local rainfall over the weekend and forecast over the next 2 days.
- In the West Kootenay, heavier rain on Saturday led to significant rises in local rivers. Rivers have reached their peak levels from that rainfall, and levels are now dropping. Duhamel Creek above Diversions (08NJ026) has eased since yesterday, and is currently flowing at 11 m<sup>3</sup>/s (5 year flow). Redfish Creek near Harrop (08NJ061) is currently flowing at 11.2 m<sup>3</sup>/s (5 year flow). The Slocan River near Crescent Valley (08NJ013) is currently flowing at 565 m<sup>3</sup>/s (5-year flow), down from a peak of 590 m<sup>3</sup>/s (10-year flow) yesterday. Flows on the Slocan River gauge are expected to remain above 500 m<sup>3</sup>/s until Tuesday or Wednesday. River levels throughout the West Kootenay are expected to continue to drop through the week, unless rainfall is heavier than currently forecast.

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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