

# 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: 3 July 2012 9:00AM

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**

#### **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 Okanagan (including Mission Creek) – High Streamflow Advisory (ADDED)**

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 3 days, and rivers throughout the region are now dropping. Rain over the next few days is expected in the South Thompson, East Okanagan (including Mission Creek) and West Kootenay regions, with lesser amounts of rainfall forecast in the East Kootenay and Upper Columbia.

A summary of current conditions:

- The Stuart River near Fort St. James (08JE001) is currently flowing at 477 m<sup>3</sup>/s (10 to 20 year flow) and rising. The Stuart River (and Stuart Lake) is forecast to continue to rise for

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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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approximately another 10 days, with additional rises of 8-20 cm above present level expected.

- Shuswap Lake at Salmon Arm (08LE070) is at 349.33 m (30-year level). Lake levels are dropping at 1-2 cm/day. With 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 before continuing its decline.
- On the Shuswap River downstream of Mabel Lake (and Mabel Lake itself), small rises (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 since dropped, however additional rainfall forecast today and tomorrow is expected to cause another rise in rivers over the next 2 days.
- The Slocan River near Crescent Valley (08NJ013) is currently flowing at 510 m<sup>3</sup>/s (2 to 5-year flow), and is expected to see small rises over the next 1-2 days.
- Mission Creek near East Kelowna (08NM116) is currently flowing at 40 m<sup>3</sup>/s (< 2 year flow). Rain over the headwaters is forecast over the next day, and rises are expected on Mission Creek over the next 1-2 days.

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

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