

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: 9July2012 9:30AM

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)

- Columbia Region (including Kootenay River, Kicking Horse River, and Illecillewaet River) – High Streamflow Advisory (**ADDED**)
- Shuswap Lake – Flood Watch (**DOWNGRADED**)
- South Thompson River – High Streamflow Advisory (**DOWNGRADED**)
- Shuswap River at Mabel Lake and downstream (including around Enderby) – High Streamflow Advisory (**DOWNGRADED**)
- Thompson River (including Kamloops area and Kamloops Lake) – High Streamflow Advisory

A transition to drier conditions across the province is facilitating improved river level conditions across most of the province. In watersheds with larger lake systems, the easing of lake levels is slowly proceeding. Hot weather across the province over the past few days has led to increased snow melt rates from high elevation snow packs. This is leading to rises in some river systems, particularly in the Columbia region, where river watersheds contain a significant amount of high elevation terrain.

A summary of current conditions:

- The Kicking Horse River at Golden (08NA006) is currently flowing at 232 m³/s (2-year flow) and has raised nearly 50 m³/s since yesterday. Additional rises are expected through Tuesday in response to hot temperatures and increased snowmelt rates.

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 Illecillewaet River at Greely (08ND013) is currently flowing at 270 m³/s (approaching 2-year flow) and has raised 40 m³/s since yesterday. Additional rises are expected through Tuesday in response to hot temperatures and increased snowmelt rates.
- The Stuart River near Fort St. James (08JE001) is currently flowing at 480 m³/s (10 to 20 year flow) and has been stable for the last few days. The Stuart River (and Stuart Lake) appears to be near peak level, however some small additional rises are possible in the coming days in response to warmer temperatures and increased snow melt rates in the headwaters.
- Shuswap Lake at Salmon Arm (08LE070) is at 349.18 m and has now dropped below flood stage. The rate of drop may slow over the coming days as a result of increased snow melt rates in the headwaters.
- The Shuswap River near Enderby (08LC002) is currently flowing at 380 m³/s and declining. A stop in the decline, or possibly small rises are possible over the coming days in response to increased snow melt rates
- South Thompson River at Chase (08LE031) is at 1340 m³/s and dropping. The rate of drop may slow over the coming days as a result of increased snow melt rates.

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

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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.