

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre

Provincial River Outlook

Issued: 24May2013 10:15AM

The following is a summary of the current short-term provincial river outlook:

- A low-pressure system delivered heavy precipitation across much of southern British Columbia over the past few days. As this system moves eastward, and the wet weather is expected to shift into Alberta, delivering some rain into the East Kootenay and Upper Columbia on Friday as this transition occurs.
- With a transition to more stable weather, river levels across the province are expected to ease over the weekend and early next week.
- There is the potential for another low-pressure system to affect the province towards the middle of next week. This may bring heavy rain, and there is the potential for river level rises. At this point it is too early to determine which regions will experience the heaviest rain. By Monday, there should be greater certainty on the location and volume of forecast precipitation from which streamflow forecasts can then be made.
- The Fraser River at Hope (08MF005) is currently flowing at 7500 m³/s. No significant changes are expected on the lower Fraser River over the next week.
- Snow packs have seen significant melt over the past 3 weeks. In smaller rivers and tributaries through the Interior, lower Thompson River, Okanagan, and Similkameen, snow packs have now been depleted enough that flood risk from snow melt alone has eased (i.e. flooding is possible but would require significant rainfall).
- Snow packs at higher elevations are still sufficient to pose on-going flood risk. This includes tributaries to the Fraser, North Thompson, South Thompson, Skeena, Columbia and Kootenay. Elevated flood risk from snow melt is expected to last another week in the Upper Fraser and North Thompson, 1-2 weeks in the Kootenay, Skeena and Lower Fraser, and 3-4 weeks in the South Thompson and Columbia basins. Flooding beyond these time frames is possible with extreme rainfall.

The next *Provincial River Outlook* will be issued on Friday May 31 unless conditions change significantly. Streamflow Advisories will be updated on the River Forecast Centre website as conditions change: <http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/index.htm>.

The *Provincial River Outlook* is a pilot project of the River Forecast Centre to assist in communicating expected flow and river level conditions and on-going flood hazard across British Columbia. The commentary will be issued weekly for the remainder of the 2013 freshet season. Please note that the information provided in the commentary is interpreted based on various information sources with inherent uncertainty, inaccuracy, and errors. The information should be treated as generalizations, and is subject to change. Users of this information do so at their own risk, and must accept all responsibility for its use and interpretation.