

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory – South Coast and South Interior

Issued: 03Nov2006, 3:30PM

BC Environment has issued a **High Streamflow Advisory** for:

- South Coast (Howe Sound, Vancouver & North Shore Mountains, lower Fraser valley, south Vancouver Island)
- South Interior (Kootenay / Columbia, Similkameen, Coldwater)

A significant frontal system has been producing heavy rainfall throughout the South Coast yesterday and today, and heavy snowfall in the Columbia today, tonight and into early Saturday morning. The frontal rain will continue over the weekend, with some potential easing Sunday morning. However, on the heels of the current system is an intense warm/wet "Pineapple Express" system. This event is forecast to arrive on the South Coast overnight Sunday and into Monday morning. It has a substantial subtropical feed, associated with Typhoon Cimaron off the coast of Vietnam, and will produce very substantial rainfall magnitudes. There is uncertainty at the moment as to where it will hit the coast, but areas of greatest probability for heavy rainfall for Monday and Tuesday include Howe Sound, Greater Vancouver & North Shore Mountains, lower Fraser Valley, and southern Vancouver Island. Freezing elevations are forecast to rise above 3000 metres, and so there will be additional water input to rivers from snowmelt. Rivers throughout the South Coast areas currently receiving rainfall will experience rising water levels over the weekend. Depending on the focal areas of the Pineapple Express system Monday and Tuesday, rivers in the South Coastal areas listed above have potential to exceed flood thresholds by Tuesday.

The system will push through to the south interior late Monday, and is expected to bring rainfall to the Kootenay & Columbia, along with the Tulameen, Similkameen and Coldwater valleys. Snowfall in the South Interior areas listed above will turn to rain over the weekend as the freezing elevation rises. The rainfall, combined with the snowfall, has potential to produce significant "rain-on-snow" high flows late Monday and Tuesday.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions closely and will issue an update on Saturday.

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.