

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory Update: 15Nov2006 8:00AM

- South Coast

The intense Pacific frontal system has moved onto the South Coast overnight, and has begun to produce moderate to heavy rainfall. To the present time the heaviest rain has been recorded on central and north Vancouver Island. Light rain was recorded in Greater Vancouver overnight, with heavy rain beginning in the past hour or so. We continue to maintain the High Streamflow Advisory.

Our Chilliwack River snow pillow has recorded 36 mm of precipitation in the past 24 hrs, all of it occurring as snow at the pillow site (elev 1600 m). The temperature is currently -1.6 at the pillow, and rising over the past 3 hours. There is now 300 mm snow water equivalent at the pillow, corresponding to about 1.3 metres of snow depth. The water level on Chilliwack River at Vedder Crossing continues to recede. It is currently at a flow of 60 cubic metres per second (cms), down from 80 cms yesterday and 1050 cms at its flood peak on Nov 6. The Chilliwack River will begin to rise in stage this afternoon, when the heavy rain reaches the eastern Fraser, and will rise through the evening. It is not expected to experience flooding from today's storm

The Jump Creek snow pillow (west of Nanaimo) has recorded 60 mm of precipitation in the past 24 hours, including 3-4 mm per hour since midnight. The temperature has risen overnight and is currently at zero degrees. The Cowichan River is rising as a result, and will continue to rise today, tonight and into Thursday. Local flooding along the lower Cowichan River is possible.

Based on current information, we anticipate that rivers throughout the south coast will rise today and tonight, peaking shortly after the heavy rain eases. Local flooding is possible along low elevation rivers that don't have significant snow catchment areas. Because of the very well developed mountain snow pack and the expected short duration of today's storm, we do not anticipate the Greater Vancouver north shore rivers, the Chilliwack River or other eastern Fraser valley rivers rising to flood stage.

The River Forecast Centre will monitor conditions throughout the day and evening, and issue an update if conditions warrant.

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.