

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch – South Interior

Issued: 18May2006, 11:45AM

BC Environment has issued a widespread **Flood Watch** for small and mid-sized rivers in the south interior, including the following areas:

- West Kootenay and East Kootenay
- Boundary
- Columbia
- Okanagan
- South Thompson

River levels throughout the south interior have been rising rapidly since Monday (May 15), following four days of record high temperatures and snow melt. A number of small and mid-sized rivers are currently at or above 2-year return period water levels (i.e. near natural bank full), and rising. These include:

- Kettle River (near Grand Forks, Westbridge, Midway and Rock Creek)
- Granby River (near Grand Forks)
- Slocan River (near Crescent Valley)
- Bull River (near Wardner)
- Elk River (near Fernie)
- Moyie River (near East Port)
- Mission Creek (near Kelowna)
- Eagle River (near Malakwa)
- Illecillewaet River (near Greeley)
- Salmon River (near salmon Arm)
- Silver Creek (near Salmon Arm)
- And other rivers in the above-noted areas

Temperatures are forecast to remain high (near 30 degrees) today and Friday, with cooling to the low 20's on Saturday and Sunday. Environment Canada is forecasting widespread thunderstorms for the Boundary / Kootenay / Okanagan for Friday and Saturday, with reduced thunderstorm potential on Sunday. However, a low pressure system is forecast to push in from the south on Monday, producing widespread rainfall throughout all the south and central interior (including the upper Fraser). The initial forecast is 10-15 mm, with higher amounts near ridge tops from orographic uplift.

Water levels on these rivers will continue to rise today, Friday and Saturday, and possibly into Sunday, from on-going snowmelt alone. Some small and mid-sized rivers may also experience increased flows from storm rainfall, depending on the location and intensity of the potential thunderstorm activity. The widespread frontal rainfall forecast for Monday will affect all these areas under Flood Watch.

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.