

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory Update – North Coast

Issued: 22Oct2008, 10:00AM

BC Environment issued a **High Streamflow Advisory** on Oct 21 for the North Coast, including:

- Kitimat area (including Kitimat River and Hirsch Creek)
- Terrace area (including Kitsumkalum River)
- Stewart area (including Bear River)
- Nass River valley

A significant warm/wet frontal system moved onto the North Coast and began producing heavy rainfall last night. Over the past 12 hours (to 9AM this morning), the following rainfall has been measured at weather stations:

- Stewart area (Bear Creek) – 60-70 mm
- Lower and Middle Nass – 35-45 mm
- Terrace area (including Kitsumkalum River) – 35-45 mm
- Kitimat area - 40-50 mm

Environment Canada is maintaining the High Rainfall warning, and is forecasting an additional 20-50 mm today for inland sections (Kitimat, Terrace) of the North Coast, and 50-70 mm for coastal areas. Stewart is forecast to receive heavy rain today (50+ mm).

The freezing elevation has increased to near 2000 metres, and is melting the early season snowpack that has accumulated in the North Coast mountains, adding this water to rivers.

Rivers began rising last night, and will continue to rise today and tonight, until the rain eases. Environment Canada is forecasting the rain easing to showers later this evening as the front passes inland. Smaller rivers will peak and begin to recede overnight, while larger rivers (such as the Nass) will continue to rise into Thursday. Depending on local rainfall amounts, there is potential for very rapid rises in water levels in some rivers today.

There is no stream gauge operating on the Bear River at Stewart through which to monitor water levels. However, based on the amount and rate of rain received from this storm, and the forecast additional rainfall today, flooding on the Bear River may be anticipated today.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions closely and will issue an update by 5PM Wednesday, or earlier 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.