

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Update - Flood Watch: Skeena River, Nass River, Stikine, Kitsumkalum River, Liard River

Update – High Streamflow Advisory: Bulkley River, Telkwa River, Kispiox River

Issued: 05June2009 4:00PM

The BC River Forecast Centre has issued a **Flood Watch** for rivers in the BC north-west, including the Skeena, Nass, Stikine, Kitsumkalum, and Liard rivers, and other rivers and streams within these basins. A **High Streamflow Advisory** was also issued for the Bulkley, Telkwa and Kispiox rivers.

A strong high pressure ridge built over the Alaska Panhandle this past week, producing record and near record temperatures across the north-west. Temperatures in Terrace on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were above 30 degrees. Continued hot weather is forecast over the weekend, resulting in 7 days of continued heat. Current forecasts show the ridge beginning to migrate by Sunday, with a return to temperatures closer to seasonal normals by Monday.

Water levels are continuing to rise and are expected to crest early next week (Monday – Wednesday) with the return to more seasonal temperatures. The most current discharge readings are:

- Skeena River - 5,300m³/s, above the 2-year return period discharge of 4,800 m³/s
- Nass River (at Shumal) - 3,500 m³/s, above the 2-year return period discharge of 3,400 m³/s
- Stikine River - 2,600 m³/s, above the 2-year return period discharge of 2,300 m³/s
- Liard River at Lower Crossing – 5500 m³/s, above the 2-year return period discharge of 5,200 m³/s
- Bulkley River – 530 m³/s, near the 2-year return period discharge of 560 m³/s
- Telkwa River – 78 m³/s, near the 2-year return period discharge of 86 m³/s
- Kispiox River – 250 m³/s, near the 2-year return period discharge of 260 m³/s

The River Forecast Centre will provide an update as 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.