

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch Update: 08Jun2009 9:30AM

The **Flood Watch is maintained** for the Nass River, Skeena River, Kitsumkalum River, Stikine River and Liard River.

The **High Streamflow Advisory** is maintained for the Bulkley River, Kispiox River and Telkwa River, and other rivers and streams in the North-West.

The **High Streamflow Advisory** is maintained for the Quesnel River.

The weather outlook from Environment Canada is for slightly above normal temperatures today, convective rain showers Tuesday, and then returning to very warm (25-26 degrees) Wednesday and Thursday. Most rivers under advisory have reached their peaks from snowmelt and have started to fall slightly, or are maintaining near their peak levels today. Water levels are not anticipated to rise further from snowmelt alone (except for the Liard River at Lower Post, which will rise slightly today before plateauing). Further significant rise in water level on these rivers will require significant rainfall.

Skeena River (at Usk):

The water level rose to a peak late Saturday, at 10.54 metres at the Usk gauge, and has since fallen to 10.30 metres. The water level is maintaining near its current water level, and is showing slight diurnal fluctuation. The Skeena River at Glen Vowell (above the Kispiox confluence) and the Skeena River above Babine both reached their peaks late Saturday and have begun to recede slowly. Despite the continued heat in the basin Sunday, the lack of stream flow change indicates that mid elevation snow is almost entirely melted, and that there is insufficient snow remaining to add significantly to streamflow.

Nass River (at Shumal):

The Nass has continued to rise slowly overnight, but appears to be at its peak now. The water level is showing a slight diurnal variation, and is expected to be near its current level today and into Tuesday.

Stikine River (at Telegraph Creek):

The water level on the Stikine River has begun to recede, falling 50 cm from its peak on Sunday.

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.

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Liard River:

The Liard River at Upper Crossing and Lower Crossing both continue to rise slowly, at approximately ½ cm/hr. It appears to very near its peak level resulting from the accelerated snowmelt. The current discharge for the Liard River at Lower Crossing is 6700 m³/s, near an 8-year return period. Temperatures in the Liard basin are expected to be cooler today, with possible rain showers tomorrow. Depending on the amount and location of rain in the basin, the water level may rise in response.

High Streamflow Advisories Maintained

Bulkley River (at Quick):

The Bulkley River at Quick peaked Saturday night and has started a slow recession. The water level has fallen 10 cm from its peak. Rain is forecast for the Bulkley basin for Tuesday, which may maintain the high water level.

Kispiox River:

The Kispiox River has plateaued, and has been holding steady near its current water level (it has a strong diurnal pattern). Despite the hot weather, there is insufficient snow remaining in the basin to support higher stream flows. Rain is forecast for the area Tuesday, however, which may maintain the high water level.

Telkwa River:

The Telkwa River is beginning to recede, slowly.

Quesnel River (at Quesnel):

The Quesnel River came to a peak overnight and has started to recede. The water level at the gauge at Quesnel has dropped 2 cm since midnight, and is expected to continue dropping slowly today.

Conditions will be updated as conditions warrant.

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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.