

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch Update: 09Jun2009 10:00AM

There are no changes in the Flood Watch or High Streamflow Advisories.

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 for the north-west is for continuing warm weather today and through to the weekend (24-26 degrees for Terrace). For the Liard, the current forecast is for temperatures of 20-23 degrees, with possible rain showers tomorrow and Thursday. Most rivers under advisory (except the Liard) have reached their peaks from snowmelt and have fallen slightly. However, they continue to maintain close to their peak levels. With the continuing warm weather expected to last all week, melt of high elevation snow continues, and rivers are not expected to recede significantly. They are expected to stay above warning levels for the next few days. Water levels are not anticipated to rise further from snowmelt alone. Further rise in water level on these rivers will require significant rainfall. Environment Canada's forecast for the next 5 days does not indicate potential for significant frontal or convective rain.

The Liard River (at Lower Crossing) has continued to rise slowly (at about 20 cm over the past 24 hours), and passed the 10-year return period level. The Liard River at Upper Crossing (in the Yukon) has peaked this morning, indicating the water level at Lower Post will plateau today.

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 10.26 metres. The water level has remained almost unchanged for the past 24 hours, 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 then receded slightly. However, with the continuing warm weather, their water levels are expected to remain high. The water level on the Skeena River is expected to remain near its current level for the next 24-48 hours.

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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Nass River (at Shumal):

The Nass has continued to rise slowly overnight Sunday to a peak Monday, and has since fallen by about 20 cm. The water level is currently flat, with a slight diurnal rise and fall. It is expected to be near its current level today and for the next 24-48 hours.

Stikine River (at Telegraph Creek):

The water level on the Stikine River has begun to recede from its peak on Sunday, falling 60 cm from its peak on Sunday, and dropping at a rate of about 1 cm/hr the past 12 hours.

Liard River:

The Liard River at Upper Crossing peaked this morning, and is now level at its peak. The Liard at Lower Crossing continues to rise slowly, at approximately 0.8 cm/hr. It appears to be very near its peak level resulting from the accelerated snowmelt. The current discharge for the Liard River at Lower Crossing is 7100 m³/s, above a 10-year return period. With the peak at Upper Crossing, the water level at Lower Post may be at its peak now. Temperatures in the Liard basin are expected to be somewhat cooler today, but still above seasonal normal, with possible rain showers tomorrow and Thursday. The water level will stay near its peak for the next 2-4 days.

High Streamflow Advisories Maintained

Bulkley River (at Quick):

Kispiox River:

Telkwa River:

The water levels on these three rivers are all flat, either at or slightly below their peak levels from Sunday. With continued warm weather expected for the rest of the week, snowmelt will continue and the water levels will remain high.

Quesnel River (at Quesnel):

The Quesnel River came to a peak Sunday night and has started to recede, slowly. It remains above a 2-year return period level.

Conditions will be updated as conditions warrant.

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