

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch Update: Liard River (Lower Post)

Issued: 31 May 2009 12:00 PM

The BC River Forecast Centre issued a **Flood Watch** for the Liard River in North-East British Columbia, including the community of Lower Post. This was in response to rapidly rising river levels from snowmelt, and a forecast of heavy rain in the basin.

Over the past 24 hours (to 10 AM this morning) precipitation has varied widely in the basin. In the upper portion of the watershed, no rainfall has occurred. In contrast, in the lower basin as much as 21.6 mm of precipitation has been measured at the MoFR fire weather station at Nelson Forks. Light rain was recorded in the central basin at Elk Mountain (3.6 mm). The Environment Canada forecast for Dease Lake today is sunny with cloudy periods and a high of 16°C, and showers with a high of 14°C at Fort Nelson, both below seasonal normals. As a result, river levels on the Liard have levelled off and are expected to remain flat over the next 24 hours.

On Monday, temperatures will increase to normal but by Tuesday a high pressure ridge over the province will increase temperatures in northern BC to above normal for the rest of the week. Forecast temperatures range from 22-25°C through Friday. The warm temperatures will accelerate snowmelt again, causing the Liard River to rise significantly. As a result, the Flood Watch remains in effect and is anticipated to be upgraded by the middle of the week.

The River Forecast Centre will provide an update on Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

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.