

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory Update: 24Mar2007 7:30AM

- North and West Columbia
- Arrow and Slocan Lakes
- West and East Kootenay, Kootenay Lake

The vigorous frontal system overlying southern B.C. is bringing rain to most of the south interior today. Environment Canada has expanded the area under a High Rainfall Warning to include most of the Columbia and Kootenay areas, including Arrow Lakes, Slocan Lake and Kootenay Lake. A total of 30-50 mm of rain over 36 hours (beginning Friday) is expected, with the heaviest rain possible on westward-facing slopes. Areas in the lee of the Coast Mountains (Coldwater, Tulameen, Similkameen rivers) are in somewhat of a rain shadow, and are not anticipated to receive heavy rain.

The freezing elevation is above 2000 m, and will stay elevated at least until the warm front passes, anticipated for late tonight. The melt of some low elevation snow is occurring. In addition, local conditions are very wet, following the March 10/11 storm event, and periodic rainfall since then.

The rainfall, snowmelt and wet antecedent conditions may result in rapid rise of water levels in small and mid-sized streams throughout the Columbia and Kootenay, particularly in areas where localized heavy rain occurs. Localized flooding may occur in some areas. Conditions are expected to ease by Sunday, provided the front moves south and east.

The River Forecast Centre will monitor conditions and will issue 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.