

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Flood Warning – Upper Fraser River (UPDATE)

Issued: 11:15AM July 2, 2021

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** the **Flood Warning** for the **Upper Fraser River** including:

- **Upper Fraser River including the Robson Valley and areas from Sinclair Mills upstream to Torpy, Dome Creek, Dore River, McBride and surrounding tributaries**

Temperatures finally began to cool on Thursday, July 1st. The average maximum temperature at four of the high elevation automated snow weather stations dropped to 25.4°C on Thursday – after previously reaching extremely hot temperatures on June 27: 29.4°C, June 28: 31.5°C, June 29: 32.8°C, June 30th: 33.1°C. The average elevation at these stations is 1,725 metres above sea level. Temperatures are forecast to remain cooler than the extreme heat from earlier in the week and snowmelt and glacier melt rates are expected to lower resulting in receding river levels. The recession of river flow may be slightly slower than the CLEVER model is forecasting.

The Yellowhead Lake (1A01P) automated snow weather station measured 16 mm of rainfall Thursday evening through Friday morning and the Fraser River at Red Pass is beginning to increase again. The rivers in the Upper Fraser are extremely vulnerable to rain over the upcoming 10-days, especially if a basin-wide event occurs. Environment and Climate Change Canada currently forecasts has the potential for showers in the McBride region for Friday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday suggesting the weather pattern is becoming unsettled and with a risk for rain.

The status of rivers in the region at 11:00am PDT on July 2nd:

- FRASER RIVER AT RED PASS (08KA007) is flowing at 324 m³/s (between 10 and 20-year flow) and beginning to rise again due to rainfall Thursday evening / Friday morning at Yellowhead Lake. It is unlikely to reach the previous peak flow of 344 m³/s which occurred around noon on Wednesday, June 30th. With cooler temperatures in the forecast the Fraser River at Red Pass is forecast to begin receding again later today unless heavy rain occurs in the upcoming days.
- FRASER RIVER AT MCBRIDE (08KA005) is flowing at approximately 1350 m³/s (100-year flow) and very slowly receding. The river reached a maximum of approximately 1420 to 1440 m³/s on

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Thursday (the data became very noisy at the peak) and may have surpassed the all-time highest recorded flow of 1424.5 m³/s set in June 1972. Flows are expected to recede over the upcoming days unless moderate to heavy precipitation occurs.

- DORE RIVER NEAR MCBRIDE (08KA001) reached 120 m³/s (5-year flow) on Thursday evening and continues to trend downward.

Details of the CLEVER Model forecasts for this region can be found at:

http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/map_clever.html

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period.

The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

BC River Forecast Centre

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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.