

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

UPGRADED: Flood Watch – Lillooet River

Issued: 10:00AM June 26, 2021

The River Forecast Centre is **upgrading** to a **Flood Watch** for the Lillooet River, including:

- **Pemberton**
- **Lillooet Lake**
- **Lillooet River and tributaries**
- **Harrison Lake**

Hot temperatures over the past several days have triggered significant amount of snowmelt at the higher elevations of the Lillooet River. Based on the data from the automated snow weather stations located in the Lillooet basin, it is estimated that snow water equivalent (SWE) at high elevations ranges from 100 mm to 500 mm, and melting at 40-50 mm per day.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) forecasts continuous high temperatures up to 40°C in Pemberton and other areas in the Lillooet basin for the coming days. These high temperatures will increase substantially the snowmelt and glacier melt which will cause river levels to rise significantly in the coming days.

Based on the current hydrologic modeling, the LILLOOET RIVER NEAR PEMBERTON (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08MG005) is expected to peak at approximately 800 m³/s (approaching a 10-year return period) on Thursday (July 1). The LILLOOET RIVER AT TENAS NARROWS (08MG027) is expected to peak at approximately 1,500 m³/s (20-year return period) on Thursday (July 1). HARRISON LAKE NEAR HARRISON HOT SPRINGS (08MG012) is expected to peak at approximately 13.2 m (50-year return period) on Friday to Saturday (July 1-2).

Uncertainty in weather and hydrologic modelling indicates that higher, or lower, than forecasted flows are possible. 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.

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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.