

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

Flood Watch – Chilcotin (UPGRADED)

Issued: 1:15PM June 27, 2021

The River Forecast Centre is **upgrading** to a **Flood Watch** for:

- **Chilcotin, including Taseko River, Chilko River, Chilcotin River, Big Creek, Homathko River and surrounding tributaries draining from the Chilcotin/South Coast Mountains**

Continued hot temperatures over the past several days have triggered significant amount of snowmelt at the higher elevations of the Chilcotin and South Coast Mountains. Automated snow weather stations (1300-1600m) are snow-free, however satellite analysis is indicating snow coverage in upper elevations throughout the region. Nearby automated snow weather stations in the South Coast have been melting at a rate of 40-60 mm per day. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) forecasts the hottest temperatures in region over the upcoming days. These high temperatures will increase the snowmelt and glacier melt substantially which will cause river levels to continue to rise through the upcoming week.

The status of rivers in the region as of 13:00 PDT:

- Chilcotin River near Hanceville (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08MB012) is currently flowing at approximately 335m³/s (nearing 5-year flow) and rising rapidly. It's expected to continue rising through the week and could reach up to 20-year return period flows.
- Taseko River near the outlet of Taseko Lake (08GE002) is currently flowing at approximately 190 m³/s (5-year flow) and expected to continue rising. It may reach up to 20-year return period flows by July 1.
- The Chilko River near Redstone (08MA001) is currently flowing at approximately 335 m³/s (approaching a 5-year return period flow) and expected to continue rising through the week.

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.