

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

Flood Watch – Upper Columbia (UPGRADED)

Issued: 7:30AM June 28, 2021

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

- **Upper Columbia, including the Columbia River mainstem and tributaries around Donald, Golden, Radium, Invermere and surrounding areas**

Extremely hot temperatures over the past few days has led to accelerated snowmelt rates from high elevation terrain from the Rocky Mountain and Columbia Mountains. Rivers have been rising from this snowmelt, with many gauged rivers in the region currently flowing between 5-year and 20-year return period levels. The automated snow weather stations within the region are nearly depleting with daily snowmelt rates of 45 to 65mm snow water equivalent per day. On Sunday, maximum temperatures reached between 23 to 29°C at the high elevation snow stations (1800-2200 m) and Environment and Climate Change Canada recorded 36°C at Golden. The upcoming forecast has three more warmer days ahead for Golden with maximum temperatures of 37°C on Monday, and 38°C for both Tuesday and Wednesday. Watersheds with remaining snowpack or glacial input will likely continue to rise into Thursday morning, at least.

A summary of hydrometric stations in the region as of 7:00PDT:

- SPILLIMACHEEN RIVER NEAR SPILLIMACHEEN (08NA011) is flowing at approximately 255 m³/s (5-year flow) and expected to continue to rise.
- COLUMBIA RIVER AT NICHOLSON (08NA002) is flowing at 490 m³/s (nearing 5-year flow) and forecast to continue rising.
- KICKING HORSE RIVER AT GOLDEN (08NA006) is flowing at approximately 325 m³/s (between 5 and 10-year flow) and expected to continue rising.
- BLAEBERRY RIVER ABOVE WILLOWBANK CREEK (08NB012) reached 145 m³/s (20-year flow) early this morning. Flows are receding as they exhibit a diurnal pattern and are expected to rise higher tonight and into Tuesday morning.

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- COLUMBIA RIVER AT DONALD (08NB005) is flowing at approximately 800 m³/s (5-year flow) and expected to continue rising.
- BEAVER RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH (08NB019) reached 305 m³/s (10-year flow) early this morning. Flows are receding as they exhibit a diurnal pattern and are expected to rise higher tonight and into Tuesday morning.
- GOLD RIVER ABOVE PALMER CREEK (08NB014) reached approximately 150 m³/s (10-year flow) late last night. Flows are receding as they exhibit a diurnal pattern and are expected to rise higher tonight.
- CANOE RIVER BELOW KIMMEL CREEK (08NC004) is flowing at 96 m³/s (5-year flow) and expected to increase tonight.
- GOLDSTREAM RIVER BELOW OLD CAMP CREEK (08ND012) is flowing at 230 m³/s (between 2 and 5-year flow) and rising.
- ILLECILLEWAET RIVER AT GREELEY (08ND013) reached approximately 393 m³/s (nearly 10-year flow) at around midnight. Flows are receding as they exhibit a diurnal pattern and are expected to rise even higher tonight.

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.

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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.