

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

MAINTAINED – Flood Watch– Tulameen River, Similkameen River, Coldwater River, Nicola River

ISSUED: 2:30 PM November 28, 2021

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** a **Flood Watch** for:

- **Tulameen River and Similkameen River**
- **Coldwater River and Lower Nicola River**

The second in a series of atmospheric rivers has impacted the British Columbia Coast this weekend. Significant rainfall affecting the Fraser Valley was able to spillover the Cascade and Coast Mountains and into Interior watersheds. The Fire Weather Station *Thynne* has recorded nearly 50 mm of precipitation since the start of the event last night. The station is located within the Tulameen River watershed and bordering the Coldwater River. Temperatures increased during the storm event and likely contributed to snowmelt at mid-elevations and rain-on-snow runoff. Rivers have risen quickly but are not expected to reach the levels from the November 13-15 event. In comparison, the *Thynne* station recorded approximately 250 mm of precipitation from November 13-15.

A summary of key rivers as of 14:00 PDT today:

- Coldwater River near Brookmere (08LG048) appears to be peaking at approximately 95 m³/s (between 5-year and 10-year flow).
- Coldwater River near Merritt (08LG010) is flowing at 54 m³/s (nearing 2-year flow) and expected to continue rising rapidly for another 4 to 8 hours.
- Spius Creek near Canford (08LG008) reached a water level of 2.568 m at 12:10 and is starting to recede.
- Tulameen River below Vuich Creek (08NL071) appears to be peaking at approximately 124 m³/s (between 5-year and 10-year flow).
- Tulameen River at Princeton (08NL024) is flowing at 174 m³/s (between 1-year and 2-year flow) and rising.

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- Similkameen River at Princeton (08NL007) is flowing at 81 m³/s (between 1-year and 2-year flow) and rising.
- Similkameen River near Hedley (08NL038) is flowing at 219 m³/s (between 1-year and 2-year flow) and rising.

A third storm in the series of atmospheric rivers arrives on Tuesday-Wednesday. Currently, the weather models display significant uncertainty in total precipitation for the third event for the Central Region. The risk remains for significant flooding under the wettest weather model scenario.

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

Details of the COFFEE and CLEVER Model forecasts can be found at:

http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map_coffee.html, and

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

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.