

Ministry of Forests

Flood Warning – Elk River (UPGRADED)

Flood Watch – West Kootenay (UPGRADED), Upper Columbia (UPGRADED), East Kootenay (MAINTAINED)

ISSUED: 8:15AM June 13, 2022

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

- **Elk River**

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

- **Upper Columbia including the Kicking Horse River, Illecillewaet River and tributaries around Invermere, Radium, Golden and Revelstoke**
- **West Kootenay**

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

- **East Kootenay**

Rising snowmelt rates and unsettled and showery weather has been leading to rising river levels throughout the region. A number of rivers through the region are currently at or approaching 2-year return period flows, particularly in the East Kootenay. This includes the Elk River near Fernie (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08NK002), Bull River near Gardner (08NG002), Kootenay River at Fort Steele (08NG065), Kaslo River below Kemp Creek (08NH008), Slocan River near Crescent Valley (08NJ013) and tributaries around Nelson and Creston.

A low-pressure system is expected to bring a period of wet weather to the region on Monday and Tuesday. Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a Rainfall Warning for the Elk Valley, with rainfall amounts in the 50 to 80 mm, and the highest amounts around Fernie. A Special Weather Statement is in effect for the rest of the East Kootenay and West Kootenay, with 30 to 50 mm rainfall expected; and for the Columbia region, with 20 to 40 mm of rainfall expected.

Current hydrologic modelling is indicating risks for flooding into the Tuesday period, particularly in the East Kootenay region. Flows in the 5-year to 10-year return period range are likely, with flows in the 20-year range or higher being possible. Given the uncertainty in the position of the

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weather pattern and heaviest rainfall, it is possible that adjacent areas in the West Kootenay and Upper Columbia also experience significant flows (e.g. exceeding 5-year to 10-year flows).

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period. [Be prepared and know your hazards.](#)

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.