

Ministry of Forests

Flood Watch – Liard River (DOWNGRADED)

High Streamflow Advisory – Swift River and Northwest BC (MAINTAINED)

ISSUED: 12:30 PM June 19, 2022

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

- **Liard River including tributaries around Fort Nelson and Highway 97 towards Watson Lake**

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** to a **High Streamflow Advisory** for:

- **Swift River, and other streams and rivers in the most northwest section of the province**

The Liard River has dropped from peaks experienced beginning on June 10 and lasting into June 13th. Currently, the Liard River at Lower Crossing (10BE001) is running at 5680 m³/s (between a 2-5 year return period). The short-term forecast (5 days) has the potential for the river to rise to close to 5-year return period flows; this is lower than peaks experienced earlier in June, which exceeded its 20 year return period. In the longer-term forecast (10 day forecast), there is potential for the river to rise again to nearly 10 year return period flows; however, these increases will depend on the amount of precipitation that falls within the region. As of today (June 19th), these forecasted increases are less than peaks experienced earlier in June; however, the advisory level could return to a Flood Warning if the rain forecast increases. This Flood Watch advisory recognizes that while levels have dropped from previous peaks, the Liard River remain high and remains vulnerable to significant rain (especially if rain is accompanied by warm temperatures that increases melt of snow remaining within the region).

In the Northwest part of BC, the Swift River has dropped to 310 m³/s on June 19th (a 2-5 year return period flow), down from 20-50 year return period flows experienced June 7 – June 14th. The current forecast shows the potential for rises above 10-year return period flows within the short term; please watch for updates to the maintained High Streamflow Advisory in the region to reflect these potential increases.

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.](#)

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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.