

Ministry of Forests

**Flood Watch – Liard River (Upgraded), Skeena River, Bulkley River (Maintained)
High Streamflow Advisory – Stikine, Swift River (Added)
ISSUED: 12:45 PM June 5, 2022**

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

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

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

- **Skeena River including the Bulkley River and surrounding tributaries around Telkwa, Smithers, Hazelton, Kispiox, and Terrace**

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

- **Tributaries of the Stikine River, including streams and rivers around Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek**

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

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

Steady warming last week led to increased snowmelt and runoff in rivers in the region. A storm system on Friday and Saturday added additional input into rivers as rain. Additional precipitation is forecast today and tomorrow, primarily for the Bulkley Valley and Skeena region, which could lead to significant rises for the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers. The rate of rise and peak water levels on the rivers will depend on the amount of rainfall. Environment and Climate Change Canada is currently forecasting 15mm for Smithers with higher values possible in the mountains. Rain falling on a melting snowpack in the mountains increases the risk for rapid river rises.

The Liard River at Lower Crossing (10BE001) is flowing at a 2-year level. Further upstream in the Yukon, the Liard River below Scurvy Creek (10AA006), is flowing between 10-year and 20-year flow. The Liard River at Lower Crossing is expected to continue rising to higher levels over the upcoming days from upstream tributary contributions.

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Current streamflow conditions (as of 12:10PM PDT, June 5):

- Skeena River at Usk (08EF001) is flowing at 5,060 m³/s (between 2-year and 5-year flow) and expected to continue rising.
- Bulkley River at Quick (08EE004) is flowing at 610 m³/s (between 2-year and 5-year flow) and leveling off from recent rainfall. Additional rain beginning today will likely increase flows, again.
- Bulkley River near Smithers (08EE005) is flowing at approximately 875 m³/s (between 2-year and 5-year flow) and leveling off from recent rainfall. Additional rain beginning today will likely increase flows, again.
- Swift River near Swift River (09AE003) is flowing at 305 m³/s (between 2-year and 5-year flow) and rising.
- Stikine River at Telegraph Creek (08CE001) is flowing at 2,000 m³/s (nearing 2-year flow) and predicted to begin leveling off this evening into tomorrow.
- Tuya River near Telegraph Creek (08CD001) is flowing at 390 m³/s (between 2-year and 5-year flow) and not expecting significant rises in the following days.
- Liard River at Lower Crossing (10BE001) is flowing at 5,500 m³/s (between 2-year and 5-year flow) and forecast to continue rising over the next few days.
- Liard River below Scurvy Creek (10AA006) in the Yukon is flowing at nearly 780 m³/s (between 10-year and 20-year flow)

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.

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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.