

# Ministry of Forests

**UPDATE: Flood Watch – Howe Sound, North Shore, Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley**

**High Streamflow Advisory – South Coast**

**Issued: 12:30 PM December 26, 2022**

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

- **Howe Sound**
- **North Shore Mountains**
- **Metro Vancouver**
- **Fraser Valley including Sumas River**

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

- **South Coast (other areas not noted above) including the Sunshine Coast and surrounding tributaries**

The third in a series of storms has passed across British Columbia Sunday and early-Monday. Rainfall amounts since yesterday have been in the 25-100 mm range across most of the region, with an additional 5-20 mm of snowmelt being observed at regional Automated Snow Weather Stations. The region may experience a brief reprieve through mid-day today (December 26<sup>th</sup>) with another storm expected to move across the region tonight and tomorrow, bringing additional moderate to heavy rainfall and snowmelt.

Streamflow has risen and remains high across the region. Rivers may experience a brief period of easing flow at some point today, with additional rises expected overnight and on Tuesday in response to the next storm system. Streamflow in the 2-year to 5-year range is anticipated in rivers throughout the region, however higher flows are possible. Low lying flooding is expected and may extend to overbank flooding of floodplains in areas. A Flood Watch is in effect in Washington State, with forecasts from the National Weather Service and the Northwest River Forecast Center indicating a small risk of overbank flooding on the Nooksack River. There may be a small chance of a minor overflow event into the Sumas River drainage into British Columbia.

Details of forecasts from the hydrologic models can be found at the following links:

# Ministry of Forests

The COFFEE Model 5-day forecast: [http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map\\_coffee.html](http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map_coffee.html)

The CLEVER Model 10-day forecast: [http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/map\\_clever.html](http://bcrcfc.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.

BC River Forecast Centre

Ministry of Forests

---

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.