

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

High Streamflow Advisory – Chilcotin

Issued: 11:15AM June 26, 2021

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

- **Chilcotin, including Taseko River, Chilko River, Chilcotin River, Big Creek, Homathko River and surrounding tributaries draining from the Chilcotin/South Coast Mountains**

Hot temperatures over the past several days have triggered significant amount of snowmelt at the higher elevations of the Chilcotin and South Coast Mountains. Automated snow weather stations (1300-1600m) are snow-free, however satellite analysis is indicating snow coverage in upper elevations throughout the region. Nearby automated snow weather stations in the South Coast have been melting at a rate of 40-50 mm per day. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) forecasts rising temperatures up to the 40°C range in the Hanceville and Alexis Creek region over the coming days. These high temperatures will increase substantially the snowmelt and glacier melt which will cause river levels to continue to rise in the coming days.

Based on the current hydrologic modeling, the Chilcotin River near Hanceville (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08MB012) is currently flowing at approximately 300 m³/s (2-year flow) and expected to rise and may reach up to 20-year return period flows by July 1. The Taseko River near the outlet of Taseko Lake (08GE002) is currently flowing at approximately 165 m³/s (2-year return period flow) and expected to rise and may reach up to 20-year return period flows by July 1. The Chilko River at the outlet of Chilko Lake (08MA002) is currently flowing at approximately 120 m³/s (approaching a 2-year return period flow) and expected to rise and may reach up to 20-year return period flows by July 1. Uncertainty in weather and hydrologic modelling indicates that higher, or lower, than forecasted flows are possible. Details of the CLEVER Model forecasts for this region can be found at:

http://bcrfc.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.

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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.