

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

High Streamflow Advisory: Tulameen River

ISSUED: 12:00 PM December 10, 2021

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

- **Tulameen River**

A frontal system is forecast to bring precipitation to the south coast of BC the weekend of Dec 11-12th. Freezing levels are currently forecast to rise between 1000 – 1500 m, resulting in rain and above-freezing temperatures at mid to low elevations. Current weather and hydrologic forecast indicate a portion of this precipitation could fall as rain within the headwaters of the Tulameen River, translating into the potential for higher river flows especially within the smaller, upstream parts of this watershed. River impacts will depend on how much of this precipitation falls as rain, how much of the watershed receives rain, and how high freezing levels climb on Saturday, Dec 11. Current hydrologic forecasts indicate the potential for increased flows beginning Saturday and peaking into Sunday to Monday; these forecasts indicate the potential for flows around their 10-year return period thresholds within smaller, headwater portions of the Tulameen river system, with the potential for return period flows nearing their 2-year thresholds further downstream at Princeton. At this point, forecasts for the Tulameen at Princeton are lower than peaks experienced at the end of November and early December. This pulse of water will cause the downstream Similkameen River to rise Sunday into Monday; however, the Similkameen River is currently not part of this High Streamflow Advisory as up-to-date forecasts indicate potential rises below 2-year return period flows.

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period.

Details of the COFFEE and CLEVER Model forecasts can be found at:

http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map_coffee.html, and

http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/map_clever.html

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.