

# Ministry of Forests

High Streamflow Advisory – Upper Columbia, Boundary, Kootenay

Issued: 10:30 AM May 14, 2023

The following advisories are currently in effect:

## High Streamflow Advisory

- Upper Columbia (NEW)
- West Kootenay – all areas (NEW)
- East Kootenay – all areas (NEW)
- Boundary including the Kettle River, Granby River and surrounding tributaries

## Weather Synopsis:

Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a Special Weather Statement for the region, indicating that the B.C. Interior is experiencing unseasonably hot weather. The highest temperatures are expected from today through Tuesday. Daytime highs will be 10 to 15 degrees Celsius above seasonal values while overnight lows will be 5 to 10 degrees above what is normally experienced this time of year. Hot temperatures are forecasted to last through the week with temperatures in the upper 20's to low-30's °C, with chances of showers in southern portions of the region through the week.

## River Conditions:

Snowmelt rates have been increasing over the past two days. In mid-elevation terrain, snowpacks are dwindling, however significant upper elevation snow still remains. Rivers have begun rising, and a continued rising trend in river levels is expected throughout the week.

Areas with higher elevation terrain, including Ktanaxa Territory, West Kootenay and East Kootenay regions are expected to reach higher flows than have been experienced earlier this season. In the Boundary Region and Syilx Territory, flows are expected to rise through the week, however with dwindling snowpack there is uncertainty whether flows will exceed levels previously experienced earlier in May.

The public is advised:

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River levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly. Being near these riverbanks, creeks and fast-flowing bodies of water is dangerous:

- Stay clear of fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks
- Avoid recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, boating or hiking near high streamflow rivers or streams
- Remember, high streamflow can easily trap strong swimmers, increasing risk of drowning

During a High Streamflow Advisory, conditions can change quickly. Understand the risks and get prepared by visiting [www.PreparedBC/floods](http://www.PreparedBC/floods)

The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

BC River Forecast Centre

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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. Fast-flowing bodies of water increase risk to life safety. 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.