Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Flood Watch – Pemberton Valley

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

- Pemberton Valley including Lillooet River mainstem and tributaries

Weather Synopsis:

Following a series of atmospheric rivers last week, another round of storm systems is impacting the coast. The heaviest rain is forecast today through Wednesday, with lingering rainfall continuing through the rest of the week. Current weather modelling is indicating moderate rainfall, with 40 to 100 mm of precipitation at Pemberton, and 70 to 140 mm closer to Whistler, through the end of Thursday. Temperatures are expected to be warm through Wednesday, with the potential for additional snowmelt from shallow snowpacks in the region's higher terrain.

River Conditions:
Rivers are expected to rapidly rise through Tuesday and Wednesday, with peak flow forecast Wednesday or into Thursday morning. Hydrologic modelling is forecasting flows in the 2-year to 5-year range for tributaries across the south side of the Pemberton Valley (e.g. Ryan River, Pemberton Creek) as well as along the mainstem Lillooet River through Pemberton. High end weather scenarios are indicating the lower likelihood potential for higher flows in the 10-year to 20-year range.

Actions:
Heavy rain and high streamflow bring increased risk for unstable banks, river erosion, submerged roads, swift water hazards, flooding and landslides. Stay clear of the banks of swift running rivers and never drive across flooded roads, bridges or river crossings. At this time of year leaves can clog storm drains and impact urban drainage. Keep storm drains clear.

The River Forecast Centre continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

For information on how to prepare for flood hazards, visit PreparedBC.

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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.

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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.