

May 18, 2006
SOUTH INTERIOR FLOOD WATCH

VICTORIA - The Ministry of Environment has issued a widespread Flood Watch for small and mid-sized rivers in the south Interior.

The Flood Watch for the south Interior includes the following regions:

- * West Kootenay and East Kootenay
- * Boundary
- * Columbia
- * Okanagan
- * South Thompson

A Flood Watch means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed the riverbank. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

River levels throughout the south Interior have been rising rapidly since Monday, following four days of record high temperatures and snowmelt. A number of small and mid-sized rivers are at or above the level of the natural riverbank and rising.

These rivers include:

- * Kettle River (near Grand Forks, Westbridge, Midway and Rock Creek)
- * Granby River (near Grand Forks)
- * Slocan River (near Crescent Valley)
- * Bull River (near Wardner)
- * Elk River (near Fernie)
- * Moyie River (near East Port)
- * Mission Creek (near Kelowna)
- * Eagle River (near Malakwa)
- * Illecillewaet River (near Greeley)
- * Salmon River (near Salmon Arm)
- * Silver Creek (near Salmon Arm)

Other small and mid-size rivers in these regions may also be experiencing high flows.

Temperatures are forecast to remain high (near 30 degrees Celsius) today and Friday, with cooling to the low 20s on Saturday and Sunday. Environment Canada is forecasting widespread thunderstorms for the Boundary, Kootenay and Okanagan regions Friday and Saturday, with reduced potential for thunderstorms on Sunday.

Water levels on these rivers will continue to rise today, Friday and Saturday, and possibly into Sunday, from ongoing snowmelt alone. Some small and mid-sized rivers may also experience increased flows from storm rainfall, depending on the location and intensity of the potential thunderstorm activity.

The Ministry of Environment is currently reviewing information for the Similkameen River and may issue an advisory specific to it later today.

The ministry is monitoring rainfall magnitudes and river levels closely, and is in regular contact with Environment Canada's weather forecasters. It will provide an update as soon as additional information is available.

[News release](#)