



Update: Flood warning – Southern Lakes

July 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

A flood warning is being maintained for:

- Bennett Lake, Tagish Lake and Marsh Lake

Water levels on Bennett Lake, Tagish Lake, and Marsh Lake are currently at record levels for this early in the season and rising. The rate of rise has begun declining and all lakes rose less than 10 centimeters in the past 24 hours. The Southern Lakes are likely to exceed 2007 flood levels by early next week.

The snowpack in the Upper Yukon River Basin was historically high this winter. While much of the snowpack has melted, snow remains in the higher elevation headwaters that continue to contribute to the Southern Lakes.

The month of June was drier than average in Whitehorse and temperatures were 1.3 degrees above normal on average. Recent precipitation in the headwaters and above-normal temperatures over the past week have increased inflow to the Southern Lakes to record setting volumes. Currently, above normal temperatures and no significant precipitation are forecast for the next week.

Rates of water level rise are forecast to slow as the snowpack is depleted. Yukon Energy models water levels in the Southern Lakes, with forecasts updated regularly. Current model results indicate that Marsh Lake may reach 657.4 to 657.7 metres above sea level within two weeks. The projected late-summer peak water level ranges from 657.5 to 658.0 metres. The peak level on Marsh Lake in 2007 was 657.34 metres. Peaks will be similar on Tagish and Bennett Lakes.

These forecasted peak water level estimates may change as the model is rerun with updated observations. Rainfall is the greatest source of uncertainty as precipitation timing and severity will likely determine the peak water level in 2021.

The Government of Yukon is in continuous communication with Yukon Energy regarding water level modelling forecasts for the Southern Lakes as conditions change.

Flood prone property owners are advised to have a plan in place in the event of a flood. See Yukon.ca for more information.

We will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as conditions change.

Advisory and warning levels

High streamflow or water advisory means that river or lake levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

Flood watch means that river or lake levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull or flood stage. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers and lakes may occur.

Flood warning means that river or lake levels have exceeded or will exceed bankfull or flood stage imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers and lakes affected will result.

Contact

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