

High streamflow advisory – Southeast Yukon, Liard River

June 3, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

A high streamflow advisory is being issued for:

- the Liard River and its tributaries.

The snowpack in the Liard basin was well above normal this season and remaining snow is currently melting rapidly. In Watson Lake daytime highs have been in the high teens since May 29, with mean daily temperatures above 10 °C. Higher freezing levels were also observed in the headwaters of the Liard. Showers across the basin on May 30 and 31 likely resulted in up to 10 mm of rain in some locations.

Temperatures are forecast to remain seasonal, with daily means above 10°C. Showers are forecast through the weekend, with some weather models predicting 5-10 mm of precipitation in Watson Lake and 5-15 mm in the headwaters of the Liard. Downpours from thunderstorms could give higher amounts locally.

Streamflow has risen rapidly in tributaries of the Liard River over the last 3 days and the Liard River at Upper Liard is currently flowing at 1650 m³/s (between 1-year and 2-year flow) and rising. Models indicate flows on the Liard at Upper Liard may peak above the 2-year flow over the weekend, although flows could be greater if conditions are warmer and wetter than forecast. Tributaries in the region are expected to have similar increases.

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

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

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.

Contact

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