

Update: Flood watch – Southern Lakes

September 3, 2021 at 9 a.m.

A flood warning is being downgraded to a flood watch for:

- Bennett Lake, Tagish Lake and Marsh Lake

Southern Lakes water levels have fallen over 35 centimeters since the July peak. After dropping progressively during the second half of July, water levels rose again to a lower secondary peak during the first half of August in response to rainfall and have been declining since August 17. While water levels are expected to continue dropping, levels are still above flood thresholds.

As air temperature drops, glacier melt runoff will continue to decline and precipitation at high elevation will begin accumulating as snow. With the outflows from Marsh Lake now significantly higher than inflows, only extreme widespread precipitation events can increase lake levels in September.

Flood risk for properties and infrastructure will continue until water levels fall below flood threshold, which is approximately 40 centimetres below current levels. Shoreline erosion also continues to be a threat and berm removal is not advised at this time. The Government of Yukon is actively gathering professional advice and assessing the existing mitigations to formalize an evidenced based approach for berm management and/or removal.

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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