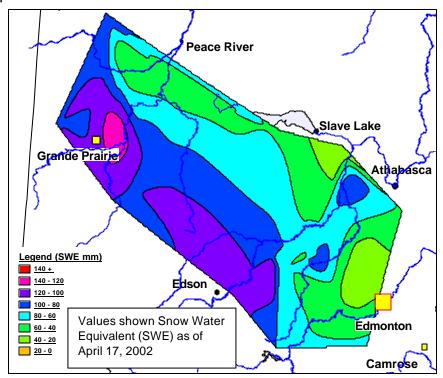


Spring Runoff Advisory

Issued at:3:22 PM, April 18, 2002 Issued by: Hydrology Branch

Spring Runoff Advisory for Northwestern Alberta

A Spring Runoff Advisory has been issued for all small streams, creeks and rivers originating in the plains area as shown below. The major rivers in these regions (Athabasca, Peace, Smoky and North Saskatchewan Rivers) are not included in this advisory because the river systems are too large to be strongly affected by plains runoff.



Above-average snowpack on April 1, combined with recent snowfall, has resulted in significant snowpacks for this time of the year with the water equivalent of the snowpack ranging from 70 to over 100 mm in these areas. Warm and sunny conditions are forecast for the next week which will cause the snowpack to melt. Runoff from the snowmelt will cause increases in streamflows and there is potential that some streams in these areas may experience high water levels. No major flooding is expected, however, localized minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

For more information, check the Forecaster's Comments on the department web site at: http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/basins/index.html

A *Spring Runoff Advisory* means that stream levels are rising or expected to rise due to snowmelt and <u>no major flooding</u> is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible. Anyone situated close to the streams affected (property owners and the general public) is advised to be cautious of the rising levels.

Alberta Environment is monitoring river levels closely for streams throughout Alberta. This advisory will be updated if the situation changes.

Media Contact: Communications Division, Alberta Environment

Phone: (780) 427-6267 Pager: (780) 671-0549 (24 hours) Fax: (780) 427-1874