

Flood Watch Update for Southern Alberta

Alberta Environment has issued a **Flood Watch** for the following stream in southwestern Alberta:

- **Oldman River** (between the Oldman Dam and Fort Macleod)

The Oldman River Dam has increased releases this morning to 400 m³/s (up from 350 m³/s) as a result of snowmelt runoff from the higher elevations. This reach of the Oldman River will be near bankfull but water levels will be less than those experienced earlier in the week.

Alberta Environment's **Flood Watch** remains in effect for the following stream in southwestern Alberta:

- **Belly River**

River levels remain near bankfull at Standoff. Snowmelt from the headwaters is resulting in increased river levels in the that portion of the river. The upstream portion of the river, near Mountain View, will experience water levels near or above the peak earlier this week. However, near Standoff, water levels are expected to be considerably less than those experienced earlier this week. No problems are anticipated at this time.

High Streamflow Advisory Update for Southern Alberta

Alberta Environment has issued a **High Streamflow Advisory** for the following river in south-central Alberta:

- **Bow River** (through Banff and Canmore)

The Bow River through Banff and Canmore is rising in response to active snowmelt from the higher elevations.

Alberta Environment has downgraded the **Flood Watch** to a **High Streamflow Advisory** for the following stream in southeastern Alberta:

- **Ross Creek** (near Medicine Hat)

Water levels along Ross Creek continue to fall slowly but remain high.

Alberta Environment's **High Streamflow Advisory** remains in effect for the following rivers and their tributaries:

- **South Saskatchewan River**
- **Oldman River** (includes Castle, Waterton, St. Mary, Crowsnest and Oldman Rivers)
- **Elbow River**
- **Highwood River**
- **Willow Creek**
- **Seven Persons Creek** (near Medicine Hat)
- **Milk River** (at Milk River)

Water levels in the streams remaining under advisory are still high in most reaches of these rivers. Snowmelt from higher elevations is resulting in increased water levels. Due to the slower process of snowmelt compared to rainfall, streamflows will rise more slowly than earlier this week.

The higher elevations of the Oldman River basin received heavy snowfall from the storm event earlier this week. Current forecasts indicate that rivers and streams originating in the headwaters of the Oldman River basin, such as the Waterton, Belly and Castle Rivers are expected to approach or exceed peaks earlier this week. Peak flows on the Crowsnest and St. Mary Rivers are expected to be less than the peak observed earlier this week. These rivers are expected to peak over the weekend. Most of these rivers are upstream of the major reservoirs in southern Alberta, which will capture most of this flow. Therefore, water levels in locations downstream of the major reservoirs, such as Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, will not change significantly as a result.

In the Bow River basin, rivers including the Bow, Highwood, Elbow, Kananaskis and Sheep Rivers are rising in response to snowmelt. The snowmelt in this basin is a result of the above-average mountain snowpack and the late spring and not from the latest storm event in southern Alberta. Alberta Environment is monitoring streamflow and snowpack conditions closely.

For more information, check the Forecaster's Comments on the department web site at:
<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/ws/ForecastersComments/>

A High Streamflow Advisory means that stream levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly and no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible. Anyone situated close to the streams affected (campers, fishermen, boaters and the general public) is advised to be cautious of the rising levels.

A Flood Watch means that stream levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bank full. Flooding of areas adjacent to these streams may occur. Anyone situated close to the streams is advised to take appropriate precautionary measures.

A Flood Warning means that rising river levels will result in flooding of areas adjacent to the streams affected. Anyone situated close to the river should take appropriate measures to avoid flood damage

Alberta Environment is monitoring river levels closely and is in close contact with Environment Canada Weather Services. This advisory will be updated as required.