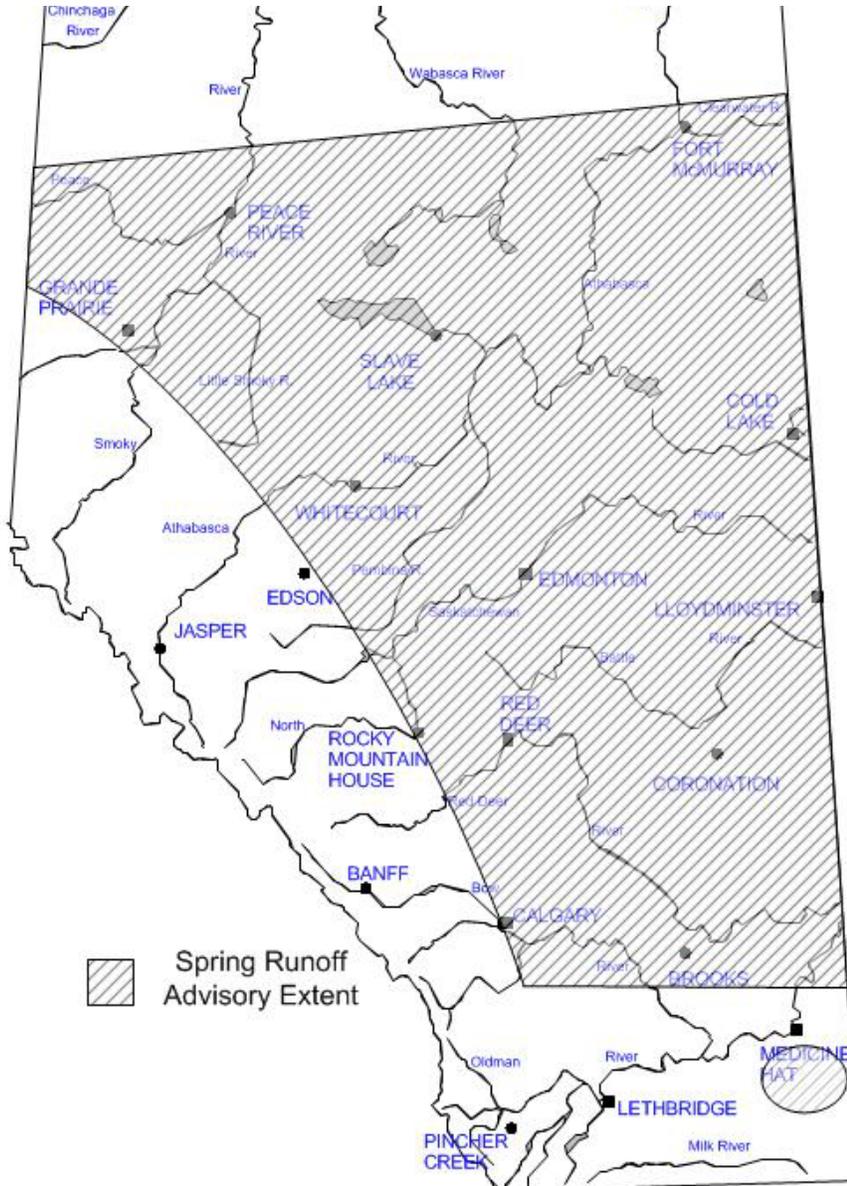


Provincial Spring Runoff Advisory Update – Alberta Plains



Temperatures across Alberta are forecast to be above normal through Tuesday and then returning to seasonal through the weekend. During this time, daytime temperatures are expected to be well above zero, with many locations seeing temperatures in the double digits. Due to the warmer temperatures

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further north, the spring melt advisory has been expanded to include the plains area from Peace River and Fort McMurray to just south of the City of Calgary as well as the Cypress Hills.

The generally cool spring conditions combined with the heavy snowfalls across the plains during the winter and spring months has resulted in a much above average plains snowpack, that has not had the opportunity to melt gradually. Typical snow melt in Alberta occurs with gradually warming air temperatures, as opposed to the sudden and sustained increases in temperatures that are expected through this week.

A rapid melt caused by the quick change to normal and above normal temperatures combined with the existing much above average snowpack in the plains may cause localized overland flooding as the water makes its way into streams. In low-lying areas where water does not have a direct route to stream channels localized ponding can be expected. Over the next several days water levels will rise in the smaller creeks with a possibility of flooding in adjacent low-lying areas. No significant water level rises are expected in the major rivers.

In some locations overland flooding can be exacerbated by blocked or frozen culverts, which cannot manage the increase in melt water. People are advised to contact their local municipality of any blocked or frozen culverts that are observed which are currently causing drainage issues or may cause issues in the near future, or with any flooding conditions which may be of concern.

Anyone who is situated close to affected creeks, or in areas that have experienced overland flooding in the past, is advised to be cautious of rising water levels over the coming few days.

The mountain snowpack is generally slightly above to above average, although the resulting melt from the mountains is not expected to cause major mountain rivers to over flow their banks. Temperatures at the higher elevations of the eastern slopes may only reach above freezing for a few hours of the day, allowing for the mountain snowpack to melt gradually.

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is monitoring river levels closely throughout Alberta. This advisory will be updated if the situation changes and will remain in effect until Friday April 11th, 2014 unless otherwise noted.

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Plains snow course data and historical rankings can be viewed at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/data/snow/Mar2014/plainsscdata-rank.html>

A map showing Spring Runoff Potential for the plains can be viewed at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/data/snow/Mar2014/PROfig1.pdf>

Mountain snow course data and historical ranking can be viewed at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/data/snow/Mar2014/mountainsscdata-rank.html>

Additional near-real-time mountain snow accumulation is monitored using snow pillows. Snow pillow information can be viewed by choosing any mountainous river basin and selected the snow data parameter in the two drop down menus at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/default.aspx>

Information in addition to this advisory may be found at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/forecasterscomments>

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins>

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