

March 31, 2022

Due to last November's atmospheric river event, large amounts of debris have collected in areas along several B.C. rivers and streams, including the Similkameen and Tulameen Rivers.

The province is assessing waterway debris and, where a public safety threat is identified, is engaging with First Nations, local authorities, and private citizens on a plan for removal.

From flights, site visits and communications with First Nations in the area and local government, we are aware of numerous large human-made debris in the river system including but not limited to roads, bridges, buildings, vehicles, and sea-cans.

There are also significant amounts of natural debris along the river course that require further assessment for potential removal or other mitigative measures.

As the snow cover is receding, additional debris is being logged from site visits, aerial video, drone footage and local communities.

Schedule

Crews are working to commence the debris removal work by March 31 or April 1 and will be starting at a site approximately 1km west of Tulameen River (the TR8 site).

Crews will then work downstream and on to the Similkameen River, engaging multiple work crews, to remove known debris (as logged on the [Debris Map](#)) and include newly identified debris in our removal plans as it is discovered.

Reporting Debris

- A [website](#) has been setup with information on the Ministry's response and is regularly updated.
- There is an interactive [Debris Map](#) and public debris reporting tool on the website, where individuals can submit photos and locations of debris not already captured
- Debris reporting tool that enables the public to report and upload photos
- Debris can also be reported through the 1-800-663-3456 ECC number as well