

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

July 12, 1999

Friday and Saturday brought about 0.5-0.75 inch of precipitation to the areas of the state north and west of the Ridge and Valley Section and about 0.2-0.5 inch in the Ridge and Valley. Totals generally decreased from northwest to southeast. Little or no rain fell southeast of the Blue Ridge.

Stream flows in the Delaware River basin are mixed compared to Friday's flows, but generally trending downward. The Trenton gage is reading 2600 cubic feet per second (cfs) this morning, compared to 2630 on Friday. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up slightly from 42 to 48 cfs, while the Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 632 to 539 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is up, from 255 to 402 cfs, and in the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 89 to 85 cfs. Basinwide, flows are less than half of normal.

In the Susquehanna River basin, streams generally continue to reflect the almost daily shower and thunderstorm activity that occurred in the upper, western and central parts of the basin last week, but are generally on the decline at this time. The main stem has decreased at most gages, and is down from 4830 to 4660 cfs at Harrisburg. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge is even, at 71 cfs, as is the West Branch, at 1430 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is up marginally, from 739 to 750 cfs. In the lower basin, Conodoguinet Creek at Hogestown is even, at 89 cfs, while Swatara Creek at Harper Tavern is up from 39 to 44 cfs. Basinwide, flows are about a third to half of normal.

In the Ohio River basin, flows are down at most gages on the Allegheny River main stem, despite the precipitation in that area. Flows at Natrona are down from 4930 to 4040 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is also down, from 518 to 506, while the Monongahela River at Braddock is even, at 1550 cfs this morning. The Beaver River at Beaver Falls increased from 953 to 1060, and the Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 5720 to 5010 cfs. Basinwide, flows are at about one to two-thirds of normal.

Ground water levels continue to decline at most daily monitoring wells. The Dauphin, Potter and Susquehanna wells show minor increases this morning.

The 3-day forecast indicates light precipitation in the 0.01-0.1 inch range across the southern tier early, with an additional 0.1-0.2 inch in the southern half of the state late in the period. The 5-day outlook shows a total of about 0.1-0.25 inch across the northern tier and in the southeast, with about 0.5-1.0 inch elsewhere. The 6-10 day outlook adds about 1.5-2.0 inches statewide.

