

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 25, 1999

Precipitation was restricted to the western half of the state yesterday, with totals approaching 0.1 inch in the southwest and decreasing rapidly to less than 0.05 inch north and east.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows in the main stem are generally continuing a slow decline, with the flow at Trenton down from 9140 cubic feet per second (cfs) yesterday to 8660 cfs today. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 302 to 212 cfs. In the upper Lehigh River watershed, main stem and tributary flows are increased from yesterday, as indicated by the Lehigh at White Haven, up from 335 to 497 cfs; while the lower watershed has declined, as indicated by the Lehigh at Bethlehem, down from 1930 to 1860 cfs. Schuylkill River watershed flows are down, as reflected by the river at Philadelphia, down from 2250 to 2090 cfs. Christina River watershed flows are generally down as well, except Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford, which is up from 219 to 228 cfs. Throughout the basin, most gages remain below normal.

In the Susquehanna River basin, stream flows in the main stem are all down. The river at Harrisburg is down from 28,600 cfs to 23,300. Upper basin tributaries above the Lackawanna River are generally up, as reflected by Tunkhannock Creek at Tunkhannock, up from 439 to 460 cfs. Throughout the rest of the basin, flows are generally down, although somewhat mixed in headwater tributaries. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge is down from 312 to 284 cfs. In the West Branch watershed, flows are mixed in the upper watershed but generally up and are generally down in the lower watershed. The West Branch at Lewisburg is down from 8550 to 7250 cfs. In the Juniata River watershed, flows are generally increased above Lewistown, while the Newport gage is down from 1940 to 1700 cfs. Lower basin tributaries are generally down. The Consetoga River at Conestoga is down from 435 to 379 cfs. Basinwide, most gages remain below normal.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny River main stem flows continue to decline, with flows at Natrona down from 16,000 cfs to 13,600 cfs. Tributary flows in the Allegheny watershed are generally down, as is the Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift, down from 1460 to 1320 cfs. Monongahela watershed flows are generally down, except the Youghiogheny River, which is up slightly at Sutersville, from 1520 to 1540 cfs. The Monongahela at Braddock is down from 6550 to 5680 cfs. Tributary flows in the Beaver River watershed are holding about even, while the river at Beaver Falls is down from 2570 to 2250 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is even at 21,200 cfs. Nearly all gages in the basin are recording below-normal flows this morning.

Ground water levels continued to decline except in Allegheny, Berks, Cameron, Franklin, and Huntingdon Counties.

The three-day forecast indicates the possibility of less than 0.1-0.2 inches of precipitation in the Ohio basin area, and less than 0.1 inch east of there, mostly to occur in the next 24 hours. The five-day forecast indicates a total of 1.0-2.0 inches in the Ohio basin area and 0.5-1.0 eastward. The 5-10 day forecast adds another 0.5-1.0 inch in the southeastern half of the state and 1.0-1.5 inches in the northwestern half. Temperatures are to remain at or above normal, in the 25-40 degree range.