

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**March 12, 1999**

Yesterday morning, scattered light precipitation occurred in the southwest, extending northeastward toward Susquehanna County, with totals generally less than 0.10 inch, but reaching about 0.25 inch in localized areas.

Stream flows are declining fairly steadily statewide. In the Delaware River basin, the main stem Delaware River receded from 12,700 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 12,300 cfs at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 434 to 390 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 2890 to 2360 cfs, and the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 2550 to 2250 cfs. In the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creed at Chadds Ford declined from 265 to 258 cfs. With only a very few exceptions, stream flows remain below normal throughout the basin.

In the Susquehanna River basin, main stem Susquehanna River flows also continued to decline. At Harrisburg, flows receded from 47,300 cfs to 42,700 cfs. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge is down from 489 to 415 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna at Williamsport is down from 11,900 to 10,700 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport declined from 3940 to 3650 cfs, and in the lower basin, the Conestoga River at Conestoga dropped from 488 to 456 cfs. Again, with very few exceptions, flows throughout the basin remain well below normal, in many cases near half of the long-term median values.

In the Ohio River basin, main stem flows on the Allegheny River declined, with the flows at Natrona down from 18,900 to 18,200 cfs. Kiskiminetas River flows at Vandergrift declined from 4390 to 4290 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock dropped from 25,000 to 19,900 cfs, and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 5490 to 4590 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley declined from 51,400 to 42,800 cfs. Many gages in the basin are measuring flows that are about one-half to two-thirds of normal.

Ground water declined in all but 6 of the daily monitoring wells. Increases were recorded in Bucks, Chester, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, and Union Counties. The Pike County number, having risen nearly 15 feet, is suspect, however.

Forecasts for the next three days offer the likelihood of perhaps 0.05-0.10 inch of precipitation, concentrated in the southern portions of the state and occurring late in the period. The five-day forecast adds little, indicating a total of up to 0.10 inch statewide. The 6-10 day forecast adds another 0.10-0.25 inch southeast of the Ridge and Valley area and 0.25-0.50 inch in and northwest of that area, with temperatures to be about normal in the 35-40 degree range.

