

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

July 2, 1999

The past two days brought some small amount of additional precipitation in the form of widely scattered shower activity in a few counties, but generally less than 0.5 inch.

Stream flows throughout most of the state, except in the south central and southeast areas, are still reflecting remnant impacts of the rains early in the week. While many tributary streams realized rather large peaks from the storms, particularly along the western side of the Susquehanna River basin, flows are already declining rapidly and by early next week may be down near to levels where they were a week ago. In most cases the peaks were not sufficient to push flows above the daily normals; although most of the record-breaking low flows disappeared from the picture, at least temporarily.

Ground water still shows little reaction to the rains. Levels increased very slightly in Bradford, Cameron, Lycoming and Pike Counties, held their own in Huntingdon and Sullivan Counties, and continued to slide in the remaining 21 counties with daily monitoring wells.

The five-day outlook indicates hot, humid weather with generally light shower and thunderstorm activity across most of the state, with the highest concentrations, possibly up to 1 inch, again showing along a narrow diagonal band from southwest to northeast. The 6-10 day outlook is for continued scattered shower activity, but with somewhat cooler temperatures.

We closed out June with precipitation deficits in every county, ranging from about 2.0-3.0 inches in the Ohio basin, from about 1.0-2.5 inches in the Susquehanna basin and generally about 2.0-3.5 inches in the Delaware basin. End-of-month stream flow data shows many streams at what we consider emergency levels. End-of-month ground water data is not yet available, but preliminary information from the daily monitoring wells indicates many emergency levels in the Delaware and Susquehanna basins.

With the long holiday weekend upon us, we emphasize the need to conserve water. We particularly encourage everyone who relies upon ground water, whether on a private or public supply, to guard your resources carefully. Ground water does not recover until after the foliage is down in the late fall. With ground water approaching or already at September/October levels, and with four more months until recovery begins, well supplies are in clear jeopardy for the latter months of the summer. Normal precipitation

during the rest of the summer will not suffice to prevent ground water problems.