

## **Weekly Drought Report December 20, 2010**

### **Precipitation**

Over the past 7-days, the eastern portion and a pocket on the western edge of the state received approximately 1 to 1.5 inches of precipitation, while the western portion of the state received 0.5 inches or less.

All county 90- day precipitation indicators remain in green indicating normal or above conditions.

### **Surface Water**

A review of instantaneous streamflows indicates that flows remain at normal except for scattered areas in the western portion of the state and the extreme southeast corner, which are at slightly below normal.

The 30-day moving average streamflow values are all at Normal status.

### **Groundwater**

All monitoring well indicators remain as “Normal” except Fayette County’s well whose 30-day moving average remains steady in the “Watch” level.

### **Precipitation Forecast**

The 7-day forecast indicates from a trace amount for the east up to 1 inch for the western portion of the state. The 8-14 day forecast predicts from 1.5 to 2.5 inches across the state.

### **Summary**

After a hot and dry summer, drought watches or warnings were issued in September for all 67 counties. By Nov. 10, conditions had returned to normal for 46 eastern and central counties. However, the remaining 21 counties continued to experience 90-day precipitation deficits as high as four inches.

Significant rainfall in early December eliminated those deficits and surface water levels have returned to normal for this time of year. The Pennsylvania Drought Task Force used reports and forecasts from the National Weather Service in conjunction with DEP’s drought monitoring program to form the recommendation.

A press release was issued on 12/17/10 following recommendations of the Pennsylvania Drought Task Force to lift the drought watch declarations for 21 western counties.

Watches were lifted for Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington and Westmoreland counties.