

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**March 6, 2000**

During the first five days of March there was essentially no measurable precipitation in the most southeastern third of the state. The rest of Pennsylvania had precipitation totals (water equivalents) ranging from one-tenth to four-tenths inches with the heaviest amounts in Indiana, Warren, McKean, Forest and Elk Counties. Average total precipitation for the affected area for this period was about two-tenths inches. During the past 24 hours, preliminary data suggests light precipitation in and possibly north of the Bedford-Blair County area totaling about one-tenth inch.

In the Delaware River Basin, flow recessions are seen for all major streams since Monday of last week. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 29,500 to 20,900 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 4,570 to 825 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 7,060 to 3,980 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 6,290 to 3,190 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 1,020 to 386 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About half of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for March 6.

Since February 28, the Susquehanna River Basin also shows flow recession for all major streams. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 91,900 to 25,000 cfs. at Towanda, down from 94,200 to 35,800 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 144,000 to 72,800 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 23,200 to 8,890 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 45,100 to 13,900 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 45,800 to 16,700 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 9,610 to 5,580 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 1,600 to 763 cfs. at Conestoga. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin, like the other two major basins, shows flow recession for all major streams over the past week. The Allegheny River is down from 57,500 to 29,200 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 84,800 to 42,300 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 7,080 to 3,610 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 22,500 to 11,500 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 6,100 to 2,630 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since February 28, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 11 counties and drops for 16. Increases range from 0.15 to 13.04 ft. (Carbon County) with an average rise of 3.10 ft. Decreases range from 0.03 to 10.36 ft. (Potter County) with an average drop of 1.28 ft.

Between one-tenth and one-quarter inch of precipitation (water equivalent) is forecast for Pennsylvania

over the next five days. For the period March 11 to 16, between one and 1.5 inches of precipitation is expected. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be generally above normal.