

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

June 14, 1999

Friday through Sunday brought light precipitation to several counties in the central Susquehanna River basin, with totals only reaching 0.1 inch. In the northwest, Erie and Crawford Counties received 0.7 and 1.1 inch, respectively. Statewide, as we near the middle of the month, most counties are realizing a June deficit of about 1.0-1.6 inches, with the greater numbers evident in the Delaware and Ohio River basins.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows continued to decline, as the main stem Delaware River fell from 3940 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 3310 cfs at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley decreased from 92 to 83 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem realized a noticeable increase from 797 to 1140. Flows in the Schuylkill River rose as well, up from 534 to 705 cfs at Philadelphia; although, the Reading gage, at 358, remains near the record low of 351 cfs. In the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek rose to 198 cfs, compared to 150 on Friday. Basinwide, flows remain well below normal.

In the Susquehanna River basin, the main stem Susquehanna River showed declines at all gages, with Harrisburg flows down from 6900 to 6440 cfs. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge declined from 125 to 105 cfs, and the West Branch Susquehanna at Lewisburg continued its downward slide from 1680 to 1510 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport decreased from 996 to 925, and in the lower basin, the Conestoga River at Conestoga decreased from 165 to 160 cfs.

In the Ohio River basin, the Allegheny main stem continued downward at all gages, with Natrona down from 3520 to 3460 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 560 to 548. Tributary flows in the Monongahela River watershed decreased, while main stem flows increased, possibly as a result of reservoir releases. Flows at Braddock increased from 1600 to 2080 cfs. The Beaver River declined from 740 to 690 cfs at Beaver Falls, and the Ohio River at Sewickley declined from 6670 to 5720 cfs.

Ground water levels continued to decrease statewide; the only exceptions were in Franklin and Huntingdon Counties, where daily monitoring wells posted slight increases.

The forecast for the next few days indicates a chance of showers or thunderstorms early and late in the 3-day period, statewide, with the 5-day outlook indicating up to 0.5 inch of precipitation in the Ohio basin area and 0.5-1.0 inch in the eastern two-thirds of the state. The 6-10 day outlook indicates an additional 0.25 inch across the northern tier only.

