

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**June 25, 1999**

Shower activity brought about 0.15-0.25 inch of rain to the Lawrence/Venango County area yesterday. No measurable precipitation occurred elsewhere.

Stream flows declined throughout the Delaware River basin. On the main stem, flows at Trenton are down from 3500 cubic feet per second (cfs) yesterday to 3280 cfs this morning. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley declined from 70 to 63 cfs, and the Lehigh River at Bethlehem decreased from 726 to 675. At Glendon, the Lehigh River continues below its record low of 935 cfs with a reading of 679 this morning. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia held even at 534 cfs, and in the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford declined from 157 to 152 cfs.

In the Susquehanna River basin, main stem flows continued downward, with Harrisburg flows decreasing from 5010 to 4660 cfs, measurably below the record of 5500 cfs. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge held steady at 81 cfs, while the West Branch at Lewisburg declined from 1300 to 1200 cfs, below its record low of 1680 for the day. The Juniata River at Newport decreased from 911 to 869 cfs, and in the lower basin, the Conestoga River at Conestoga declined from 174 to 163 cfs, well below its record low of 209.

In the Ohio River basin, main stem Allegheny River flows showed marked declines this morning. Flows at Natrona are down from 3460 to 2250 cfs, well below its record low of 3000 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift declined from 315 to 259 cfs and is well below its record low of 494. The Monongahela River at Braddock declined from 1890 to 1790 cfs, while the Beaver River at Beaver Falls registered an increase from 845 to 917 cfs this morning. The Ohio River at Sewickley continued downward from 6570 to 5280 cfs.

Ground water continued downward statewide, with only Lawrence and Philadelphia County monitoring wells showing very slight increases, while a few wells held even since yesterday.

The three-day forecast allows for light precipitation totals from showers and thunderstorms throughout the period. The southwest is predicted to fare the best with up to 0.75 inch total, while only about 0.01 inch is shown for the northeast. The five-day forecast indicates a total of about 1.5-2.0 inches in the southwest decreasing to about 0.5-1.0 inch in the northeast. The 6-10 day outlook adds about 1.0-2.0 inches statewide, with the heavier totals in the southern half of the state, with temperatures above normal.

With the predicted levels of precipitation, June will produce rainfall deficits ranging from about 2.5-3.5

inches in most of the Ohio basin to about 1.5-3.0 inches in the Susquehanna basin and about 2.0-2.5 inches in the Delaware basin. At this point, we must expect end-of-month ground water data to indicate emergency or near emergency conditions in many counties. The reservoir of ground water, upon which streams depend during low flow periods, is truly in jeopardy at this time. With nearly a week left in June, water resources are already at late September or October levels. Individuals and public water supply systems should be guarding their reserves carefully. Conservation is critical at this time in order to avoid emergency measures in the coming few weeks.