

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**March 3, 1999**

The past 24 hours brought precipitation in the western third of the state, totaling less than 0.1 inch in the southwest to about 0.15 inch in the northwest. This is precipitation on the lead edge of a major storm center approaching Pennsylvania from the southwest; it already provided 1-2 inches of rain in parts of Kentucky, Tennessee and farther south.

In the Delaware River basin, main stem flows on the Delaware River are increased below Montague and are up from 11,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 12,600 cfs at Trenton. Tributary flows throughout the basin have fallen. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 617 to 490 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 2550 to 2510 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 3740 to 2770 cfs. Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford, reflective of the Christina River watershed is down from 409 to 305 cfs. Basinwide, flows range slightly below to slightly above normal with about an even mix.

In the Susquehanna River basin, main stem Susquehanna River flows are increased at all gages, with Harrisburg flows up from 20,100 to 21,100 cfs. Upper basin tributary flows are all decreased, with the Lackawanna River at Old Forge down from 495 to 398 cfs. The West Branch is decreased throughout its length, down from 7350 to 7250 cfs at Lewisburg, and tributary flows are decreased as well. Juniata River watershed flows are also decreased, although the lower reach of the river is up slightly from 2140 to 2230 cfs, carrying the peak of the weekend rainfall. Lower basin tributaries are also decreased, as reflected by the Conestoga River at Conestoga, down from 737 to 499 cfs. Flows in the basin remain well below normal at nearly all gages.

In the Ohio River basin, main stem Allegheny River flows are decreased at all gages, with flows at Natrona down from 20,500 to 19,800 cfs. Allegheny River watershed tributaries are all down; the Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 2280 to 2240 cfs. Monongahela River watershed flows are decreased, as is the river at Braddock, down from 22,600 to 21,600 cfs. The Beaver River watershed follows suit with the river at Beaver Falls down from 6920 to 5420 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is feeling the peak of the weekend rain and is up from 41,100 to 43,200 cfs. Flows in the basin remain well below normal, except in the Beaver River basin.

With the exception of Chester, Lawrence and Sullivan Counties, ground water declined yesterday at the daily monitoring well sites. End-of-February data shows that ground water levels have recovered to normal levels at many county monitoring wells. Exceptions include Bedford, Bucks, Blair, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, Delaware, Erie, Pike, Somerset, Union, and Wayne Counties.

The three-day forecast shows the likelihood of about 1.0-1.5 inches of rain across most of the state,

with the highest amounts in the southwestern areas, mostly occurring by tomorrow afternoon. The five-day forecast indicates a total of about 1.0-2.0` inches in the eastern third and about 2.5-3.0 inches in the western two-thirds of the state. The 6-10 day forecast adds another 1.5-2.0 inches statewide, with temperatures to be below normal in the 30-40 degree range.