

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

January 25, 1999

Weekend precipitation was generally not as heavy as may have been hoped from the earlier 5-day forecasts. The northwestern counties from Beaver through Warren received a half inch or less. Precipitation on most of the Appalachian Plateau ranged from about 0.5 inch to about 1.0 inch, with the heavier amounts occurring nearer to the Ridge and Valley. The Ridge and Valley received about 1.25 inches in the northeast to about 1.5-2.0 inches in the central to southern end of the province. Southeast of Blue Mountain, numbers declined quickly to 0.75 inch or less, with only about 0.3-0.5 inch in the extreme southeast.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows have increased demonstrably from Friday, as a result of weekend precipitation and melt. The Delaware main stem is up from 15,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 44,100 at Trenton and from 36,100 to 61,900 at Montague. The Lackawaxen at Hawley is up from 721 to 3860, while the Lehigh at Bethlehem is up from 5630 to 13,700 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia rose from 5030 to 17,900 cfs. The Brandywine at Chadds Ford is up from 404 to 1110 cfs. All of those gages, except Trenton, appear to have peaked late yesterday.

In the Susquehanna River basin, the picture is similar. Main stem Susquehanna River flows are up from 13,100 to 90,200 cfs at Towanda and from 33,600 to 191,000 cfs at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna is up from 5590 to 43,400 cfs at Lock Haven and from 13,100 to 84,700 cfs at Lewisburg. The Juniata is up from 557 to 5600 cfs at Huntingdon and from 3970 to 24,500 cfs at Newport. Swatara Creek, up from 2440 to 7280 cfs at Hershey is indicative of lower Susquehanna tributaries. Again, these gages, except Harrisburg, appear to have peaked late yesterday or last night.

In the Ohio River basin, the Allegheny River is up from 409 to 5300 cfs at Port Allegheny and from 26,700 to 104,000 cfs at Natrona. The Clarion River is up from 3270 to 15,100 cfs at Piney. The Monongahela River is up from 29,500 to 61,000 at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 7400 to 32,400 cfs at Beaver Falls. The Ohio River at Sewickley is up from 59,600 to 165,000 cfs. As in the other two basins, these gages, except Sewickley, appear to have peaked late yesterday.

Statewide, with only a few exceptions on very small tributary streams, flows are well above normal.

Ground water information is not available this morning.

The five-day forecast indicates 0.5 inches of precipitation in the western half of the state, increasing to 1-2.5 inches in the eastern half. The ten-day outlook adds another 0.5-1.5 inches. Temperatures are to remain above normal.

