

## **July 5, 2011 Drought Report**

During the months of March and April, a good portion of the state received above-average precipitation (up to 8 inches above normal for some locations). More recently, precipitation amounts for most of the state were slightly below average in May and 25 to 75% below average in June, except for the southeast and northeast parts of the state. Those areas received closer to normal or above normal precipitation amounts in the month of June.

Precipitation drought indicators, based on the 90-day departure, are in “normal” status for all counties, primarily because of the large amounts of rain that were received in April. As the “April” precipitation amounts are replaced with more current precipitation data over the next 3-4 weeks, counties may change from “normal” to drought “watch/warning/emergency” stage overnight.

A review of the county streamflow monitoring gages indicates that the 30-day average streamflow values are displaying downward trends, which is typical for late summer into early fall. There are seven counties now in drought “watch” (Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Clearfield, Forest, Mercer and Westmoreland) and one county is in drought “warning” (Cameron).

The instantaneous streamflows range from normal to above normal across the eastern and north eastern portions of the state. The instantaneous streamflows are normal to below normal in the western portion of the state with several streamflows significantly below normal.

There are four groundwater wells indicating drought “watch” (Juniata, McKean, Perry and Potter).

The 7-day forecast indicates the northwest portion of state to possibly receive trace amounts of precipitation and increasing up to 1-2 inches moving southeasterly. The 8–14 day forecast predicts the state to receive precipitation in the 0.25 to 1 inch range for the entire state.

Although conditions do not warrant a recommendation for any action to be taken, conditions will be monitored closely.