

RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for Waterways Association Meeting 12/11/2013
National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA

For the latest river and weather forecasts--<http://www.weather.gov/pittsburgh>

WEATHER RECAP

November temperatures were much below normal and precipitation near normal. Water-wise the weather pattern changed drastically late in November and early December. On November 24th and 25th intense and localized Lake Effect Snow bands brought as much as 20 inches of snow to parts of the upper Allegheny River Basin. Snow water equivalents were measured in the 2 to 4 inches range...but much of that has since melted. Then on November 26th rainfall of 2 to 3 inches fell over the Cheat, Tygart and Upper Monongahela River Basin causing a 4 to 5 foot rise on the Monongahela River on November 27th. Then two other rainstorms brought upwards of 4 inches of rain from December 7th through Dec 9th to the Cheat, Tygart and Upper Monongahela River Basin, causing 5 to 10 foot rises on the Cheat, Tygart and Monongahela Rivers.

Location	Nov 2013 Precipitation	Departure (Inches)	Nov Snowfall	Seasonal Snowfall
Pittsburgh	2.97	-0.26	9.3 (+7.2)	9.4 (+6.9)










Location	Nov Average Temperature	Departure degrees	Extreme High	Extreme Low
Pittsburgh	39.4	-3.5	71(Nov 6)	15(Nov24-25)

HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

Flows on the Allegheny are 150% of normal, the Monongahela 210%, and the Ohio 200% of normal. A minimum of 1.50-2.00 inches basin wide rainfall in 6 to 12 hours is needed to bring rivers to bank full. Over the already saturated Cheat, Tygart and Upper Monongahela River basins lesser amounts would be needed. High water potential is slightly above normal over the next 90 days. Upcoming colder weather will reduce the threat. Near to above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures are expected through much of the remainder of December. Precipitation will fall in the form of snow for much of the remainder of December. The storm track/jet stream will be active just to our south.

HEADS UP: Some weather models are calling brief warm-ups each time one of these storms pass our area, and a 2-3 day warm-up and potential rain event around Dec 21st that may affect the Cheat and Mon rivers.

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
								
20%	40%				30%	80%	80%	30%
Slight Chc Snow High: 31 °F	Chance Snow Low: 10 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 18 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 13 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 33 °F	Chance Snow Low: 27 °F	Rain/Snow High: 36 °F	Snow Low: 30 °F	Chance Snow High: 34 °F

8-14 Day Outlook... Below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

30 Day Outlook... Normal temperatures and normal precipitation.

Dec-Jan-Feb Outlook... Normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Feb-Mar-Apr Outlook... Normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Apr-May-Jun Outlook... Above normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Average Yearly rainfall Pittsburgh: 38.19 inches **So far in 2013:** 34.50 inches (Departure -1.72)

Totals for: 2012: 41.74 inches; 2011: 44.24 inches; 2010: 37.85 inches

Average Yearly snowfall Pittsburgh: 41.9 inches **So far in 2013-2014:** 9.4 inches

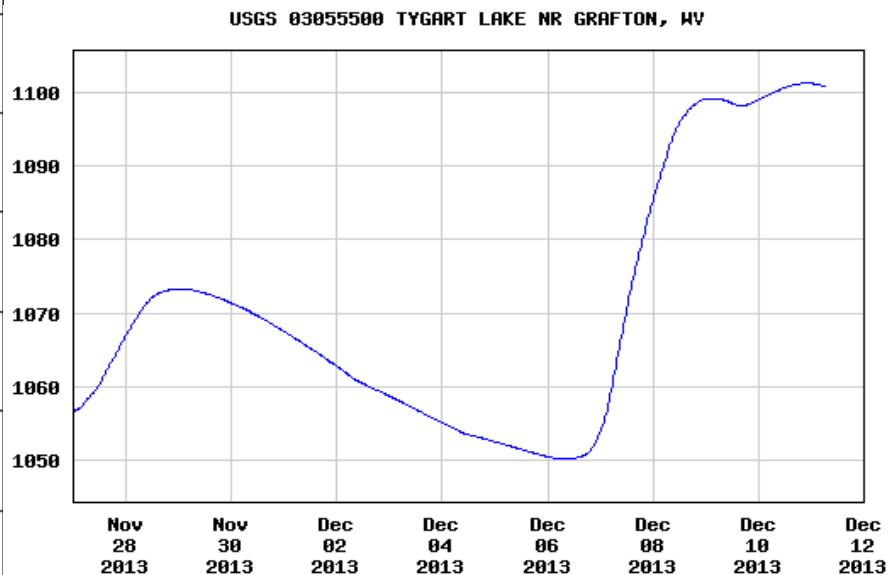
2012-13: 57 inches

2011-12: 37 inches

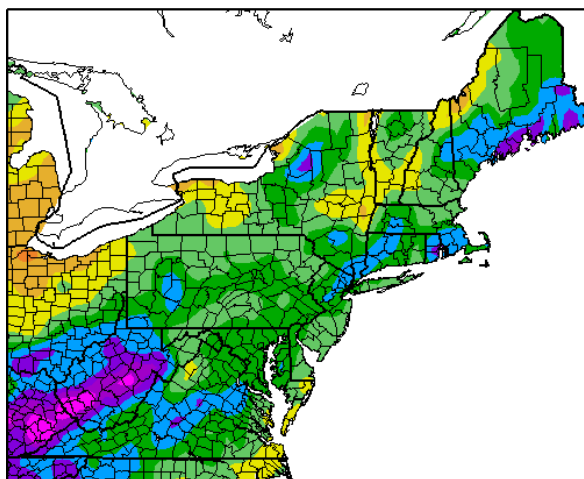
2010-11: 57 inches

2009-10: 77 inches

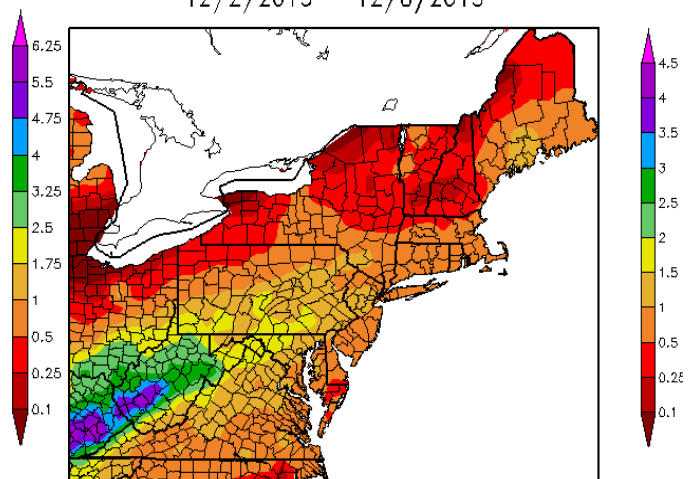
RESERVOIR	FLOOD STORAGE CAPACITY USED
Allegheny	0%
Tionesta	2%
Union City	2%
Woodcock	0%
East Branch	0%
Mahoning	4%
Crooked Creek	2%
Conemaugh	3%
Loyalhanna	3%
Stonewall Jackson	27%
Tygart	32%
Yough	3%
Michael J. Kirwan	1%
Berlin	5%
Lake Milton	0%
Mosquito	0%
Shenango	0%



Precipitation (in)
11/9/2013 – 12/8/2013



Precipitation (in)
12/2/2013 – 12/8/2013



RIVER ICE REPORTS/PICTURES:

As discussed at the Joint River Ice meeting last year, “a picture is worth a thousand words”. We would like to be proactive before the start of river ice season, and would appreciate river ice photos from you and your crews. With the proliferation of smart phones/social media send them to the National Weather Service one of the following ways:

1. E-mail river ice photos to: **nws.er.pbz.icereports@noaa.gov**
2. Post them to the National Weather Service Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Pittsburgh.gov
3. Twitter: **@NWSPittsburgh**