

# RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for Waterways Association Meeting 2/11/2015  
National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA  
For the latest river and weather forecasts--<http://www.weather.gov/pittsburgh>

## WEATHER RECAP

For the month of January 2015, temperatures were below normal and precipitation was below normal. Snowfall was above normal.

## RIVER ICE

During January 2015 several arctic air outbreaks caused rapid formation of ice on area rivers. The ice coverage remained and thickened on the Allegheny River all month, but on the Ohio and Monongahela rivers, the ice waxed and waned throughout the month as bouts of arctic air alternated with slightly warmer air from the south.

## OUTLOOK

### WINTER IS JUST BEGINNING

**Outlook for week of Feb 9:** Normal temperatures through today (Wednesday). Then Arctic air moves in Thursday. Valentine's and President's day weekend much below normal with coldest of season so far.

**Outlook for week of Feb 16:** Arctic air with below normal temperatures. Increase chances for more significant snows as Gulf of Mexico moisture may be tapped. A snowy period possible Feb 18, Feb 22 Feb 24.

**Outlook for Week of Feb 23:** Continued below normal temperature.

**March outlook:** Winter lingers and will be slow to leave.

Current Snow pack increasing over Upper Allegheny with Snow Water Equivalent values of 3 to 4 inches, but warm spell decreased coverage in the Upper Mon. Snow depth 12 to 16 in Upper Allegheny. 8 to 9 in highest elevations of Upper Mon.

Summary: Current ice situation will change little until end of week, then rapid worsening this weekend and likely prolonged into the end February.

River ice formation has a strong correlation of ice formation on the Great Lakes. Once again this year Lake Erie is nearly 100 percent ice covered and this allows polar air to come into our region unmodified. . Ice is very unpredictable and uncertainty remains high on how this year's ice season will end.










<i>Location</i>	<i>Jan 2015 Precipitation</i>	<i>Departure (Inches)</i>	<i>Jan Snowfall</i>	<i>Seasonal Snowfall</i>
<i>Pittsburgh</i>	2.25	-0.45	18.5 (+6.7)	21.8(-0.7)

<i>Location</i>	<i>Jan Average Temperature</i>	<i>Departure Degrees</i>	<i>Extreme High</i>	<i>Extreme Low</i>
<i>Pittsburgh</i>	25.3	-3.1	61(Jan 4)	-1(Jan 8)

## HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

River flows and velocities were below normal for much of the month. The Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers had between 60% and 70% of normal flows for January. A minimum of 1.50 inches basin wide rainfall in 6 to 12 hours is needed to bring rivers to bank full. High water potential is below normal over the next 30 days. Near normal precipitation and below normal temperatures are expected into early March.

## WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
								
Mostly Cloudy High: 40 °F	Chance Snow Low: 23 °F	Snow Likely High: 26 °F ↓	Chance Snow Low: 3 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 17 °F	Chance Snow Low: 14 °F	Chance Snow High: 23 °F	Chance Snow Low: 1 °F	Chance Snow High: 9 °F

**8-14 Day Outlook...** Much below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

**30 Day Outlook...** Below normal temperatures and normal precipitation.

**Mar-Apr-May Outlook...** Normal temperatures and normal precipitation

**May-Jun-Jul Outlook...** Above normal temperatures and normal precipitation

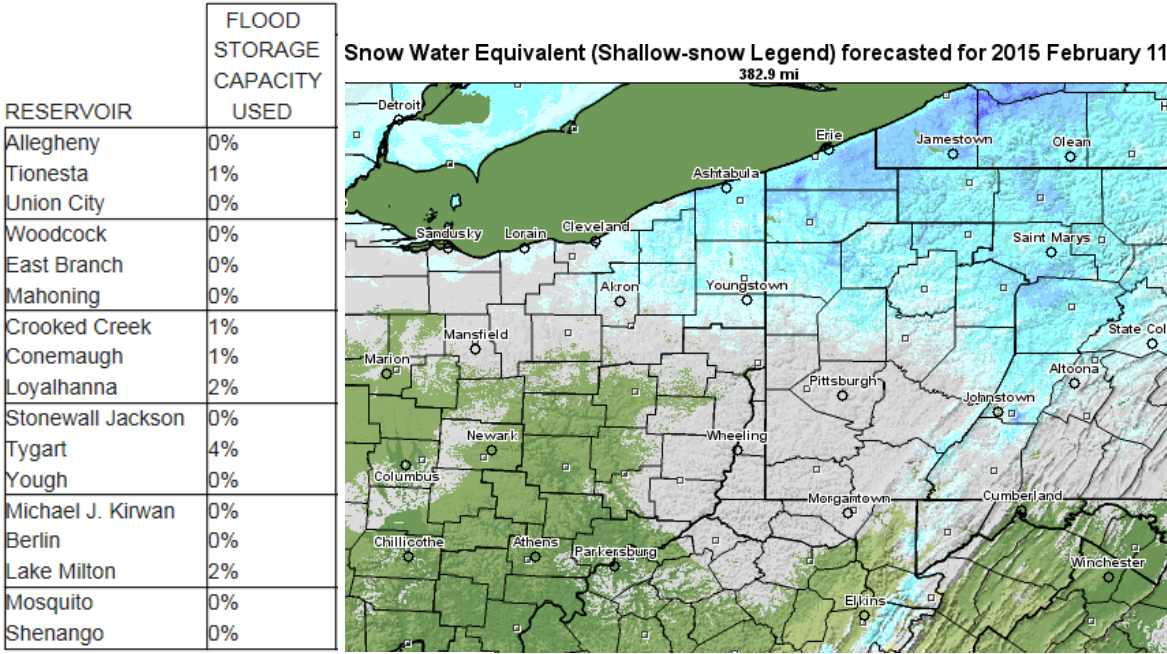
**Jul-Aug-Sep Outlook...** Above normal temperatures and normal precipitation

**Average Yearly rainfall Pittsburgh:** 38.19 inches **So far in 2015:** 3.04 (-0.35)

Totals for: 2014: 36.84 2013: 36.65 inches; 2012: 41.74 inches; 2011: 44.24 inches; 2010: 37.85 inches

**Average Yearly snowfall Pittsburgh: 41.9 inches** So far this 2014-15 season: 25.6 inches (-1.69)

2013-14: 63.4 inches; 2012-13: 57 inches; 2011-12: 37 inches; 2010-11: 57 inches; 2009-10: 77 inches

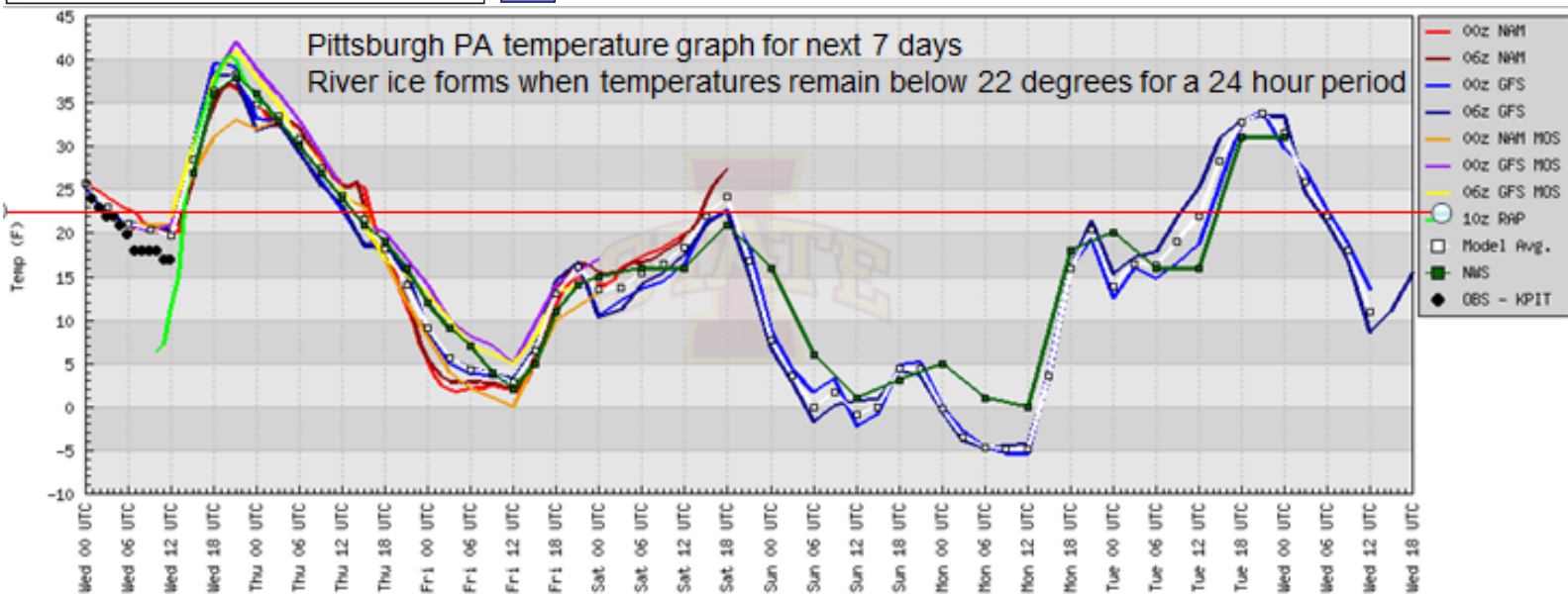


**SNOW ON THE GROUND**

BASIN	SNOW DEPTH INCHES	WATER CONTENT INCHES
Upper Allegheny River	15.4	2.9
Lower Allegheny River	4.2	1.1
Upper Mon. River	1.2	0.4
Lower Mon. River	1.7	0.5
Beaver River	7.6	1.8
Ohio River	0.3	0.1

**Inches of water equivalent**

> 18	4 to 5
16 to 18	3 to 4
14 to 16	2 to 3
12 to 14	1 to 2
10 to 12	trace to 1
8 to 10	
6 to 8	
5 to 6	
	Not Estimated



For real time River water temperatures:  
[www.erh.noaa.gov/pbz/hydro/PBZrivertemperature.html](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/pbz/hydro/PBZrivertemperature.html)