

RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for Waterways Association Meeting 4/9/2014
 National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA
 For the latest river and weather forecasts--<http://www.weather.gov/pittsburgh>

WEATHER RECAP

March 2014 was the coldest since March 1984 and the 15th coldest of all time.
 The 2013-2014 winter was the 10th snowiest season on record.
 February 2014 was the 20th coldest February on record...and the 21st snowiest February on record.

During March, 2014 both temperatures and liquid equivalent precipitation were below normal and snowfall was below normal. Even though the snowfall was, it pushed the season total to 63.3 inches...10th place all time. The snowiest season was 82 inches in 1950-51. The snowiest recent season was 77.4 inches in 2009-10. A normal season is 41.9 inches. Normal snow for April is 1.5 inches. If we receive this amount, it would push this season into 9th place over the 63.6 inches of 1935-36. 8th place would still be distant at 70.7 inches from 1969-70.

March 2014 (average 34.5 degrees) was also much colder than normal in Pittsburgh. The March 2014 will be the coldest March since 1984 (average 32.2) and rank about 15th coldest all time. The coldest March averaged just 26 degrees in 1960.

RIVER ICE/ SNOWPACK

On March 12 and 13 several ice jams shifted and causing minor flooding on the Clarion River near Cooksburg and near Parker PA on the Allegheny River. By the end of the month, all area rivers were ice free and flows were near or slightly below normal. In addition, all the snowpack has melted over the entire hydrologic service area.

Location	Mar 2014 Precipitation	Departure (Inches)	Mar Snowfall	Seasonal Snowfall
Pittsburgh	1.87	-1.08	4.9 (-2.5)	63.3(+23.4)

Location	Mar Average Temperature	Departure degrees	Extreme High	Extreme Low
Pittsburgh	34.5	-5.1	67(Mar 11)	5(Mar 4)

HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

Flows on the Allegheny are 140% of normal, the Monongahela 100%, and the Ohio 140% of normal. A minimum of about 1.50 inches basin wide rainfall in 6 to 12 hours is needed to bring rivers to bank full. High water potential is near normal over the next 30 days. Normal precipitation and below normal temperatures are expected into early May.

OUTLOOK

The storm track is becoming more active but at the same time colder than normal air remains situated north of the Great Lakes. This means we will continue the overall trend of below normal temperatures but with frequent warm-ups. Some of the rainstorms moving though will be able to tap Gulf of Mexico moisture. The outlook calls for a rainstorm around the April 15 and another around April 20.

WEATHER FORECAST

WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 53 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 34 °F	Breezy High: 68 °F	80% Showers Low: 48 °F	60% Showers Likely High: 58 °F	60% Showers Likely Low: 40 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 67 °F

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

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

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

Jun-Jul-Aug Outlook... Normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Aug-Sep-Oct Outlook... Above normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Average Yearly rainfall Pittsburgh: 38.19 inches **So far in 2014:**7.75 (-1.01)

Totals for: 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 in 2013-2014:** 63.3 inches

2012-13: 57 inches

2011-12: 37 inches

2010-11: 57 inches

2009-10: 77 inches

RESERVOIR	FLOOD STORAGE CAPACITY USED	POOL ELEVATIONS (NAVD88)				ACTUAL FOR TODAY	
		MINIMUM POOL	WINTER MAX POOL	SUMMER MAX POOL	FULL POOL	7AM POOL ELEV	7AM OUTFLOW CFS
Allegheny	13%	1239.5	1306.5	1327.5	1364.5	1328.64	7500
Tionesta	8%	1084.6			1169.6	1100.55	2530
Union City	23%	1209.7			1277.7	1253.82	1110
Woodcock	18%	1161.9	1164.9	1180.4	1208.4	1183.41	375
East Branch	0%	1554.8	1622.8	1649.8	1684.8	1640.72	30
Mahoning	8%	1074.2		1097.1	1161.1	1099.70	1550
Crooked Creek	4%	837.4			917.4	847.00	1230
Conemaugh	10%	899.2			974.2	918.63	8600
Loyalhanna	8%	909.5			974.5	930.07	1950
Stonewall Jackson	6%	1037.3	1067.5	1072.5	1081.3	1072.63	210
Tygart	18%	1009.5	1039.5	1093.5	1166.5	1087.00	2560
Yough	2%	1343.4	1418.4	1438.4	1469.4	1439.11	800
Michael J. Kirwan	12%	950.6	980.6	985.1	992.6	986.00	150
Berlin	45%	979.3	1015.9	1024.0	1031.3	1025.34	550
Lake Milton	0%	929.4	939.4	947.4	950.4	944.17	50
Mosquito	20%	880.3	899.2	900.7	903.3	901.28	190
Shenango	11%	883.7	886.7	894.7	917.7	896.92	1600

FLOOD STORAGE USED

District-wide	12.0%
Allegheny Basin	10.9%
Monongahela Basin	12.7%
Beaver Basin	17.5%

El Niño Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño conditions within the next six months

- El Niño could also lead to fewer storms during the Atlantic hurricane season
- El Niños bring rains to California
- Strong El Niños tend to bring mild and wetter winters with little snowfall in the East.
- Weak to moderate El Niños tend to be more favorable for snow in the East.