

NOAA, National Weather Service
Middle Atlantic
River Forecast Center
Briefing

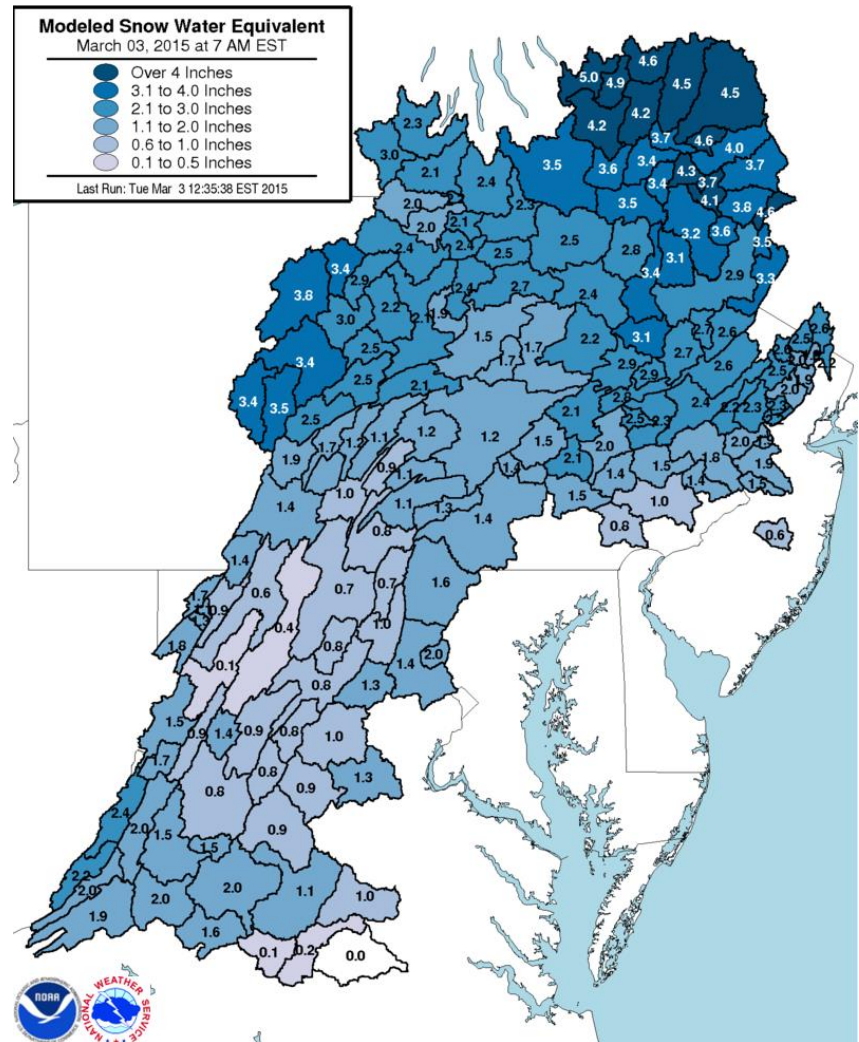
2:15 pm March 3, 2015

Key Messages

- Threat of significant river flooding for the period from Tuesday night through Friday has diminished in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Nuisance flooding in poor drainage areas may still occur.
- Best chance for minor to moderate flooding is across Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland.
- Periods of moderate to heavy rain possible between Tuesday evening March 3 and Wednesday evening March 4.
- In northern areas the precipitation will start as snow or freezing rain before changing to rain.
- Temperatures south of the Mason-Dixon line are expected to rise well above freezing Wednesday resulting in snowmelt.
- Many rivers are ice covered. As river flow increases existing ice may break-up and begin moving downstream, raising the potential for ice jams.
- Forecast confidence: **Moderate**. There is still uncertainty in the amount of rainfall that will occur and where heavy rain may fall. Further, a changeover to snow Wednesday evening in many areas will decrease runoff. Exact timing of this changeover is not yet certain. However, models have been fairly consistent over the last couple of days leading to a gradual increase in confidence. Still too early to know exactly where any flooding may occur.
- MARFC will be monitoring the situation and providing updated forecasts and briefings as more information becomes available.
- **Preparedness actions recommended**: Review flood contingency plans. Clean debris, snow and ice from around storm drains. Monitor NWS river and weather forecasts in the coming days.

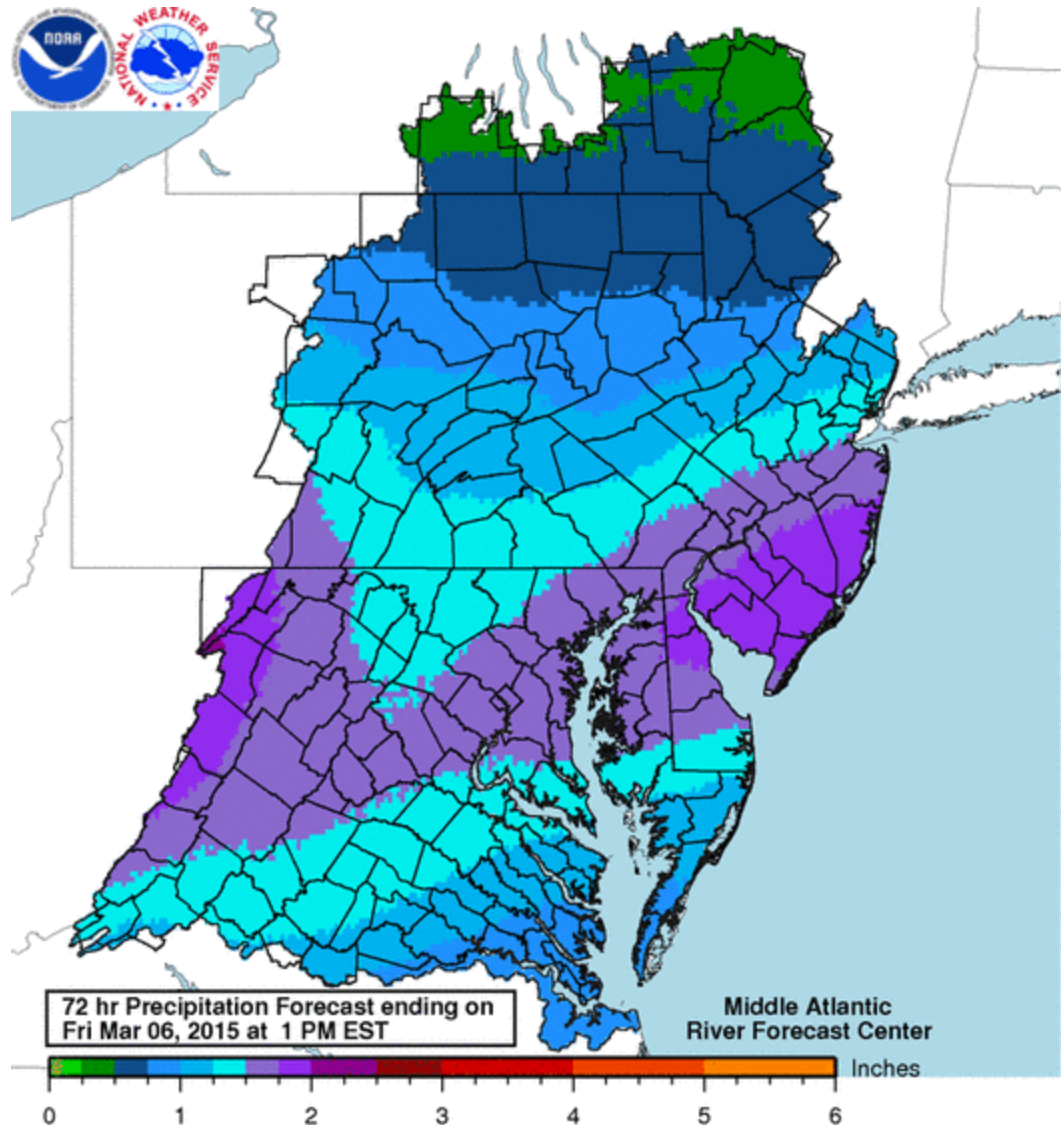
Snow Water Equivalent

- Snow water equivalent of 2-5 inches across upstate NY.
- Snow water equivalent of 2 to 3 ½ inches northern Pennsylvania and the mountains of Pennsylvania.
- Snow water equivalent of 1-2 inches across New Jersey, Southeast Pennsylvania, Maryland, and much of Virginia.
- Warm temperatures will begin to melt some snow on Wednesday, especially across West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland.
- Melting will be less over Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York due to cooler temperatures.



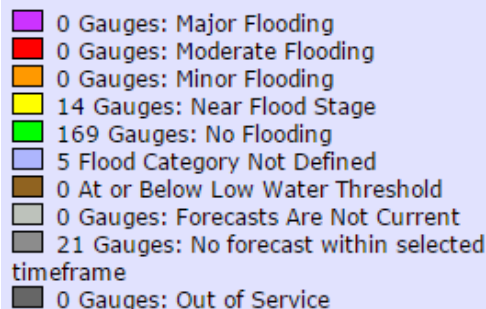
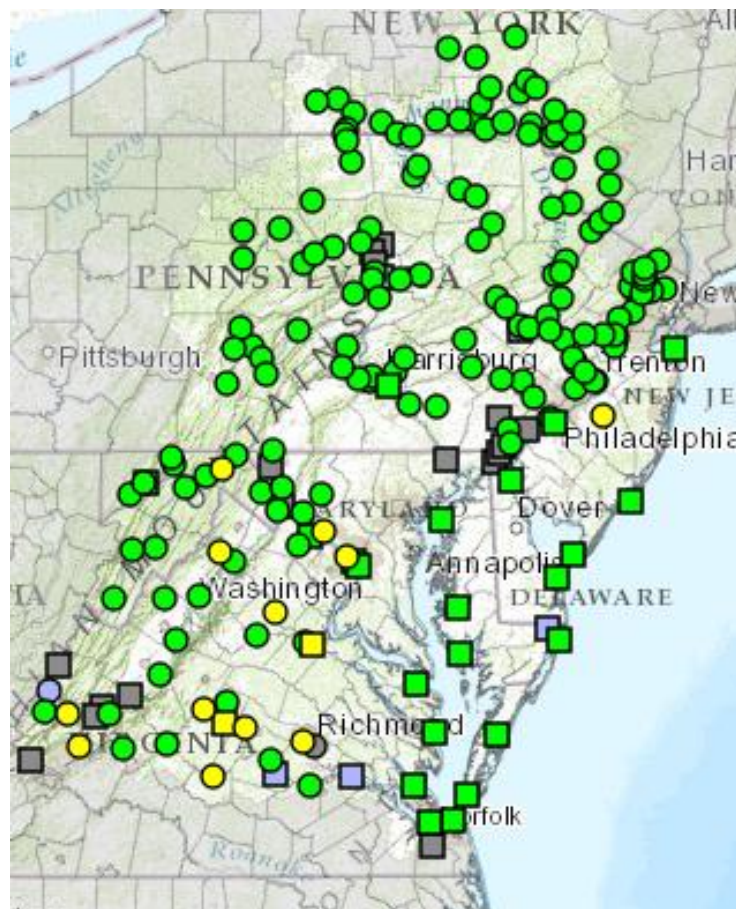
Precipitation Forecast

- Here is the total precipitation forecast for the next 3 days.
- Best chance of some heavier rain is Wednesday and Wednesday evening in West Virginia and central Virginia.
- Return to colder temperatures will cause change-over back to snow on Wednesday evening in most areas.



River Forecasts

- We are currently not forecasting river flooding in our area, although 14 gauges are forecast to exceed caution stage.
- These forecasts account for forecast precipitation and snow melt.
- Possible Rivers Impacted: James, Appomattox, Potomac, Shenandoah, Rappahannock.
- Many of these rivers are ice covered. Rises of two feet or more could lead to movement of ice and the possibility of ice jam flooding.
- **Stay tuned: For the latest river forecasts go to our web page at: www.weather.gov/marfc**



As of 2:00 EST
3/3/2015

Need more info?

- Contact your local NWS Weather Forecast Office
 - Binghamton, NY <http://weather.gov/bgm>
 - Blacksburg, VA <http://weather.gov/rnk>
 - Mt Holly, NJ <http://weather.gov/phi>
 - State College, PA <http://weather.gov/ctp>
 - New York City, NY <http://weather.gov/okx>
 - Sterling, VA <http://weather.gov/lwx>
 - Wakefield, VA <http://weather.gov/akq>
- Email: peter.ahnert@noaa.gov

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Next MARFC Briefing

- Wednesday March 4: 2 pm