

NOAA, National Weather Service Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center Briefing

Noon February 3, 2016

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Flood Potential Feb 3 to Feb 5

- **Minor to Moderate Flooding Today and Thursday.**
- **Risk:** Minor to Moderate Flooding likely in portions of the Potomac, Juniata, Lower Susquehanna tributaries, Schuylkill, Passaic, and Raritan river basins.
- **Timing:** Best chance for flooding is Today/Thursday on smaller rivers and Thursday/Friday on larger rivers.
- **Confidence:** High confidence in forecast. Minor to Moderate flooding is expected at 20 or more locations in the risk area. The severity of flooding at any given location will depend on the speed at which snow melts and how much rain falls.
- **Note:** This briefing is for river flooding. Considerable poor drainage and urban flooding from snowmelt, rainfall, and clogged drains is also likely during the period. Localized heavy rainfall could also result in isolated flash flooding south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Potential Impacts

- Rivers reaching **moderate flood stage**: Some flooding of structures and roads. Some evacuations may be necessary.
- River reaching **minor flood stage**: Minimal or not property damage, but possibly some public threat.
- Impacts from **small stream and urban flooding**:
 - Considerable ponding of water in poor drainage areas
 - Dangerous fast moving water, in creeks, small streams, and culverts
 - Considerable basement flooding in poor drainage areas
 - Possible flooding of some underpasses and roads near streams and creeks

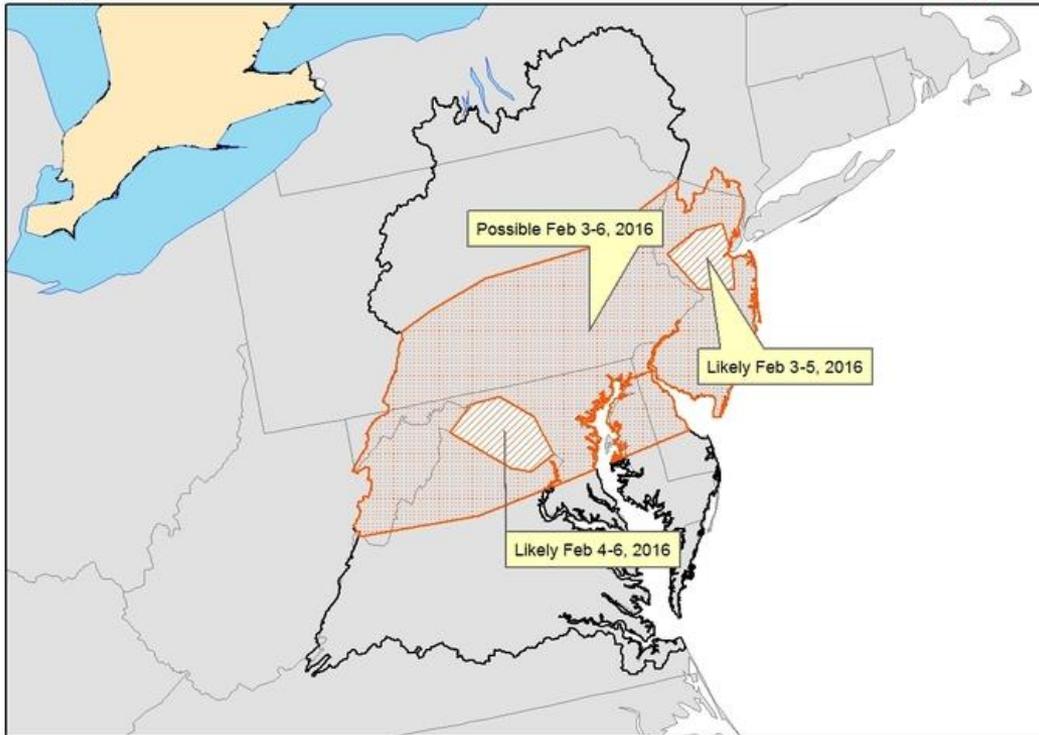
Flood Outlook Product



Significant River Flood Outlook

Valid: 2/3/2016 - 2/8/2016

Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center 2/3/2016 11:50:02 AM



 SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING POSSIBLE.

 SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING LIKELY.

 SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING OCCURRING OR IS IMMINENT.

Significant River Flooding Impacts include:
Roads adversely affected. Residential, commercial, industrial, and/or agricultural areas affected. May require evacuation of people.

NOTE: Flash Flooding or Minor River Flooding will NOT be included in this outlook.

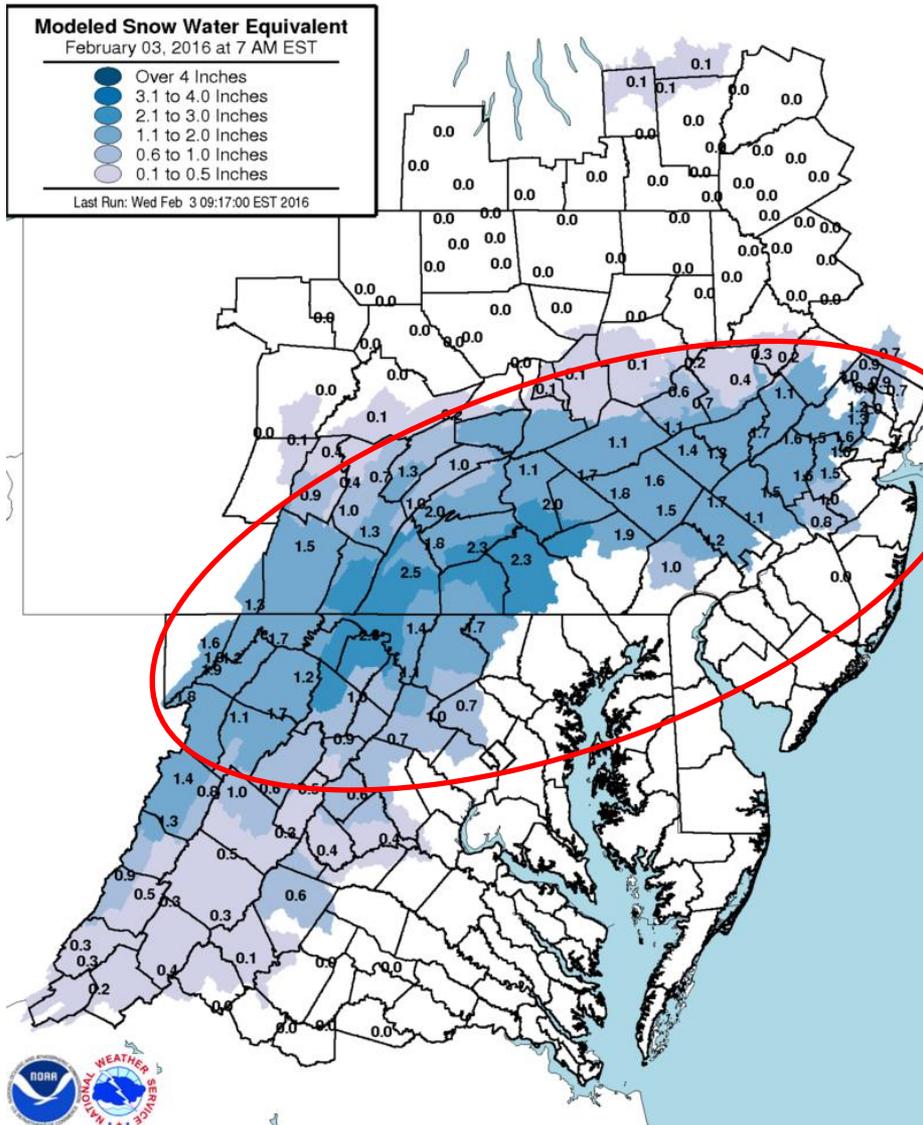
Severity: Moderate Flooding is likely in portions of the Passaic and Raritan basins in New Jersey as well as in portions of the middle and lower Potomac river basin in Maryland and Virginia. Moderate Flooding is possible at multiple locations in the threat area. Minor Flooding is likely at numerous locations in the threat area.

Where?: Threat area includes portions of the Potomac, Juniata, Lower Susquehanna tributaries, Schuylkill, Passaic, and Raritan river basins

When?:

Smaller Rivers: Today/Thursday
Larger Rivers: Thursday/Friday

Water in Snowpack

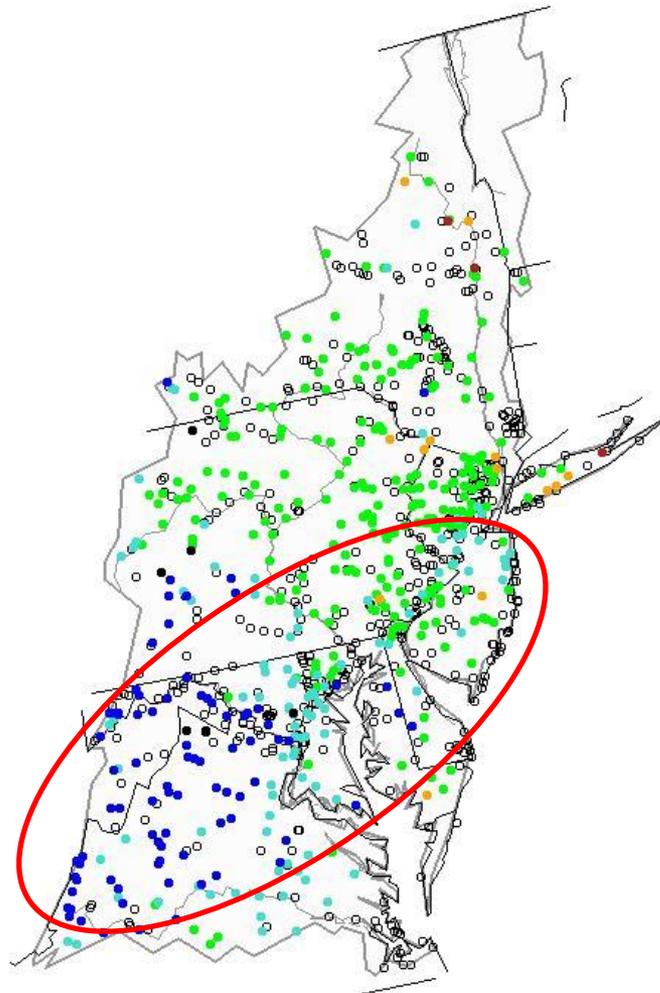


In the threat area 1.0 to 2.5 inches of water remains stored in the snowpack. Most of this snow will melt today due to warm temperatures in the 50s and 60s and winds of 10-20mph. This snow melt will be a major contributor to river rises today through Friday.



Current Streamflow Conditions

Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:30ET

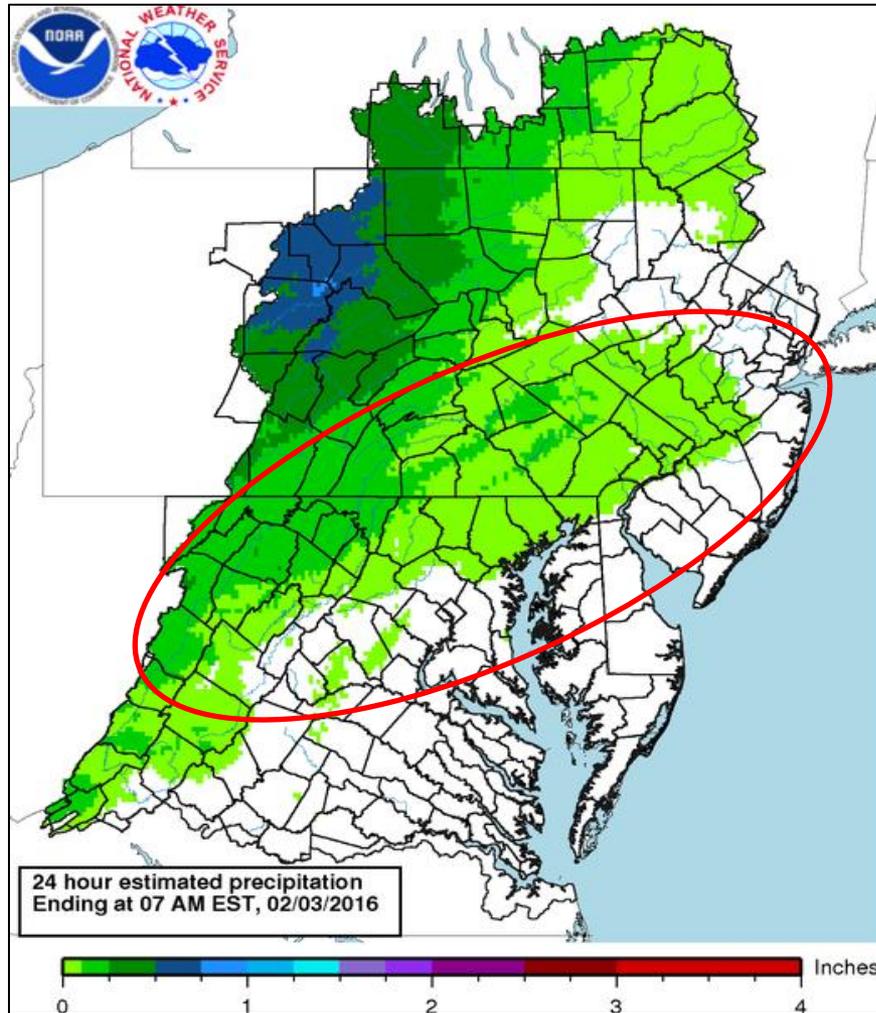


Streamflows are already running high across portions of West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and southeast Pennsylvania (light and dark blue dots)



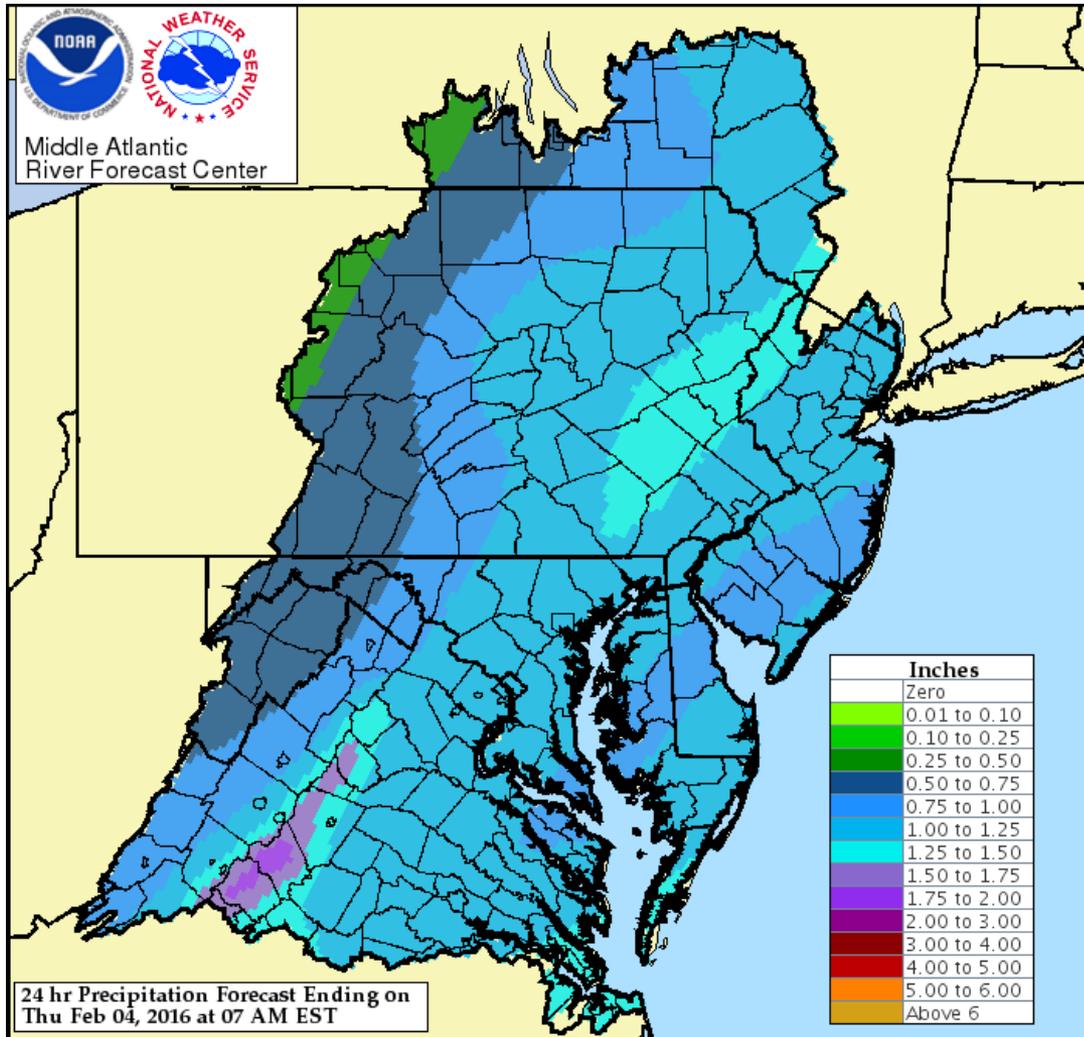
Explanation - Percentile classes								
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90		High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal			

Observed Rainfall



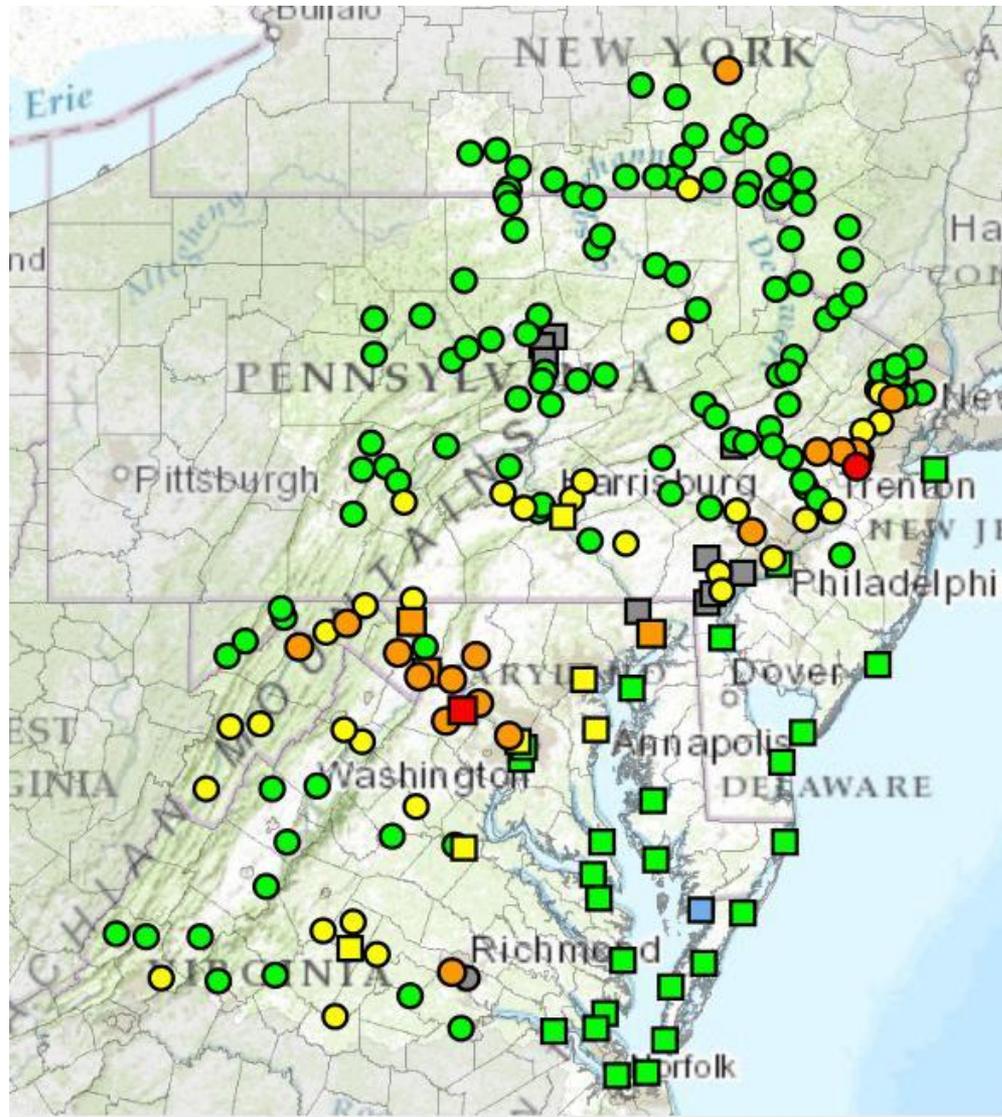
24 Hour Observed Rainfall ending at 7AM this morning. As expected, no significant rainfall fell within the flood threat area last night.

Rainfall Forecast



24 Hour Rainfall Forecast thru Thursday morning. Most of this rain will fall between 7AM to 7PM today (Wednesday). Rainfall totals of 0.5 to 1.25 inches are expected in most areas, but higher amounts around 2 inches are possible in some areas.

3 Day River Forecasts



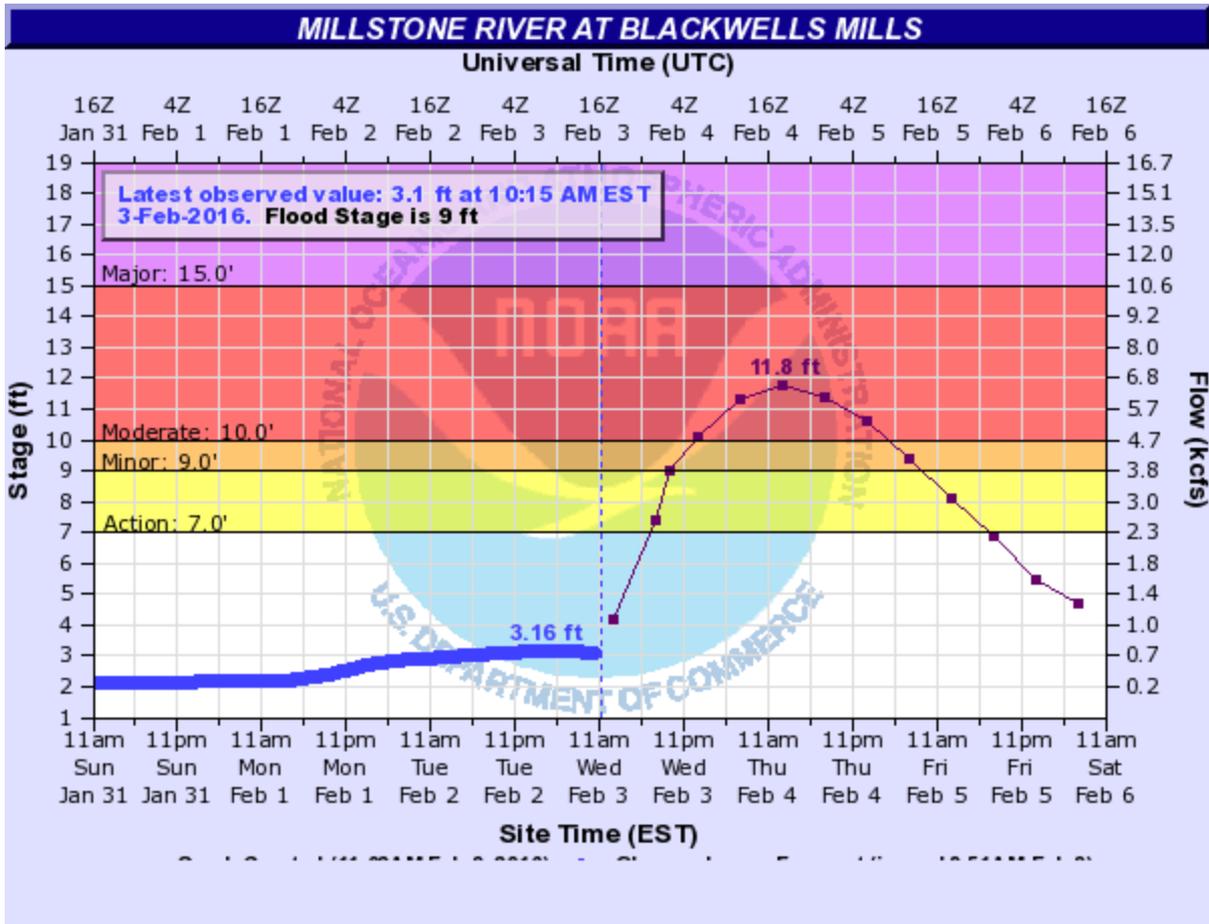
River Forecasts indicate that many (20 or more) locations in the threat area will experience minor or moderate flooding. Moderate flooding is likely at a few locations such as Edwards Ferry, MD (Potomac) and Blackwells Mills, NJ (Millstone). Moderate flooding is possible at additional locations in the threat area, but this will depend on where the heaviest rain falls.

207 total gauges

[Show all locations in flood \(22\)](#)

- 0 Gauges: Major Flooding
- 2 Gauges: Moderate Flooding
- 20 Gauges: Minor Flooding
- 37 Gauges: Near Flood Stage
- 136 Gauges: No Flooding
- 1 Flood Category Not Defined
- 0 At or Below Low Water Threshold
- 0 Gauges: Forecasts Are Not Current
- 11 Gauges: No forecast within selected timeframe

Millstone River at Blackwells Mills, NJ

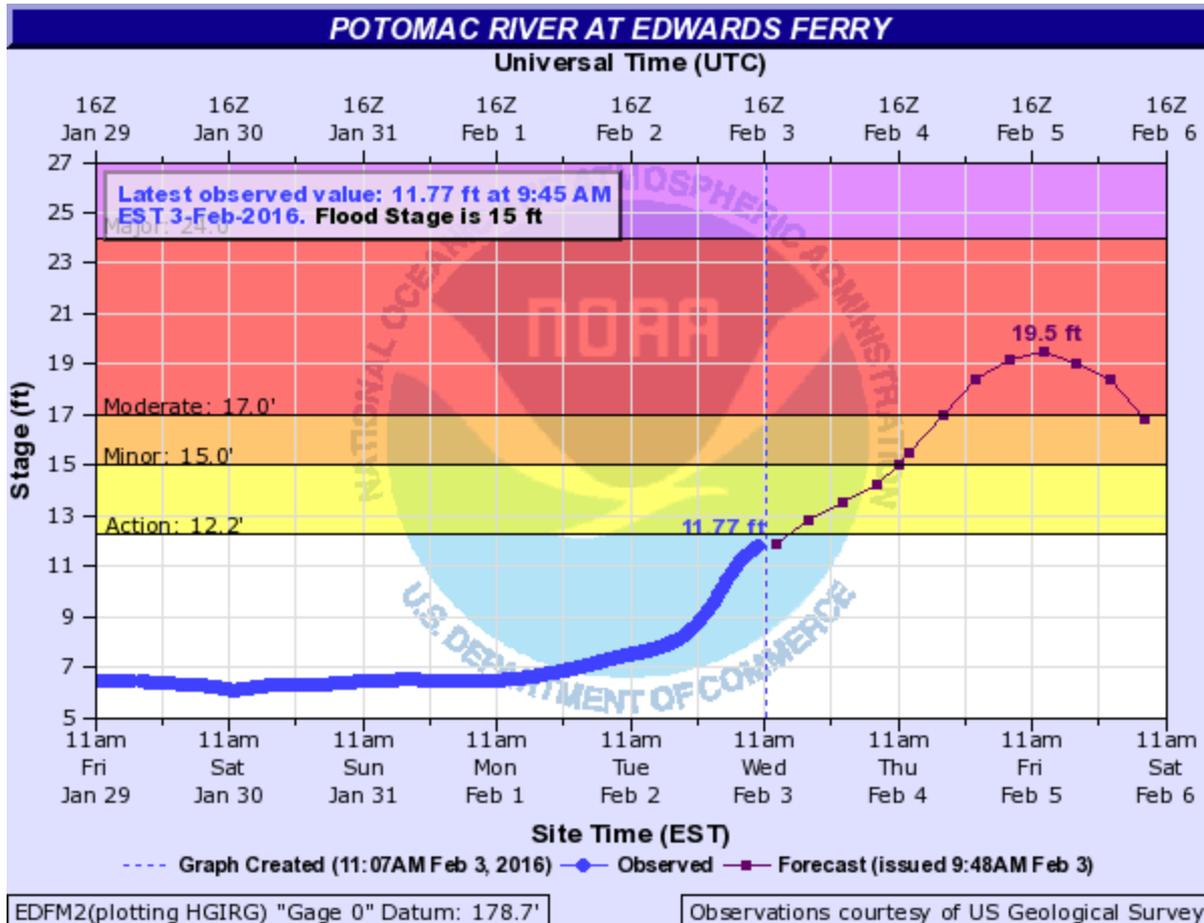


The Millstone River is expected to reach its flood stage of 9 feet sometime this evening (Wednesday evening).

Moderate flooding is expected tonight (Wednesday night), but could begin as early as this evening (Wednesday evening) if heavy rainfall occurs earlier than expected.

The river is expected to crest between 9.8 and 13.8 feet on Thursday. Crest forecasts will be adjusted as needed today.

Potomac River at Edwards Ferry, MD

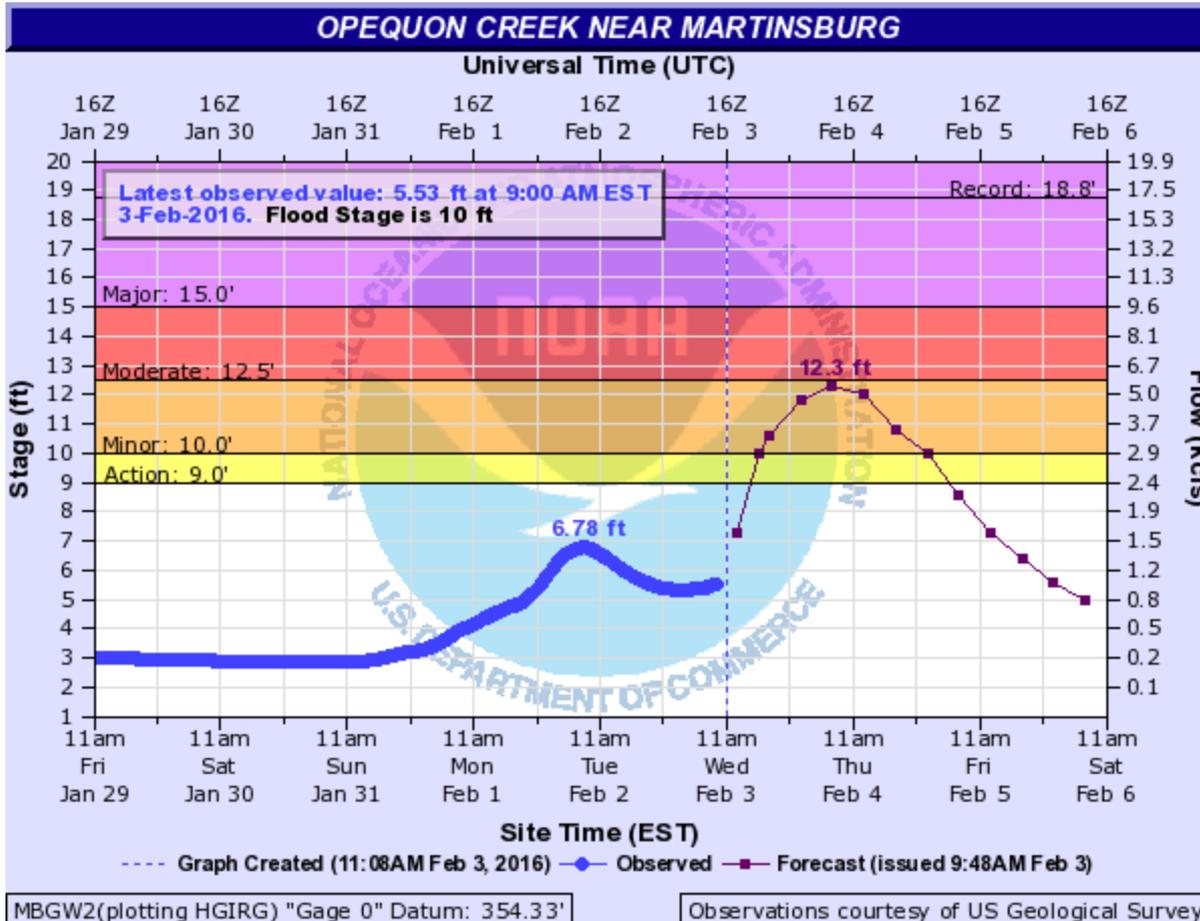


The Potomac River at Edwards Ferry is expected to reach its flood stage of 15 feet on Thursday morning .

Moderate flooding is expected beginning Thursday evening, but could begin as early as Thursday afternoon.

The river is expected to crest between 17.5 and 21.5 feet on Friday. Crest forecasts will be adjusted as needed today.

Opequon Creek near Martinsburg, WV

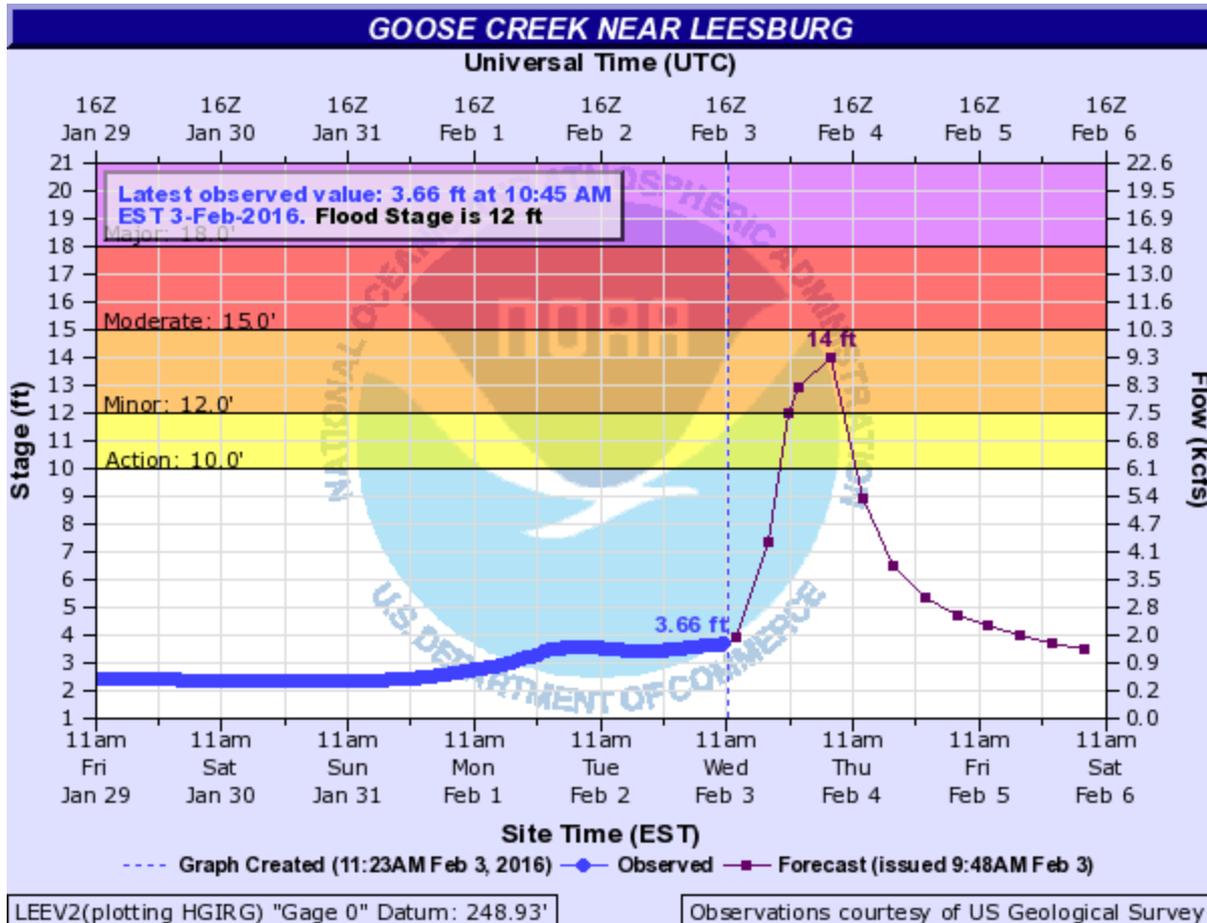


The Opequon Creek near Martinsburg is forecast to rise to near Moderate flood stage tonight.

Minor flooding is likely and Moderate flooding is possible tonight.

The river is expected to crest between 10.2 and 14.3 feet tonight (Wednesday night). Crest forecasts will be adjusted as needed today.

Goose Creat near Leesburg, VA

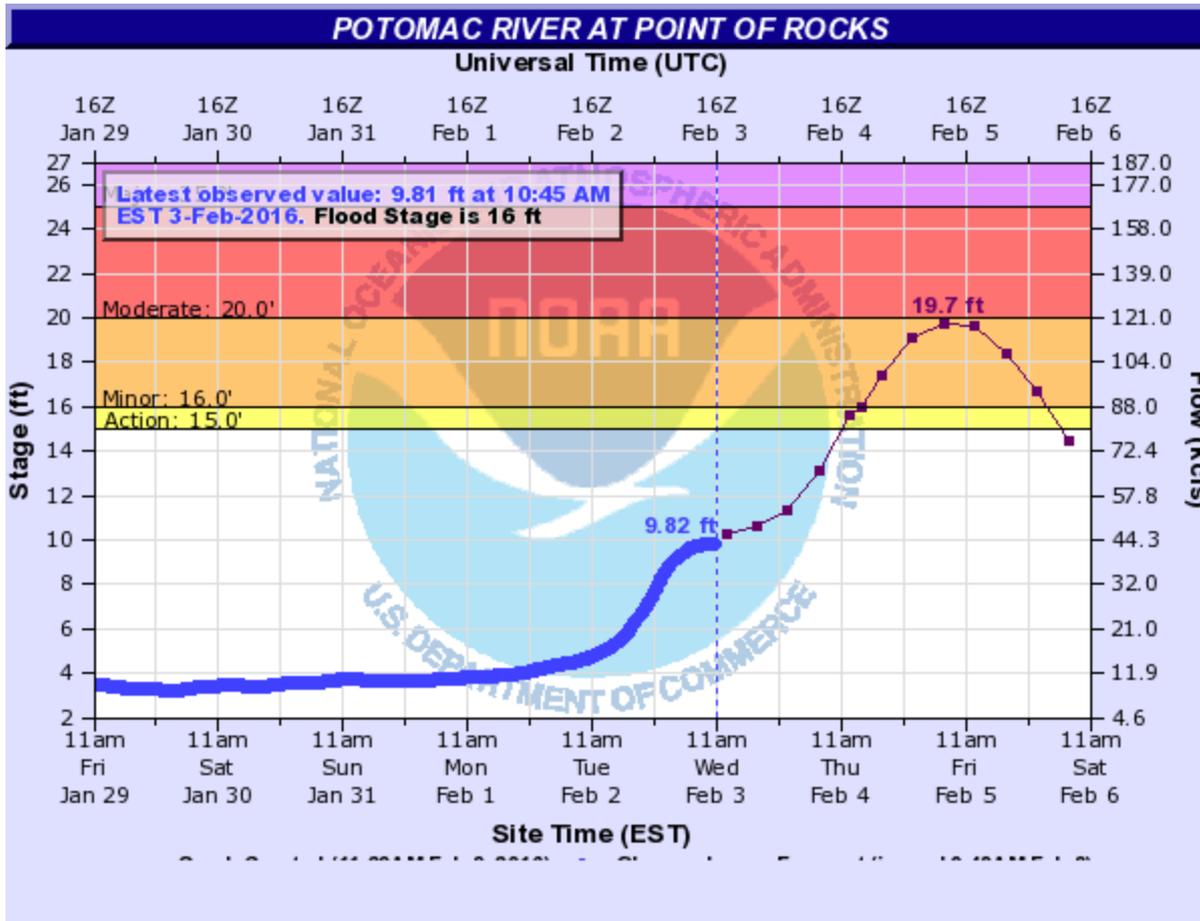


Goose Creek near Leesburg is expected to reach its flood stage of 12 this evening (Wednesday evening) .

Minor flooding is expected and Moderate flooding is Possible tonight.

The river is expected to crest between 12 and 16 feet tonight. Crest forecasts will be adjusted as needed today.

Potomac River at Point of Rocks, MD

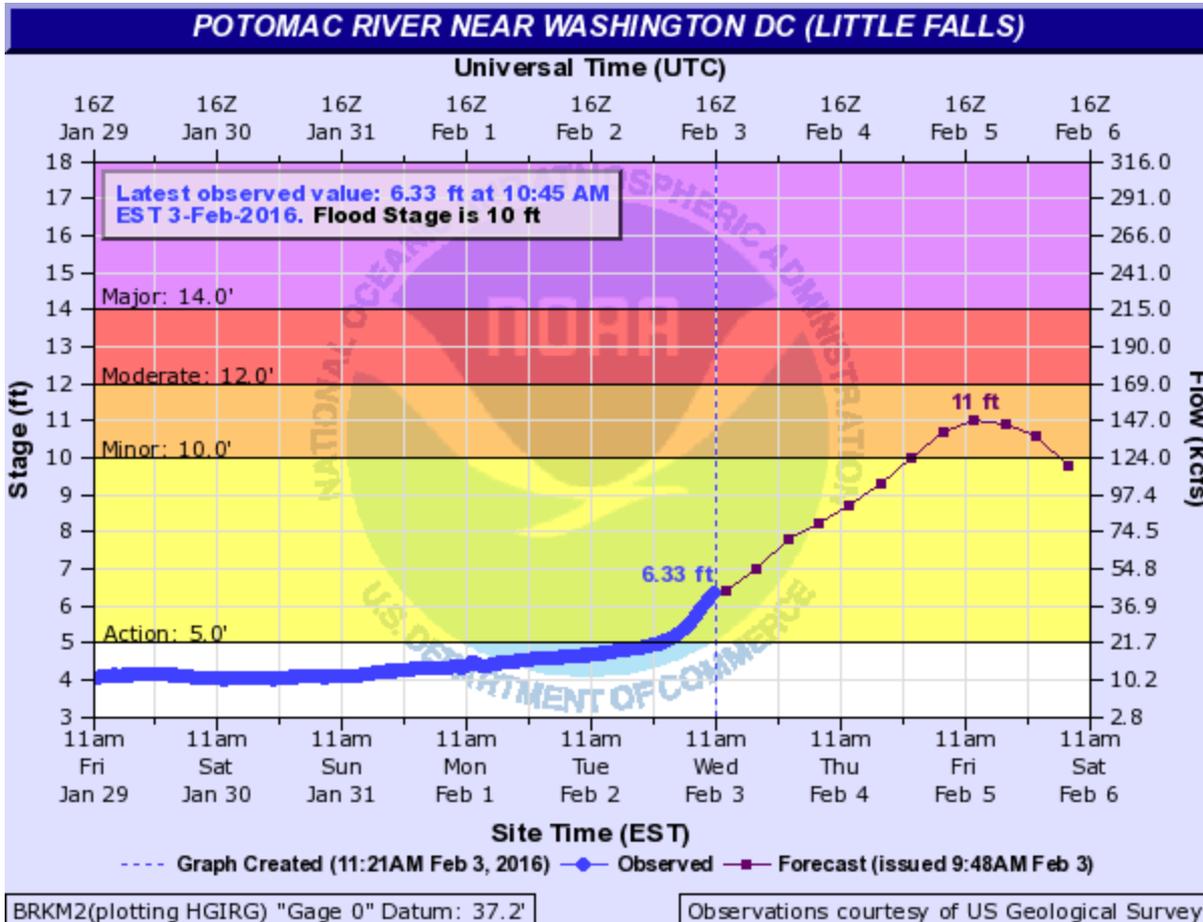


The Potomac River at Point of Rocks is expected to reach its flood stage of 16 feet on Thursday afternoon .

Minor flooding is expected and Moderate flooding is possible Thursday and/or Friday.

The river is expected to crest between 17.7 and 21.7 feet Thursday night or Friday morning. Crest forecasts will be adjusted as needed today.

Potomac River at Little Falls, MD



The Potomac River at Little Falls is expected to reach its flood stage of 10 feet Thursday night .

Minor flooding is expected and Moderate flooding is possible Thursday night and/or Friday.

The river is expected to crest between 9 feet and 13 feet on Friday. Crest forecasts will be adjusted as needed today.

River levels for Georgetown at Wisconsin Ave., Washington Channel at SW Waterfront, and Alexandria VA are expected to stay below flood stage. These forecasts will be updated as needed today.

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

- **The next MARFC briefing will be issued Thursday around Noon.**