

Flood Event of 2/9/1994 - 2/11/1994

North Branch Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Kitzmiller	9.00	2/9/1994	11.06	19,000	Moderate	North Branch Potomac	Potomac River	Garret	Garret

Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Shepherdstown	15.00	2/11/1994	16.30	-9,999	Minor	Potomac	Potomac River	Jefferson	Jefferson

South Branch Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Springfield	15.00	2/10/1994	19.19	38,500	Moderate	South Branch Potomac	South Branch Potomac River	Hampshire	Hampshire

Weather Summary

Flooding in the Potomac resulted from a chain of events that began on February 7th. A low developed in Texas as a high pressure system descended from Canada with a frontal boundary from another low located over the Rocky Mountains. By February 8, the low in Texas merged with the frontal system over the Midwestern states and tracked to the east-northeast over the Appalachian Mountains. On February 9th, the high pressure system surged cold air south into Texas and further pushed the merged low across the Appalachian Mountains. At the same time, a second low developed along the frontal boundary over Texas. As the strong arctic high moved east and pushed the first low originating from Texas out to sea, the second low followed the high pressure across the Gulf and as the weekend came around had reached into the Appalachian mountains and dropped its share of precipitation amplified in some areas (such as Maryland) with regards to the high pressure implementing a cold air damming scenario along the East Coast. Accumulated liquid precipitation amounts reached between 2- 3 inches in many places with some even rising above 3 inches. Complications for flooding arose in the Potomac not solely from the precipitation but also due to snow depths in many areas ranging between 1 and 6 inches.

Crest Statistics and Flood Information

First flood of 3 that occurred in Feb, 1994

Second flood of 14 that occurred in 1994

Number of Floods at MARFC Forecast Points - 3

Number of Floods Cresting in Minor Range - 1

Number of Floods Cresting in Moderate Range - 2

Number of Floods Cresting in Major Range - 0

Number of Floods Cresting in Missing Range - 0