

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Mahoning Creek has a watershed area of 425 square miles and is a tributary of the Allegheny River.

That part of the Mahoning Creek Watershed under study drains an area of 94 square miles in north-western Pennsylvania. The watershed covers an area of about 10 miles by Mahoning Creek and numerous tributaries. Several small reservoirs in the drainage area furnish the water supply for the municipalities in area, among them Clover Run for the borough of Punxsutawney,

Included in this portion of the Watershed are the southeastern part of Jefferson County and the western part of Clearfield County. The area is covered by United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic maps of the Punxsutawney, McGees Mills, and Mahaffey quadrangles and the 15 minute topographic maps off the Dubois and Penfield quadrangles.

The area is located in the Pittsburgh Plateaus section of the Appalachia Plateaus Province bordering on the Allegheny Mountains Section to the south and east. The south and east boundaries of the Watershed are the divide between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The average annual precipitation is 40" fairly well distributed throughout the year.

The surface is a maturely dissected upland with sloping valleys cut up by small tributaries. The highest land in the area lies along the Jefferson-Clearfield county line in Gaskill Township where the topography rises to 2220 feet above sea level. The lowest point is at Big Run where the Mahoning Creek flows out of the study area at an elevation of 1260 feet. The maximum relief is about 800 feet with local hilltops about 300 to 500 feet above the adjacent valleys.

Much of the area is undeveloped and rather a wilderness with access roads limited to State Game Commission roads or those maintained by natural gas operators and therefore limited as to travel. The main centers of population are Big Run, Sykesville, and Helvatia with a limited number of dwellings and farms located along the main highways and secondary roads. The area is used, especially in the south-eastern portion, to a great extent by fishermen, hunters, and campers.