Alaska Snow Survey Report

USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Cover Photo: NRCS Hydrologic Technician, Dan Kenney, measures the Independence Mine Snow Course on January 20th, 2020, prior to his retirement. Dan worked for the Snow Program in Alaska for 20 years. Independence Mine Snow Course was measured with 65" of snow depth and 20.4" of water content, 141% of normal.

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General Overview

SnowPack

Winter started warm and rainy in much of the state. However, a few regions, like the Tanana Basin, started with a flurry and a robust early season snowpack. Late November storms helped snowpacks in portions of the state erase early season deficits so that by the beginning of December snowpacks in the Tanana, Susitna, Koyukuk, and upper Yukon basins had above normal snowpacks. Southeast and Western Alaska, along with the Kenai Peninsula and the Copper Valley, were left out in the cold with subnormal snowpacks.

These trends have continued through December and January in most of the state. However, snowpack in Southeast Alaska made great gains in January and many measurement sites, while still below normal, are higher than they've been in February in 3 to 6 years. The Copper Valley also made some gains, but remains, on the whole, below normal. The snowpack in the Kenai and the upper Cook Inlet remains paltry, with many sites below half of normal. Other areas which remain below normal are parts of western Alaska, where sites on the Seward Peninsula are lower than they have been in 5 years and Kelly Station SNOTEL in the Noatak is reporting its lightest snowpack since it was reinstalled in 2011.

The Susitna Basin has above normal snowpack, particularly at higher elevations, which is near 150% of normal. This above normal snowpack continues into the Tanana Valley, where some sites report normal snowpack; most locations are, again, 150% of normal. Fielding Lake Snow Course matched its 60 year February record high, set in 1989 with 52" of snow depth and 13.8" of water content. Look Eyrie SNOLITE site which was installed this summer, 8 miles north of Fielding Lake at an elevation of 5050', had reached a maximum snow depth of 143" by December 28th.

Likewise, the Yukon and the Koyukuk report above normal snowpacks. Coldfoot SNOTEL, reported 130% of normal snowpack, which is actually less than the two previous Februarys. The aerial markers along the Yukon below Tanana scored their highest February readings in their 13-year record. American Creek SNOTEL, in Eagle, also reported its highest February snowpack in its nine year record.

The snowpack in the Arctic along the Dalton Highway is similar to last year at this point in time.

General Overview

Precipitation

October was wet, with most of the state receiving between 120% to over twice the normal amount of monthly precipitation, except for Southeast Alaska, where sites received between 74% to near normal precipitation.

October trends continued into November across most of the state. However, Southeast made significant gains during November with sites reporting between 124% and 174% of normal monthly precipitation. Most of the rest of the state reported between two and three times the normal amount of November precipitation.

December was different. While Southeast and Southcentral still gained above normal precipitation, the Interior and western Alaska started to dry up. Southeast gained between normal and 150% of normal precipitation, while the Kenai Peninsula received 150-250% of normal for the month. In drier western Alaska, sites in the Kuskokwim received near 70% of normal, while sites in northwest Alaska gathered less than half of normal precipitation. Sites in the Interior were more sporadic, with most sites collecting around 75% of normal monthly precipitation, but with some still gathering above normal amounts.

January brought drier times to Alaska, with only Southeast and sporadic locations in the middle Tanana and upper Cook Inlet gaining near normal amounts of precipitation. Several sites across the state recorded no precipitation during the month, while most sites recorded between 25-50% of normal precipitation. The Arctic also had below normal precipitation for the month, but not so severe, with most sites near 75% of normal.

Generally, most of the state has experienced above normal precipitation for the whole of the winter, though most of it falling in the warmer months. Southeast is closer to normal for the winter as is portions of Cook Inlet.

Temperature

Winter started warm, like last year, and the year before. October averaged near 5°F above normal in many locations, such as Anchorage, Bethel, Nome, Fairbanks and Fort Yukon. Statewide, however, temperatures ranged from 15°F above normal at Utqiaġvik to 1°F below normal at Juneau. November saw more divergence in temperatures across the state. Locations such as Bethel, Nome, Bettles and Fort Yukon maintained a 5-6° departure from normal, but many locations jumped the rails. Fairbanks was 10°F above normal in November; Utqiaġvik 18°F above normal; Talkeetna and Anchorage, 14°F above normal; Cordova, 9°F above normal.

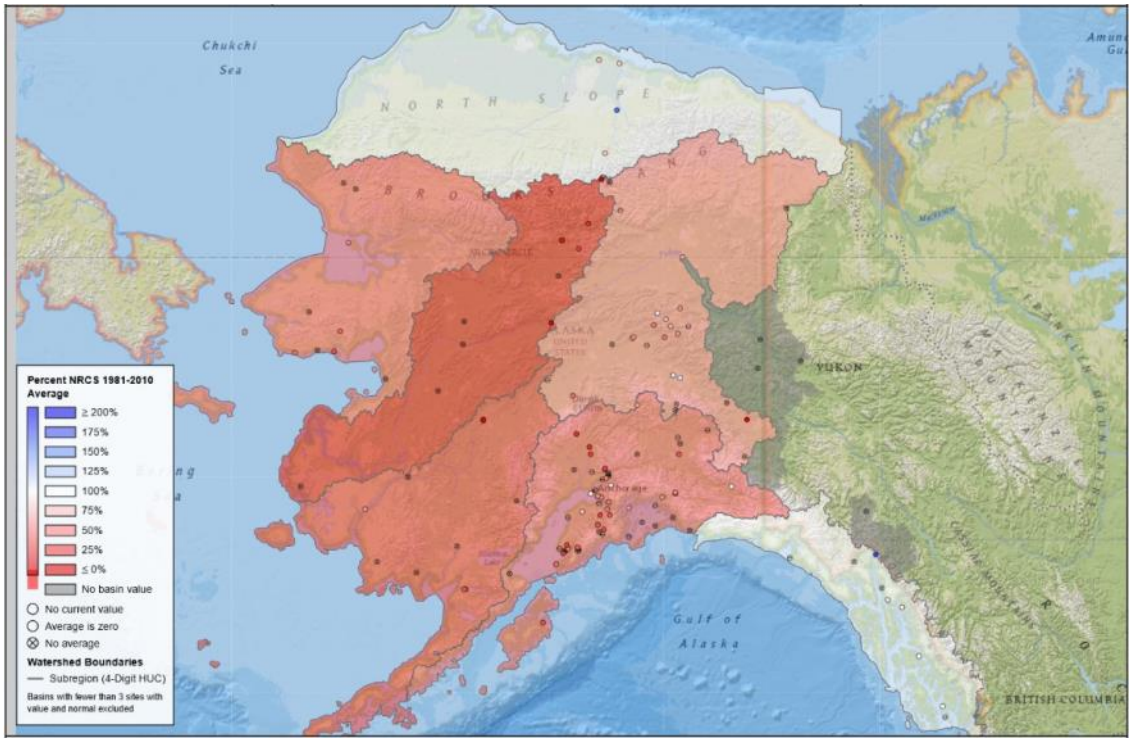
December continued the warm trend until towards the end of the month a cold spell settled and brought temperatures down. Interior and western sites ended with near normal monthly temperatures, while Southcentral sites logged in monthly temperatures which were 7-9°F above normal.

However, the cold spell that started in December persisted into-and through- January. Most locations reported their first real below normal monthly temperatures since March 2017. Fairbanks and Talkeetna were 9°F colder than normal in January; Gulkana and Homer were 10°F below normal; Bethel was 11° colder than normal. Anchorage, Bettles and Nome were all near 7°F below normal for the month. Utqiaġvik was even brought down to near normal with a 1°F above normal for the month, the same as Juneau.

Alaska Statewide Precipitation Maps

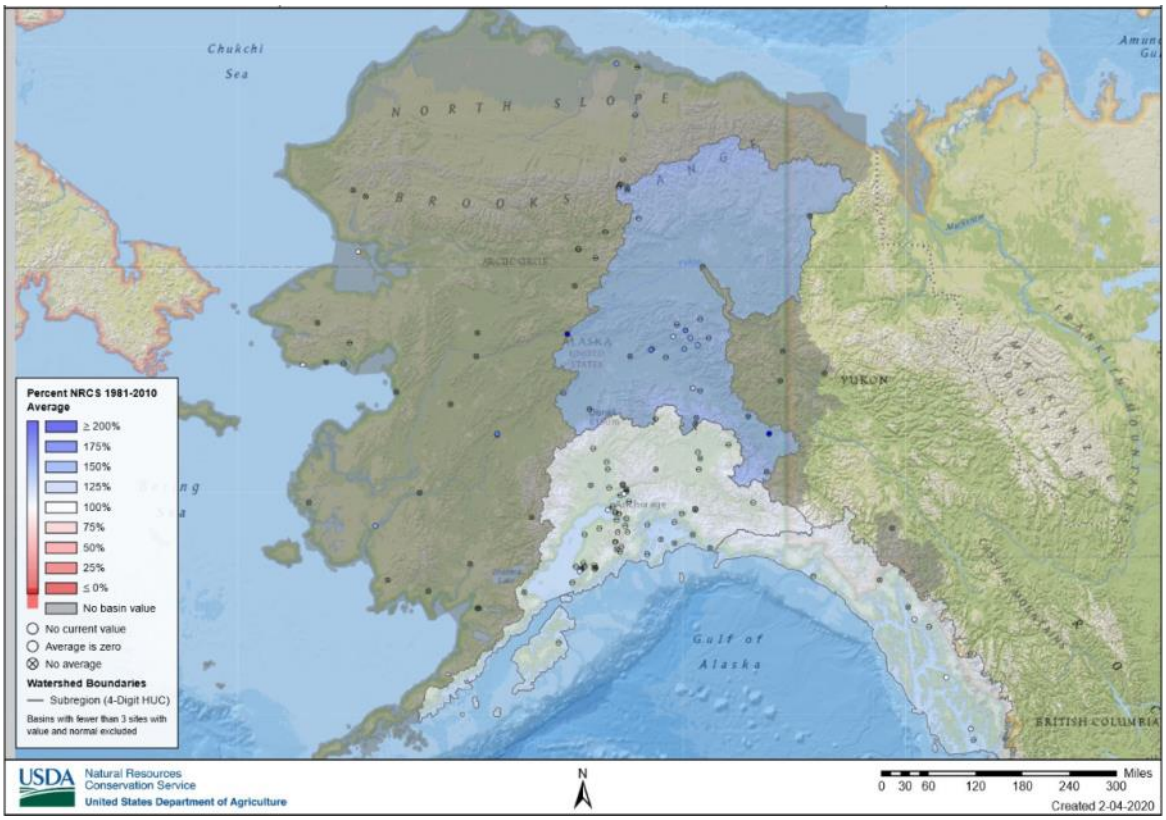
Monthly Precipitation for January, 2020

(% of NRCS 81-2010 Average)



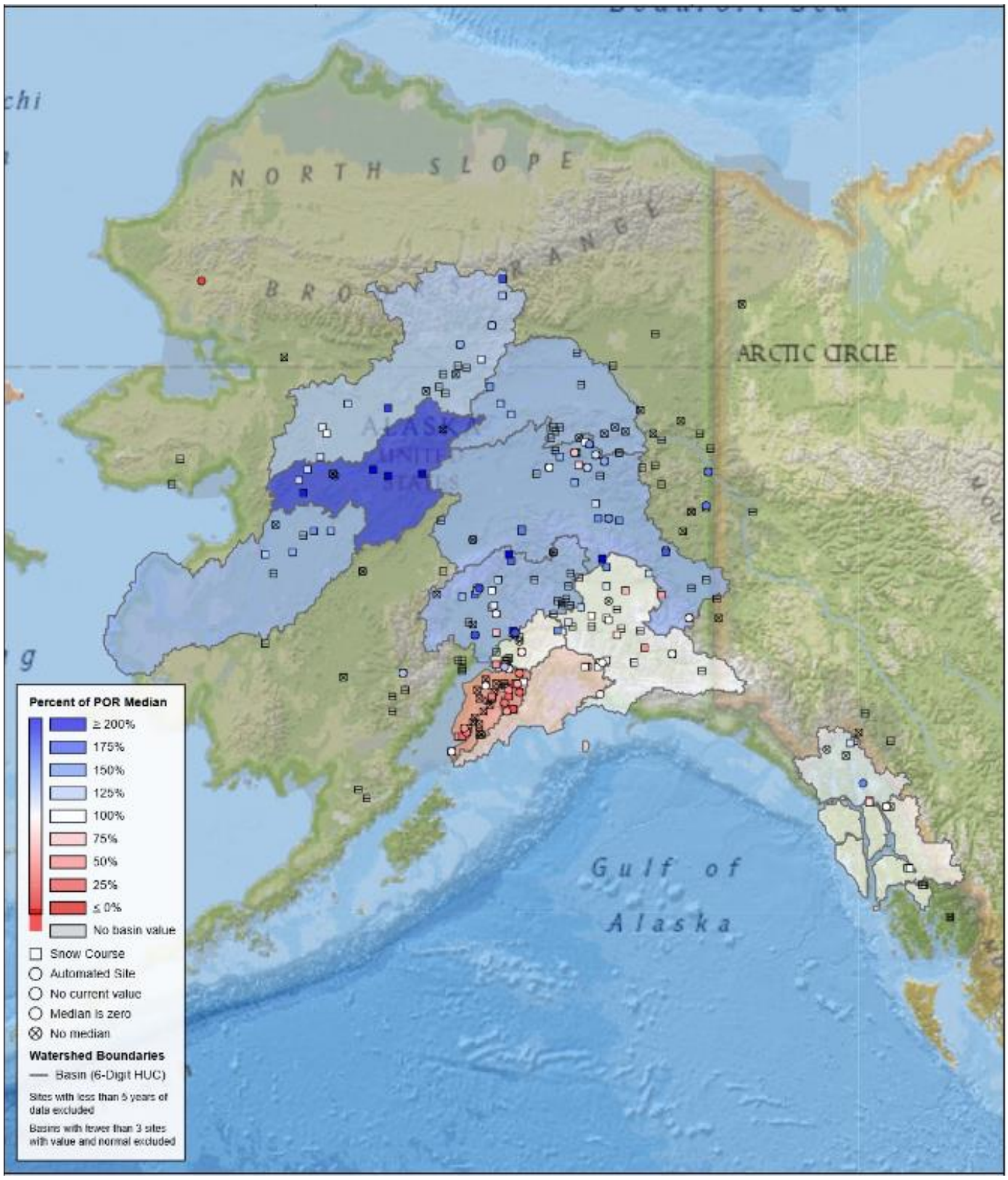
Water Year-to-date Precipitation (Oct. 1-Jan. 31, 2020)

(% of NRCS 81-2010 Average)



Alaska Statewide Snowpack Map

Based on February 1st, 2020 Snow Water Equivalent



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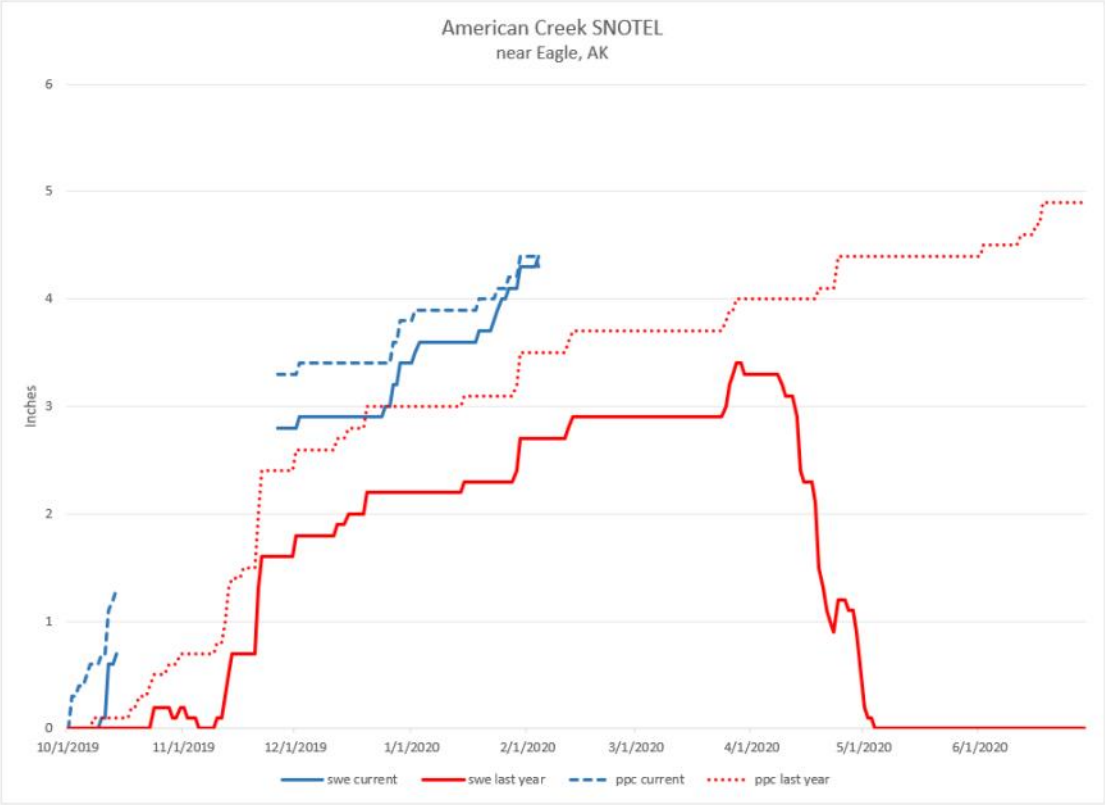
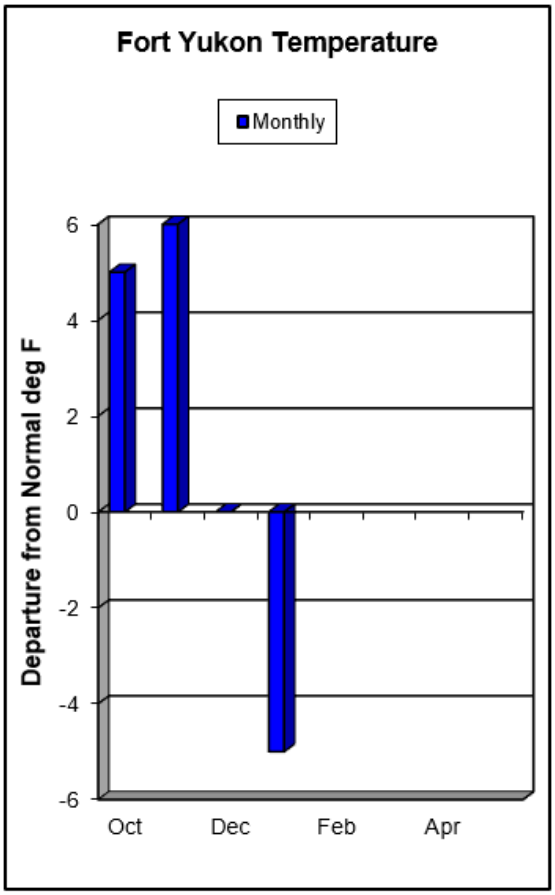
Central Yukon Basin





Snowpack

The measured snowpack in the Central Yukon Basin is above normal. Sites along the Dalton Highway on the western side of the basin reported around 140% of normal snowpack. Similarly, on the eastern side of the basin in Eagle, the American Creek SNOTEL measured its deepest February snowpack with 25” of snow and 4.3” of water content, 153% of the site’s 9-year average. Upper Nome Creek SNOTEL in the White Mountains measured 25” with 5.8” of water content, deeper than last year, but shallower than 2018.

Central Yukon Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
December 1st							
American Creek	1050	14	12	---	2.8	1.8	---
Atigun Pass	4800	42	20	---	---	---	---
Circle Hot Springs	860	22	13	---	3.0	2.0	---
Hess Creek	1000	24	14	---	3.1	2.1	---
Ptarmigan Creek	2270	20	8	---	3.2	1.1	---
Seven Mile	600	22	18	---	3.2	2.6	---
Stack Pup Creek	1620	22	13	---	2.8	2.0	---
Thirty Mile	1350	39	21	---	5.5	4.2	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	22	7	---	3.5	---	---
January 1st							
American Creek	1050	18	13	---	3.4	2.2	---
Atigun Pass	4800	37	33	---	---	---	---
Eagle Summit	3650	7	8	---	---	---	---
Fort Yukon	430	11	16	---	---	---	---
Jack Wade Jct	3585	24	---	---	4.6	2.9	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	23	12	---	4.8	---	---
February 1st							
American Creek	1050	24	17	---	4.3	2.7	---
Atigun Pass	4800	36	36	---	---	---	---
Circle Hot Springs	860	25	21	---	4.1	3.6	---
Eagle Summit	3650	9	11	---	---	---	---
Fort Yukon	430	13	20	---	---	---	---
Hess Creek	1000	25	---	21	5.0	---	3.6
Ptarmigan Creek	2270	21	17	---	3.3	2.4	---
Seven Mile	600	25	---	22	5.3	---	3.8
Stack Pup Creek	1620	25	23	---	3.5	3.5	---
Thirty Mile	1350	36	---	30	8.4	---	5.8
Upper Nome Creek	2520	27	16	---	5.9	---	---

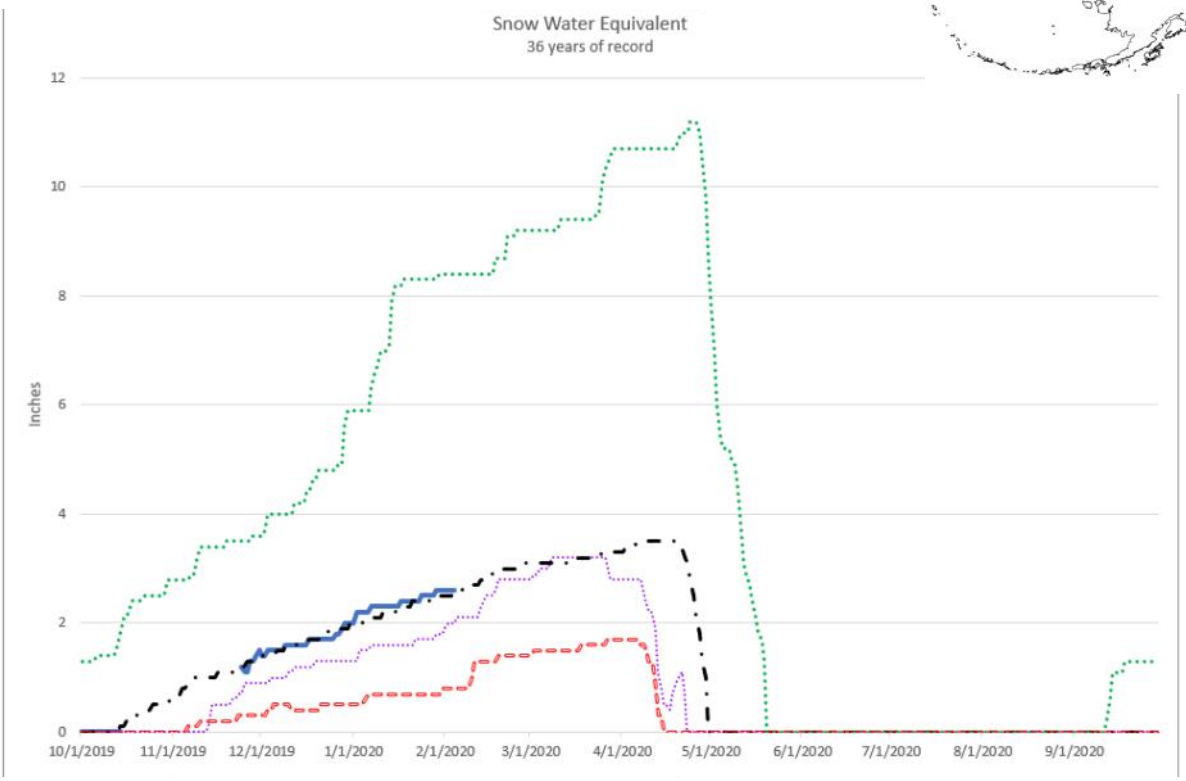
**Estimate*

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

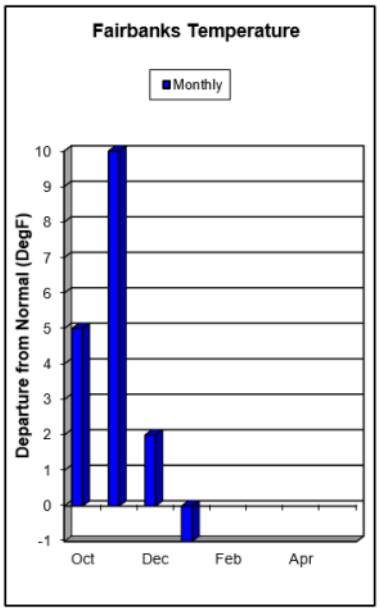
Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
American Creek	1050	4.4	3.5	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	2.4	3.7	3.9	62%
Chandalar Camp	3300	4.6	4.3	3.1	148%
Eagle Summit	3650	5.0	3.6	3.9	128%
Fort Yukon	430	3.0	3.4	2.6	115%
Jack Wade Jct	3585	6.0	4.0	---	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	7.4	4.0	3.7	200%

Tanana Basin



Snowpack

Contrary to most of the state, the seasonal snowpack in the Tanana Basin started early and abundant. Most snowpack reporting sites are near 150% of normal in the basin, with only a handful of locations which report near normal conditions. With 60 years of records, Fielding Lake Snow Course tied its 1989 February snowpack record of 13.8" of water content. The Look Eyrie SNOLITE site was installed in August at 5050' of elevation east of the Richardson Highway in the Alaska Range. It gained snow quickly this year, reaching 69" of snow depth by October 10th and peaking this winter so far at 143" of snow depth on December 28th.



Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Chisana	3320	3.6	1.7	---	---
Fairbanks F.O.	450	4.8	2.2	3.3	145%
Granite Crk	1240	6.0	1.8	3.2	188%
Kantishna	1550	6.2	2.9	3.5	177%
Little Chena Ridge	2000	5.2	3.0	4.1	127%
Nenana	415	5.7	3.3	---	---

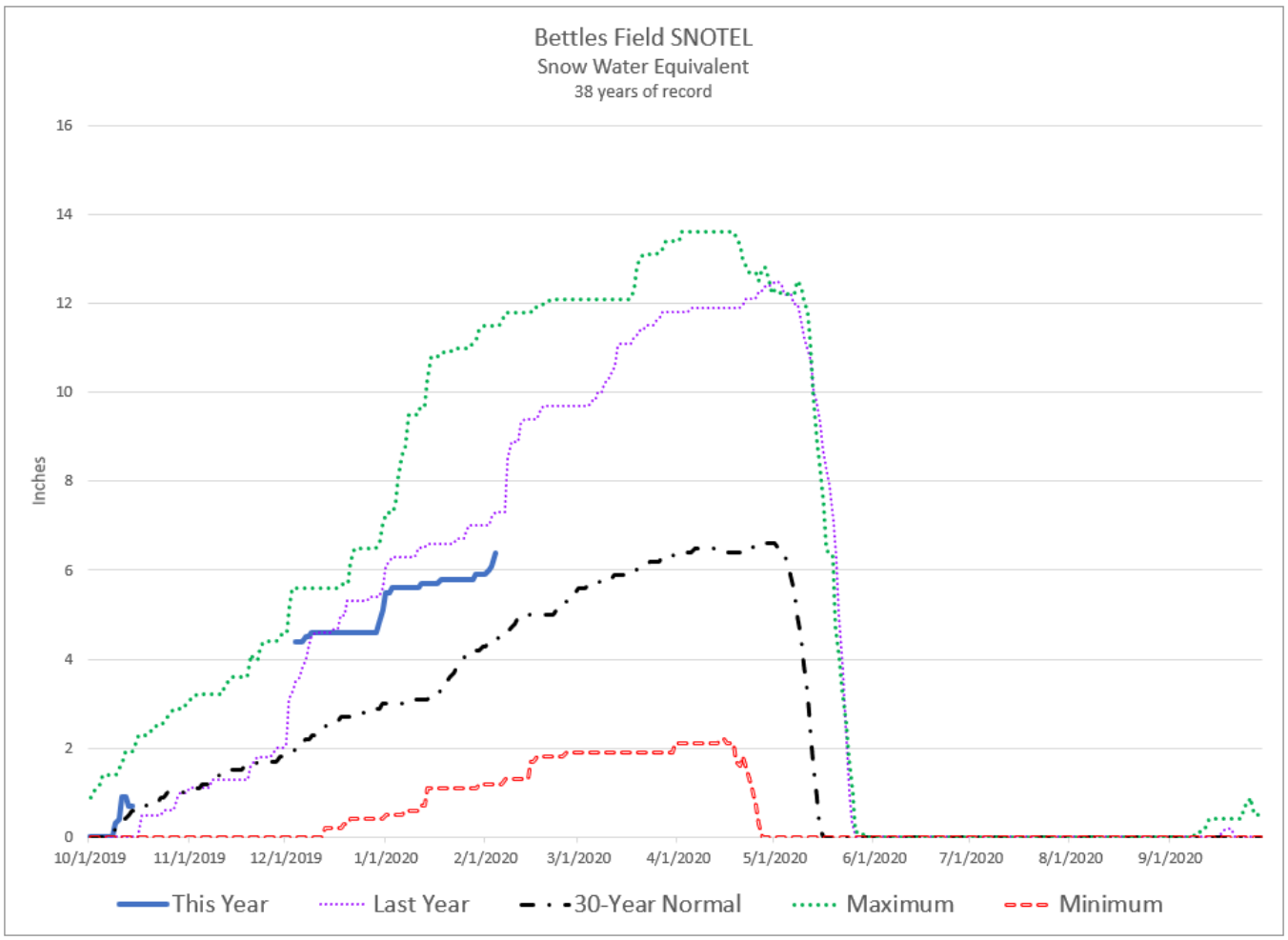
Tanana Basin

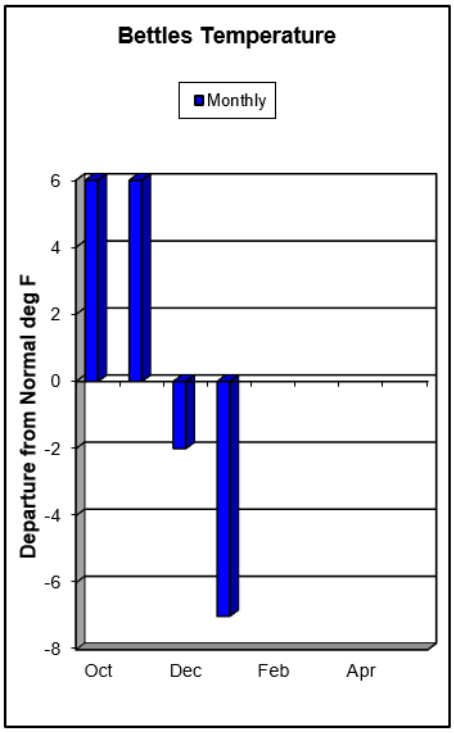
Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal
December 1st							
Bonanza Creek	1150	16	---	---	2.4	---	---
Caribou Creek	1250	16	---	12	2.9	---	1.6
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	18	---	12	3.4	---	1.6
Cleary Summit	2230	29	---	---	5.6	---	---
Colorado Creek	700	12	---	---	1.8	---	---
Fairbanks F.O.	450	11	5	---	1.4	0.9	1.4
Faith Creek	1750	20	---	8	3.1	---	1.5
Fort Greely	1500	15	---	10	2.2	---	1.3
French Creek	1800	30	---	16	4.2	---	2.6
Gerstle River	1200	16	---	11	2.1	---	1.6
Look Eyrie	5040	136	---	---	---	---	---
Lost Creek	3030	7	---	---	1.1	---	---
Monument Creek	1850	15	7	---	2.6	0.8	1.8
Mt. Ryan	2800	23	8	---	4.4	1.2	2.0
Munson Ridge	3100	28	8	---	5.3	2.2	3.5
Shaw Creek Flats	980	11	---	10	1.4	---	1.2
Teuchet Creek	1640	11	4	---	2.5	1.1	1.6
January 1st							
Chisana	3320	11	7	---	2.0	1.2	2.2
Fairbanks F.O.	450	12	8	---	2.0	1.3	2.0
Fielding Lake	3000	45	21	---	12.9	4.5	---
Granite Crk	1240	19	4	---	3.8	0.7	2.2
Look Eyrie	5040	130	---	---	---	---	---
Monument Creek	1850	14	10	---	3.4	2.2	2.5
Mt. Ryan	2800	23	13	---	5.1	1.7	2.7
Munson Ridge	3100	28	14	---	5.9	3.0	4.1
Teuchet Creek	1640	15	9	---	3.5	1.7	2.1
February 1st							
Chisana	3320	14	9	---	2.4	1.4	3.4
Cleary Summit	2230	29	---	22	6.1	---	4.0
Colorado Creek	700	18	---	18	2.6	---	3.0
Fairbanks F.O.	450	17	12	---	2.6	1.9	2.5
Faith Creek	1750	21	---	22	3.1	---	3.2
Fielding Lake	3000	52	---	32	13.8	---	6.6
Fielding Lake	3000	45	31	---	13.9	5.8	---
Fort Greely	1500	20	---	14	3.7	---	2.4
French Creek	1800	28	---	19	5.8	---	3.9
Gerstle River	1200	20	---	16	3.6	---	2.4
Granite Crk	1240	22	5	---	4.3	1.1	3.0
Look Eyrie	5040	130	---	---	---	---	---
Lost Creek	3030	9	---	---	1.3	---	---
Mentasta Pass	2430	22	---	22	5.0	---	4.0
Monument Creek	1850	19	13	---	4.1	2.7	3.1
Mt. Ryan	2800	27	20	---	5.8	2.5	3.6
Munson Ridge	3100	32	20	---	6.5	3.8	5.0
Rock Creek Bottom	2250	18	---	14	3.3	---	2.9
Shaw Creek Flats	980	17	---	13	2.6	---	2.0
Teuchet Creek	1640	19	13	---	4.1	2.3	2.8
Tok Junction	1650	25	---	17	4.4	---	2.6

**Estimate*

Western Interior Basins





Snowpack

Koyukuk

The Koyukuk basin ranges from near normal to above normal snowpack. The lower basin is near normal while the upper basin is above normal. Snow courses along the Dalton Highway range from 113% to 175% of normal water content.

Kuskokwim

The Kuskokwim basin appears to have normal to above normal snowpack this winter. In the lower basin, the Aniak SCAN site has near normal snowpack while in the upper basin snowpack increases. Both McGrath and the Telaquana Lake snow course appear to have above normal snowpack.

Lower Yukon

The Lower Yukon has near to above normal snowpack at this time. Areas near and below Galena are near normal, while sites between Galena and Tanana report snow depths nearly twice as deep as average.

Western Interior Basins

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Koyukuk					
Bettles Field	640	7.6	6.3	4.6	165%
Coldfoot	1040	6.8	6.2	4.3	158%
Gobblers Knob	2030	6.1	5.8	5.1	120%
Hozatka Lake	206	4.9	3.7	---	---
Kuskokwim					
Aniak	80	8.2	5.6	---	---
McGrath	340	11.7	---	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	9.0	4.7	---	---

Snowpack Data

		Snow Depth			Water Content		
Site Name	Elev.	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
Koyukuk							
December 1st							
Bonanza Forks	1200	16	9	---	2.3	1.5	---
Cloverleaf	170	19	12	---	---	---	---
Colville Bend	170	17	15	---	---	---	---
Disaster Creek	1550	15	11	---	2.4	2.2	---
Gobblers Knob	2030	13	3	---	---	---	---
Huggins Creek	290	27	8	---	---	---	---
Jr Slough	160	18	21	---	---	---	---
Table Mountain	2200	22	11	---	3.7	2.2	---
Treat Island	190	21	18	---	---	---	---
January 1st							
Bettles Field	640	---	32	---	5.5	6.1	3.0
Cloverleaf	170	15	---	---	---	---	---
Coldfoot	1040	32	27	---	5.2	5.0	2.8
Colville Bend	170	15	---	---	---	---	---
Gobblers Knob	2030	9	8	---	---	---	---
Huggins Creek	290	31	---	---	---	---	---
Jr Slough	160	18	---	---	---	---	---
Treat Island	190	27	---	---	---	---	---
February 1st							
Bettles Field	640	---	29	---	5.9	7.0	4.3
Bonanza Forks	1200	19	---	21	4.4	---	3.8
Cloverleaf	170	21	27	---	4.2*	6.2	---
Coldfoot	1040	26	30	---	5.5	5.8	4.2
Colville Bend	170	24	23	---	5.1*	5.2	
Disaster Creek	1550	17	---	17	3.6	---	2.5
Gobblers Knob	2030	2	11	---	---	---	---
Huggins Creek	290	31	25	---	6.8*	5.2	---
Jr Slough	160	27	24	---	5.4*	5.5	---
Table Mountain	2200	23	---	18	5.6*	---	3.0
Treat Island	190	21	23	---	4.6*	5.4	---

**Estimate*

Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Data—continued

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
Kuskokwim							
December 1st							
McGrath	340	32	---	---	7.0	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1550	16	---	---	2.0	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	15	5	---	2.1	1.0	---
January 1st							
Aniak	80	8	13	---	---	---	---
McGrath	340	49	---	---	10.0	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1550	20	---	---	3.5	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	21	15	---	4.0	3.3	---
February 1st							
Aniak	80	13	14	---	---	---	---
McGrath	340	34	---	---	10.1	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1550	21	16	---	4.3	3.4	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	18	16	---	4.4	3.9	---

**Estimate*

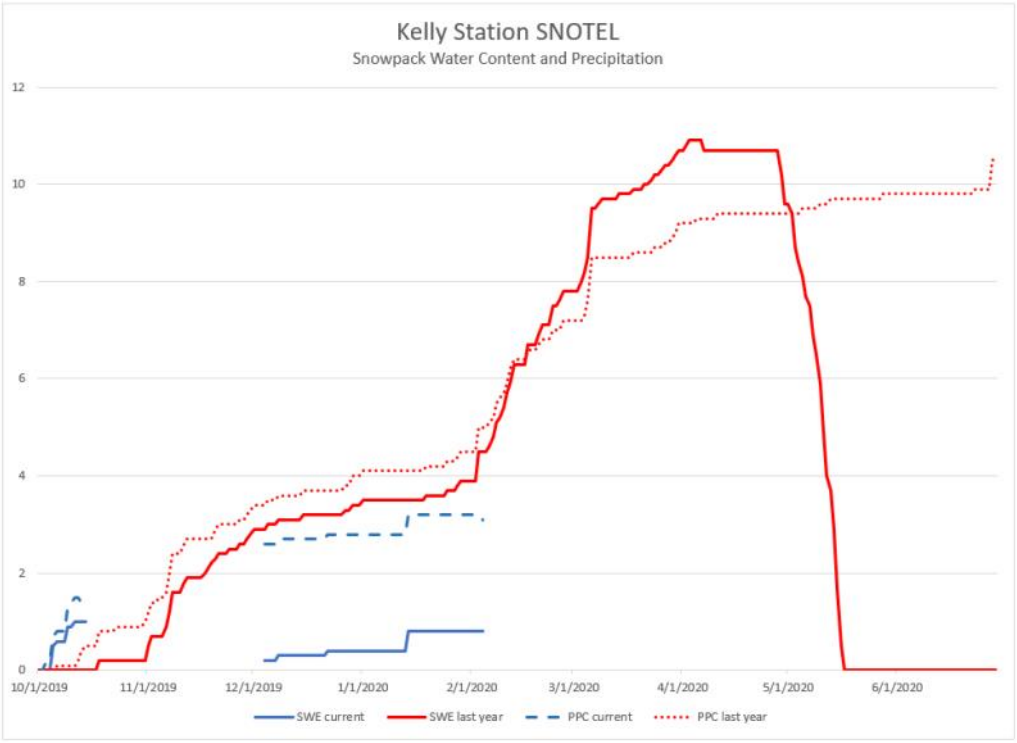
Western Interior Basins

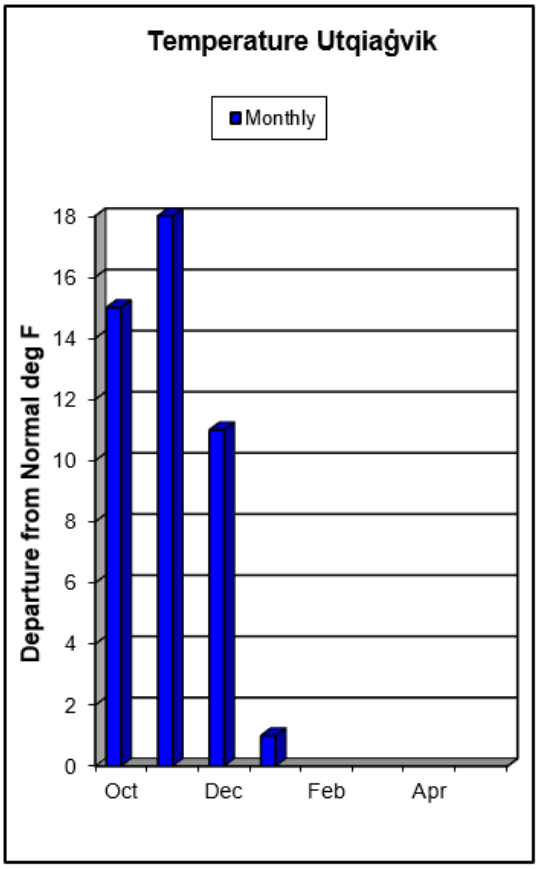
Snowpack Data—continued

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
Lower Yukon							
December 1st							
Bullfrog	100	22	17	---	---	---	---
Galena Ecological Site	128	17	---	---	2.1	---	---
Little Mud River	855	28	12	---	---	---	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	25	12	---	---	---	---
Middle Innoko	150	17	12	---	---	---	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	16	12	---	---	---	---
Squirrel Creek	150	24	21	---	---	---	---
Upper Innoko	180	25	19	---	---	---	---
Wapoo Hills	220	31	---	---	---	---	---
Yankee Slough	100	27	24	---	---	---	---
January 1st							
Bullfrog	100	32	---	---	---	---	---
Deer Creek	195	36	---	---	---	---	---
Galena AK	410	23	21	---	4.1	3.4	---
Hozatka Lake	206	16	18	---	---	---	---
Little Mud River	855	24	---	---	---	---	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	27	---	---	---	---	---
Middle Innoko	150	31	---	---	---	---	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	19	---	---	---	---	---
Squirrel Creek	150	32	---	---	---	---	---
Upper Innoko	180	36	---	---	---	---	---
Wapoo Hills	220	43	---	---	---	---	---
Yankee Slough	100	33	---	---	---	---	---
February 1st							
Bullfrog	100	31	33	---	7.2*	7.3	---
Deer Creek	195	42	33	---	9.7*	7.9	---
Galena AK	410	22	19	---	4.4	4.0	---
Hozatka Lake	206	16	16	---	---	---	---
Little Mud River	855	32	18	---	8.0*	3.8	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	33	19	---	7.9*	3.9	---
Middle Innoko	150	29	26	---	7.5*	5.5	---
Ninemile Island	140	28	32	---	5.9*	7.2	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	20	15	---	4.2*	3.3	---
Squirrel Creek	150	29	36	---	6.1*	8.0	---
Upper Innoko	180	33	25	---	8.3*	5.4	---
Wapoo Hills	220	41	36	---	11.5*	8.2	---
Yankee Slough	100	32	41	---	8.6*	9.3	---

**Estimate*

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound





Snowpack

Arctic

The Arctic has near normal precipitation this winter. Snow depths at the SNOTEL sites along the Dalton Highway are similar to last year and considerably less than two years ago.

Kotzebue

Kelly Station SNOTEL, with 6” of snow and 0.8” of water content, is the lowest February snowpack its 9-year record.

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
December 1st							
Atigun Pass	4800	42	20	---	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	15	12	---	---	---	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	5	9	---	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	19	8	---	---	---	---
January 1st							
Atigun Pass	4800	37	33	---	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	16	12	---	---	---	---
Kelly Station	310	4	15	---	0.4	3.5	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	4	7	---	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	21	17	---	---	---	---
February 1st							
Atigun Pass	4800	36	36	---	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	15	15	---	---	---	---
Kelly Station	310	6	19	---	0.8	3.9	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	8	7	---	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	18	23	---	---	---	---

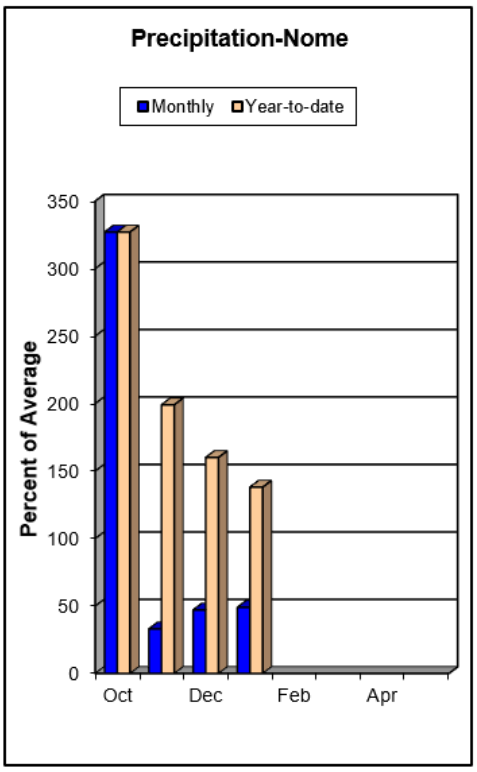
**Estimate*

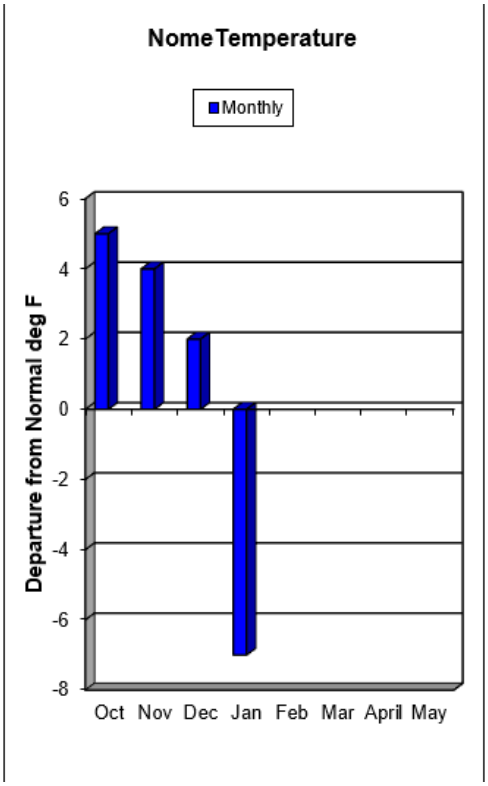
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Arctic					
Atigun Camp	3400	2.2	2.2	1.7	129%
Atigun Pass	4800	2.4	3.7	3.9	62%
Imnaviat Creek	3050	1.6	2.2	2.1	76%
Prudhoe Bay	30	2.2	2.1	2.0	110%
Sagwon	1000	2.4	2.4	2.1	114%

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay





Snowpack

The Seward Peninsula has had normal to above normal precipitation this winter, but the precipitation came early and not as snow. Snowpack reporting sites are lower than they have been in four or five years.

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

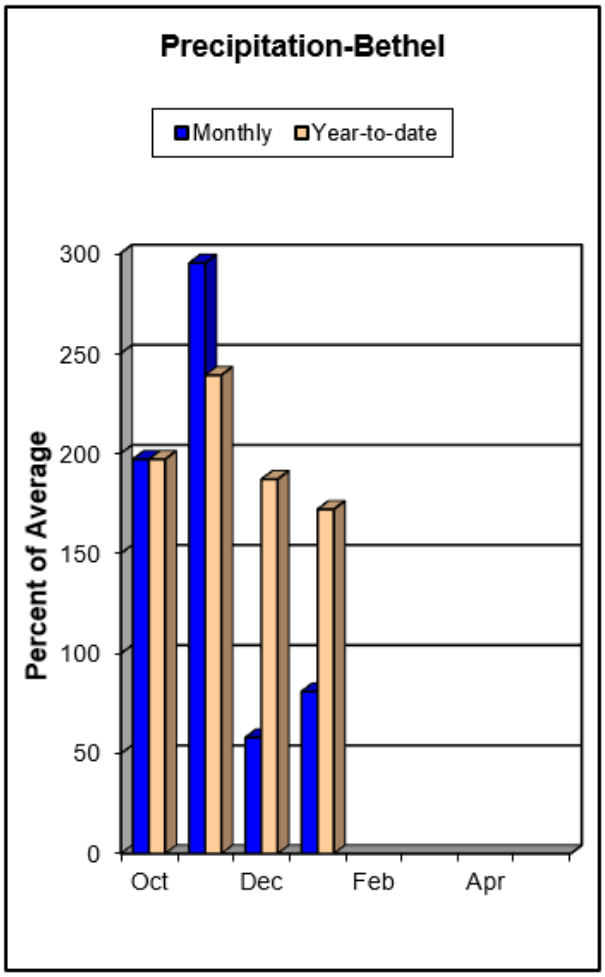
Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Norton Sound					
Pargon Creek	100	4.3	4.2	3.9	110%
Rocky Point	250	4.2	4.0	4.1	102%

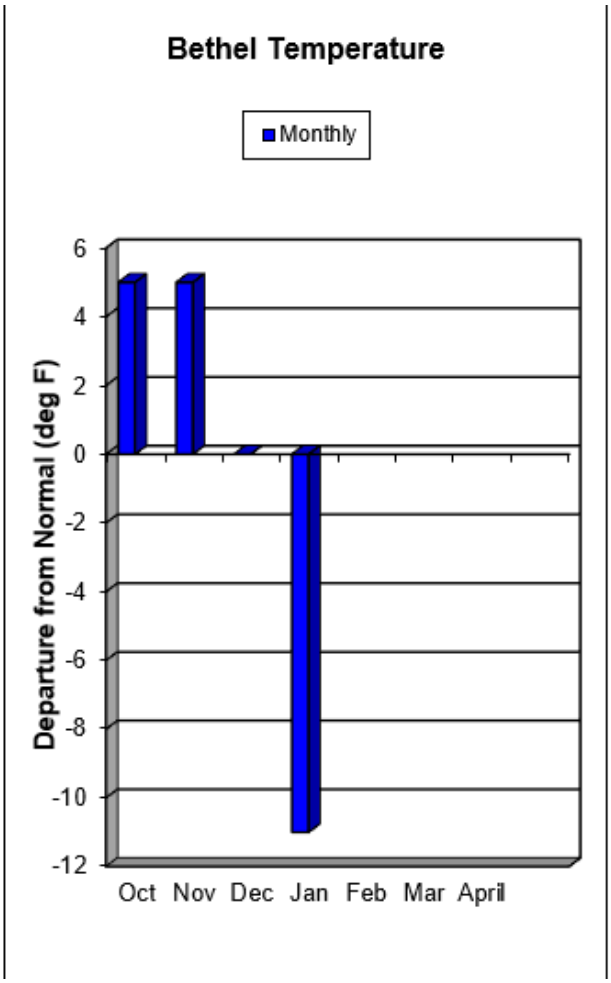
Norton Sound/Bristol Bay

Snowpack Data

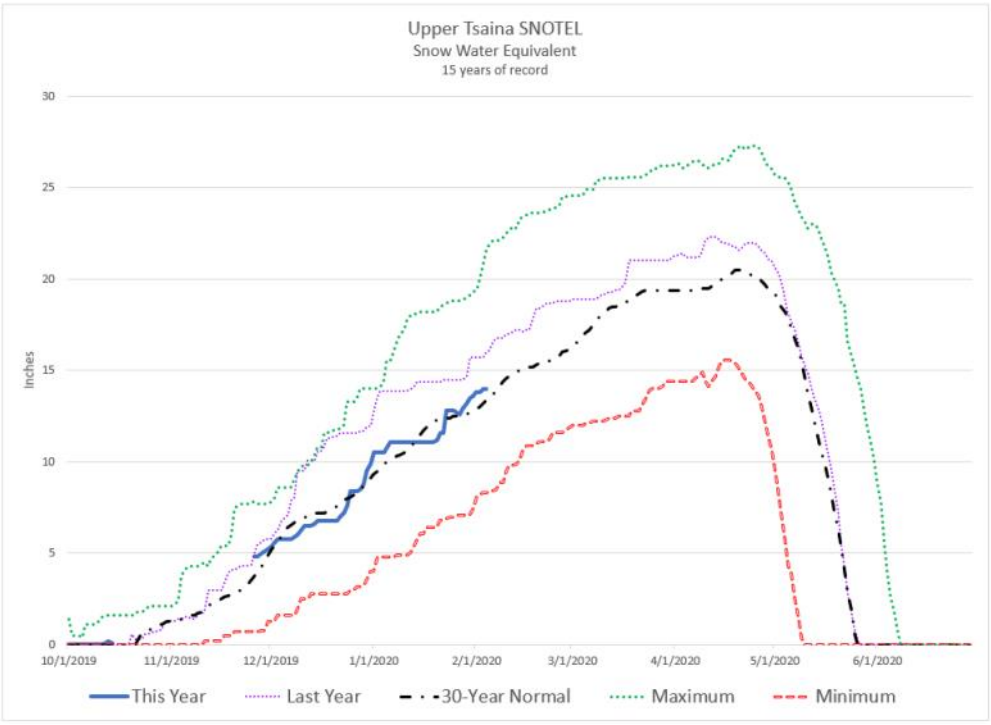
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
Norton Sound							
December 1st							
Johnsons Camp	25	2	7	---	---	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	---	3	---	---	---	---
Rocky Point	250	0	8	---	---	---	---
January 1st							
Johnsons Camp	25	6	7	---	---	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	---	17	---	---	---	---
Rocky Point	250	0	31	---	---	---	---
February 1st							
Johnsons Camp	25	6	11	---	---	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	---	15	---	---	---	---
Rocky Point	250	1	29	---	---	---	---

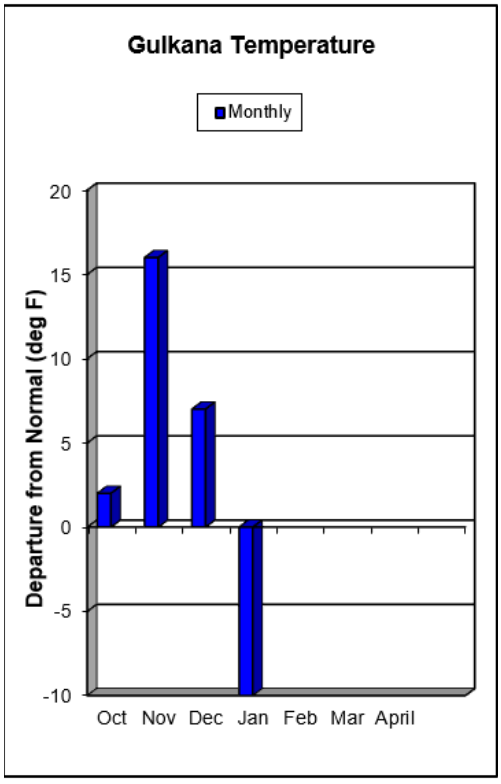
**Estimate*





Copper Basin





Snowpack

The Snowpack in the Copper River Basin is near normal in much of the basin and above normal near the Alaska Range. Chistochina, in the eastern basin is an outlier, reporting a below normal snowpack, while most other locations report between 88% and 115% of normal. An early start to the winter gave the snowpack in the Alaska Range a jumpstart. Sites here are 120-150% of normal. The Upper Tsaina SNOTEL site in the Chugach Range is reporting a near normal snowpack development this year.

Copper Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
December 1st							
Chokosna	1550	3	6	---	0.4	0.8	---
Copper Center	1264	9	8	---	1.5	1.4	---
Kenny Lake School	1300	3	6	10	0.4	0.8	1.3
Little Nelchina	2650	10	10	12	1.7	1.4	1.5
Lost Creek	3030	7	5	---	1.1	0.5	---
Tazlina	1250	6	7	9	0.8	1.3	1.1
Tolsona Creek	2000	8	8	11	1.2	1.4	1.8
Upper Tsaina River	1750	28	28	---	5.3	5.8	5.2
January 1st							
Fielding Lake	3000	45	21	---	12.9	4.5	---
May Creek	1610	13	9	---	2.6	1.4	3.0
Upper Tsaina River	1750	54	55	---	12.1	12.8	9.3
February 1st							
Chistochina	1950	12	18	17	1.8	2.4	2.6
Chokosna	1550	9	8	---	1.6	1.5	---
Copper Center	1264	17	16	---	3.4	2.5	---
Fielding Lake	3000	52	32	32	13.8	5.2	6.6
Fielding Lake SNOTEL	3000	45	31	---	13.9*	5.8	---
Haggard Creek	2540	26	22	23	4.7	3.2	4.1
Kenny Lake School	1300	14	9	14	2.3	1.7	2.6
Little Nelchina	2650	24	17	22	4.2	2.7	3.9
Lost Creek	3030	9	10	---	1.3	1.2	---
May Creek	1610	18	10	---	3.7	---	3.7
Mentasta Pass	2430	22	14	22	5.0	2.1	4.0
Paxson	2650	36	27	27	7.8	4.1	5.3
Tazlina	1250	16	15	15	2.6	2.4	2.8
Tolsona Creek	2000	19	17	18	3.1	2.5	3.2
Tsaina River	1650	44	51	48	10.3*	12.7	11.2
Upper Tsaina River	1750	63	66	---	14.0	15.7	12.9
Worthington Glacier	2100	66	68	60	17.4*	19.5	16.8

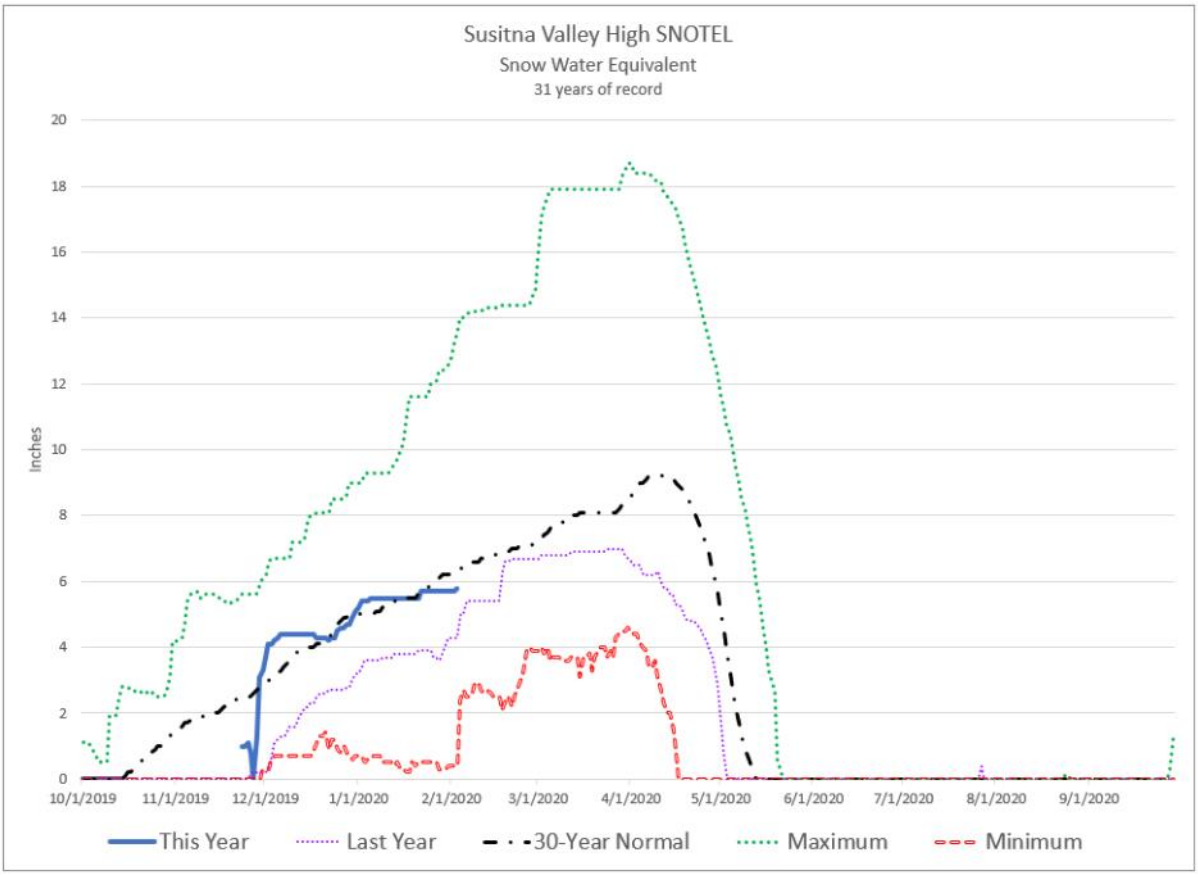
**Estimate*

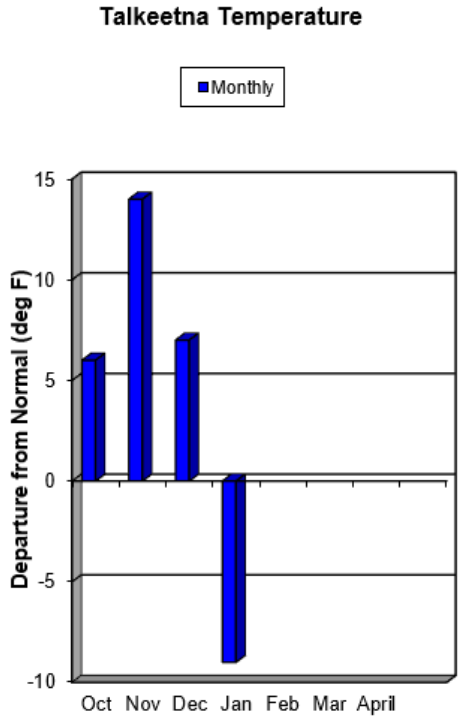
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
May Creek	1610	4.5	3.5	4.7	96%
Upper Tsaina River	1750	20.0	28.0	19.9	101%

Matanuska—Susitna Basin





Snowpack

The snowpack in the Susitna Basin ranges from slightly below normal in the lowlands to much above normal at higher elevations. A warm November kept lower lying areas from developing significant snowpacks until the end of the month. Willow Airstrip Snow Course reports at only a 73% normal snowpack. Upper elevation sites in the Susitna, Little Susitna, and Matanuska Basins, which were high enough to receive snow in November, are near 150% of normal. January contributed little to the snowpack.

Matanuska—Susitna Basin

Precipitation

		Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)			
Site Name	**Elev.**	**This Year**	**Last Year**	**1981-2010 Normal**	**% of Normal**
Alexander Lake	160	15.4	17.8	---	---
Frostbite Bottom	2700	16.2	---	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	17.6	11.6	11.0	160%
Monahan Flat	2710	9.8	7.2	5.8	169%
Susitna Valley High	375	14.4	10.0	8.8	164%
Tokositna Valley	850	26.5	22.7	15.2	174%

Snowpack Data

		Snow Depth			**Water Content**		
Site Name	**Elev.**	**Current**	**Last Year**	**1981-2010 Median**	**Current**	**Last Year**	**1981-2010 Median**
December 1st							
Archangel Road	2200	36	9	---	6.2	1.7	4.6
Birthday Pass	4020	91	23	---	24.4	5.6	---
Blueberry Hill	1200	51	24	---	9.2	2.9	---
Denali View	700	38	17	18	5.5	1.8	3.4
E. Fork Chulitna	1770	66	33	20	11.7	3.9	3.9
Fishhook Basin	3300	63	11	28	15.1	1.9	6.3
Independence Mine	3550	72	13	31	16.7	2.4	6.8
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	62	7	---	12.9	2.4	4.2
Lake Louise	2400	9	9	12	1.2	1.5	1.6
Little Susitna	1700	24	20	20	5.0	3.1	3.4
Sheep Mountain	2900	20	13	14	4.2	1.8	1.8
Susitna Valley High	375	20	2	---	3.7	0.2	2.9
Talkeetna	350	23	13	13	3.5	1.5	1.8
Tokositna Valley	850	52	5	---	13.1	0.8	4.3
Willow Airstrip	200	15	13	16	2.3	1.4	2.5
January 1st							
Alexander Lake	160	33	27	---	9.5	5.3	---
Frostbite Bottom	2700	41	---	---	11.7	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	56	26	---	14.5	6.2	5.9
Monahan Flat	2710	33	19	---	6.7	2.5	---
Susitna Valley High	375	24	18	---	5.2	3.2	5.0
Tokositna Valley	850	65	38	---	15.8	7.6	6.0

**Estimate*

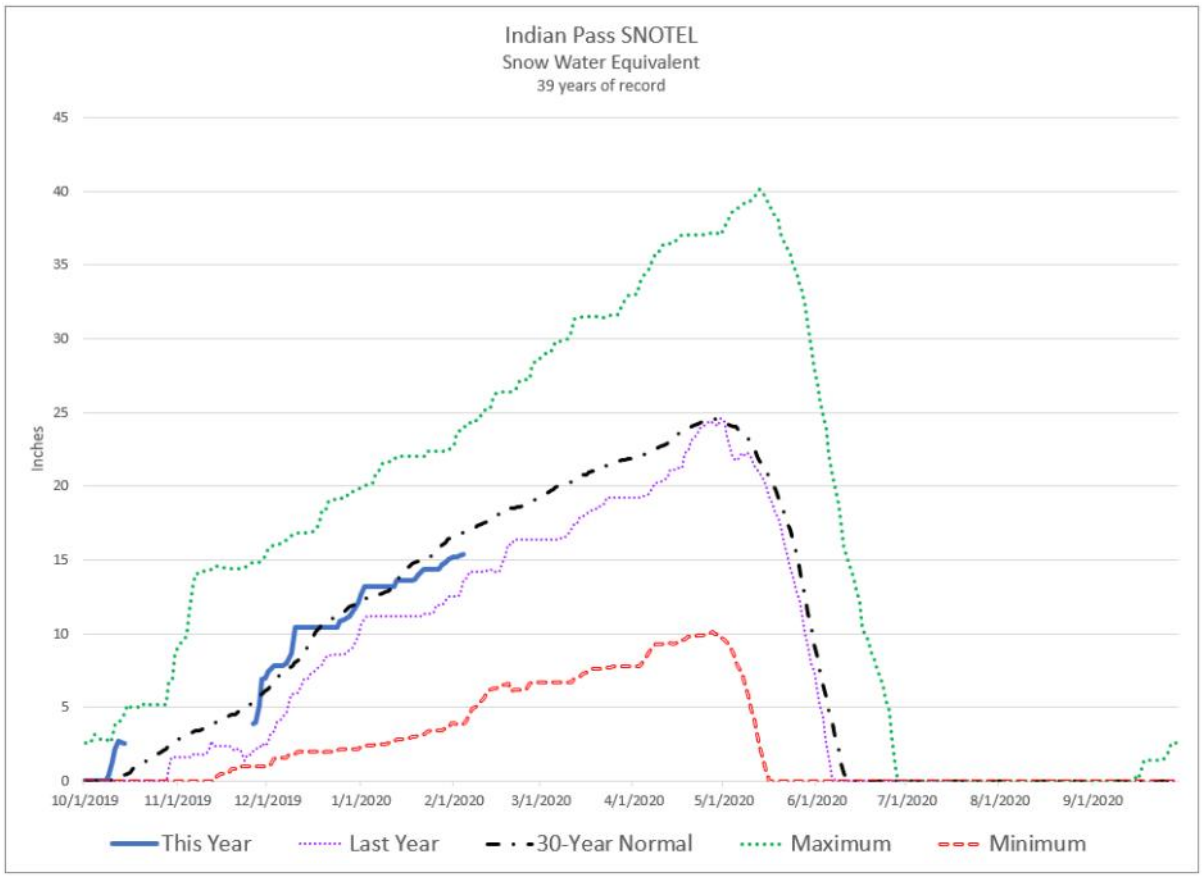
Matanuska—Susitna Basin

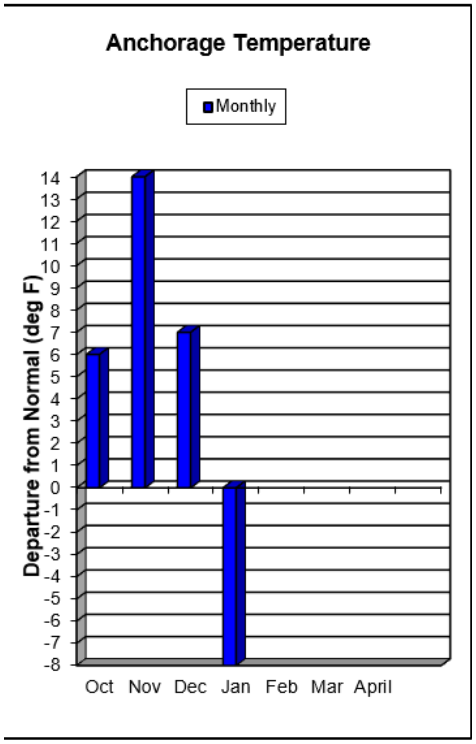
Snowpack Data—continued

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
February 1st							
Alexander Lake	160	35	26	---	10.0	6.2	---
Archangel Road	2200	32	30	38	8.3	6.7	10.0
Birthday Pass	4020	72	47	---	23.8	12.1	---
Blueberry Hill	1200	48	36	43	13.1	9.5	10.7
Chelatna Lake	1450	40	32	38	10.2	7.7	8.6
Denali View	700	32	28	35	8.4	6.8	8.8
Dunkle Hills	2700	51	---	---	14.5*	---	---
Dutch Hills	3100	78	---	62	25.0*	---	18.0
E. Fork Chulitna	1770	54	39	41	15.6	9.2	9.5
Fishhook Basin	3300	56	35	46	18.4	7.4	12.5
Frostbite Bottom	2700	42	---	---	12.6	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	65	40	52	20.4	9.4	14.5
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	47	29	---	14.4	6.9	8.6
Lake Louise	2400	21	19	19	3.7	2.9	3.0
Little Susitna	1700	30	27	34	7.1	5.6	8.0
Monahan Flat	2710	37	25	---	7.7	3.5	---
Nugget Bench	2010	54	41	42	16.5*	9.9*	10.8
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	54	56	56	16.5*	14.6*	15.5
Sheep Mountain	2900	28	24	21	6.0	3.7	4.0
Susitna Valley High	375	25	18	---	5.7	4.3	6.3
Talkeetna	350	23	19	24	5.3	4.0	4.8
Tokositna Valley	850	63	40	---	16.4	10.1	8.5
Willow Airstrip	200	22	26	25	3.6	4.7	4.9

**Estimate*

Northern Cook Inlet





Snowpack

The Northern Cook Inlet area has received above normal precipitation this winter but has generally below normal snowpack. Snowpack measurements range from near half of normal to near normal. Above normal temperatures in November kept any serious snowpack from developing in the lowlands until the end of the month. Most of the snow accumulation occurred between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Northern Cook Inlet

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
December 1st							
Anchorage Hillside	2080	13	2	---	3.9	0.7	3.5
Indian Pass	2350	34	11	---	7.4	2.6	6.3
Kinkaid Park	250	5	2	7	0.4	0.3	1.2
Portage Valley	50	11	0	14	0.8	0.0	2.8
South Campbell Creek	1200	8	7	12	1.0	1.9	2.2
January 1st							
Anchorage Hillside	2080	23	19	---	5.9	4.2	5.7
Indian Pass	2350	47	43	---	12.6	10.6	12.3
Moraine	2100	11	15	---	2.1	3.0	4.5
Mt. Alyeska	1540	23	43	---	6.6	9.6	14.7
February 1st							
Anchorage Hillside	2080	30	20	---	7.1	4.7	7.1
Indian Pass	2350	53	44	---	15.2	12.5	16.6
Kinkaid Park	250	10	14	15	1.8	3.9	3.1
Moraine	2100	20	14	---	3.6	3.4	5.4
Mt. Alyeska	1540	46	37	---	9.6	11.9	20.8
Portage Valley	50	51	19	26	7.8	8.5	8.4
South Campbell Creek	1200	14	19	20	1.8	4.4	4.7

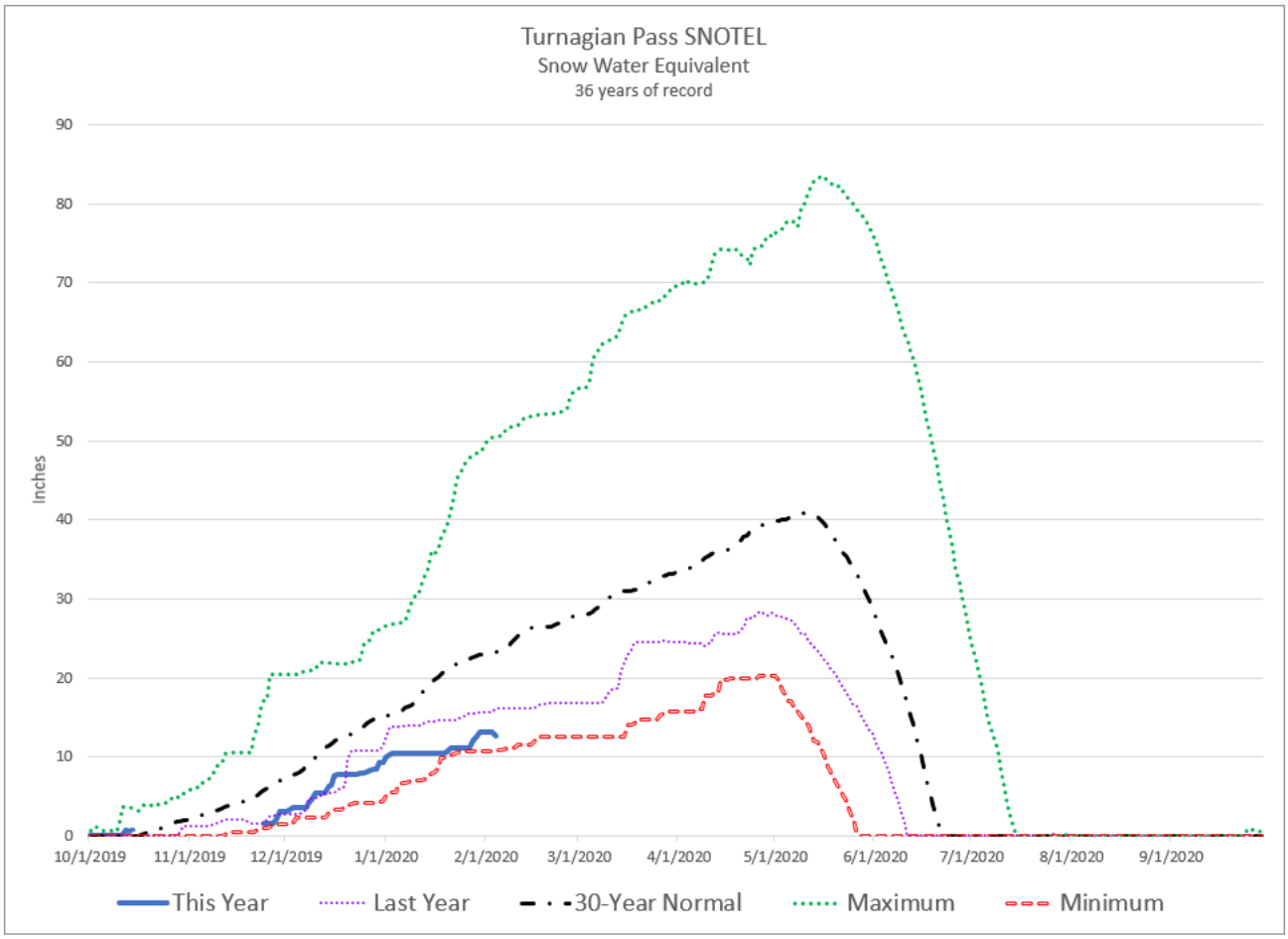
**Estimate*

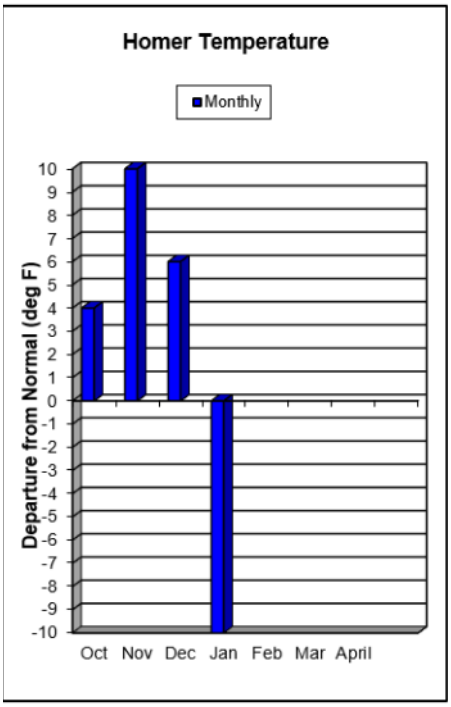
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Anchorage Hillside	2080	14.3	12.8	10.3	139%
Indian Pass	2350	23.9	18.1	18.3	131%
Moraine	2100	8.5	12.5	8.5	100%
Mt. Alyeska	1540	31.2	43.1	33.5	93%

Kenai Peninsula





Snowpack

Similar to last year, the Kenai has experienced above normal precipitation during the winter, but maintains a well below normal snowpack. A warm October and November brought rain instead of snow and as a result most sites have less than half of normal snow-pack. Low lying areas tend to be closer to normal; the significant storms which have come since Thanksgiving have dropped a healthy amount of snow lower down.

Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
December 1st							
Bertha Creek	950	5	---	---	1.0	---	---
Bridge Creek	1300	8	4	12	0.5	0.8	1.5
Cooper Lake	1200	4	1	---	0.3	0.1	3.2
Demonstration Forest	780	10	4	8	0.7	0.5	1.0
Exit Glacier	400	6	0	18	0.6	0.0	3.2
Grandview	1100	2	2	---	0.8	0.6	5.3
Grouse Creek Divide	700	0	0	---	0.0	0.0	2.9
Indian Pass	2350	34	11	---	7.4	2.6	6.3
Jean Lake	620	10	0	8	0.7	0.0	1.0
Kenai Moose Pens	300	0	0	---	0.1	0.0	1.2
Kenai Summit	1390	14	---	20	2.1	---	4.0
Mcneil Canyon	1320	0	1	---	0.0	0.1	1.9
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	1	5	---	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	0		11	0.0	---	1.6
Nuka Glacier	1250	8	0	14	1.2	0.0	4.2
Port Graham	300	1	4	---	0.0	1.2	0.5
Portage Valley	50	11	0	14	0.8	0.0	2.8
Snug Harbor Road	500	2	0	8	0.2	0.0	1.0
Summit Creek	1400	7	0	---	1.8	0.0	2.6
Turnagain Pass	1880	12	12	---	3.1	2.7	7.4
January 1st							
Anchor River Divide	1653	24	26	---	4.2	6.7	5.9
Cooper Lake	1200	14	20	---	2.5	4.7	8.2
Exit Glacier	400	7	20	---	2.2	4.8	8.0
Grandview	1100	18	36	---	3.4	7.8	14.2
Grouse Creek Divide	700	5	17	---	2.2	5.3	8.3
Indian Pass	2350	47	43	---	12.6	10.6	12.3
Kenai Moose Pens	300	10	11	---	1.9	2.0	2.5
Lower Kachemak Creek	1915	15	30	---	---	---	---
Mcneil Canyon	1320	13	19	---	1.9	---	4.7
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	23	24	---	---	---	---
Mt. Alyeska	1540	23	43	---	6.6	9.6	14.7
Port Graham	300	8	16	---	1.7	5.2	3.5
Summit Creek	1400	14	16	---	3.6	4.2	6.2
Turnagain Pass	1880	45	63	---	9.9	12.5	15.3

Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack Data – continued

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
February 1st							
Anchor River Divide	1653	23	39	---	4.7	10.1	8.8
Bear Creek	2516	13	10	---	2.1*	2.2*	---
Benjamin Creek	3090	24	33	---	4.3*	9.2*	---
Bertha Creek	950	33	26	44	4.8	7.0	12.4
Bridge Creek	1300	18	27	30	3.0	7.3	7.4
Browns Lake	276	13	19	---	2.0*	3.9*	---
Cooper Lake	1200	24	23	---	4.5	6.3	11.3
Demonstration Forest	780	17	19	20	2.5	5.1	4.8
Exit Glacier	400	21	17	42	4.2	6.6	11.7
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	19	18	---	4.0	6.4	11.7
Fox River Bench	1214	21	21	---	4.2*	---	---
Grandview	1100	42	24	---	6.8	9.4	19.7
Grouse Creek Divide	700	18	17	---	3.8	6.0	12.3
Indian Pass	2350	53	44	---	15.2	12.5	16.6
Jean Lake	620	11	9	14	1.4	1.7	3.0
Kenai Moose Pens	300	16	12	---	3.2	2.5	3.6
Kenai Summit	1390	27	28	37	5.8	6.5	9.6
Lower Kachemak Creek	1915	20	42	---	---	---	---
Mcneil Canyon	1320	15	23	---	3.2	---	7.1
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	25	39	---	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	13	11	20	1.6	2.6	4.9
Mosquito Lake	279	22	19	---	4.4*	3.8*	---
Mt. Alyeska	1540	46	37	---	9.6	11.9	20.8
Port Graham	300	29	10	---	4.2	4.8	4.8
Portage Valley	50	51	19	26	7.8	8.5	8.4
Snug Harbor Road	500	9	6	15	1.5	2.3	3.6
Summit Creek	1400	20	23	---	4.2	5.4	8.1
Trapper Joe Ridge	2424	8	14	---	1.4*	3.1*	---
Turnagain Pass	1880	60	58	---	13.2	15.7	23.0

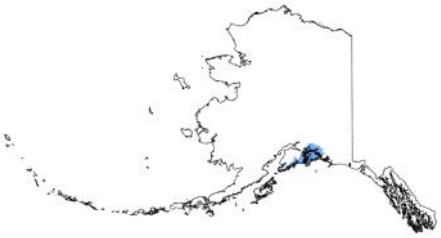
**Estimate*

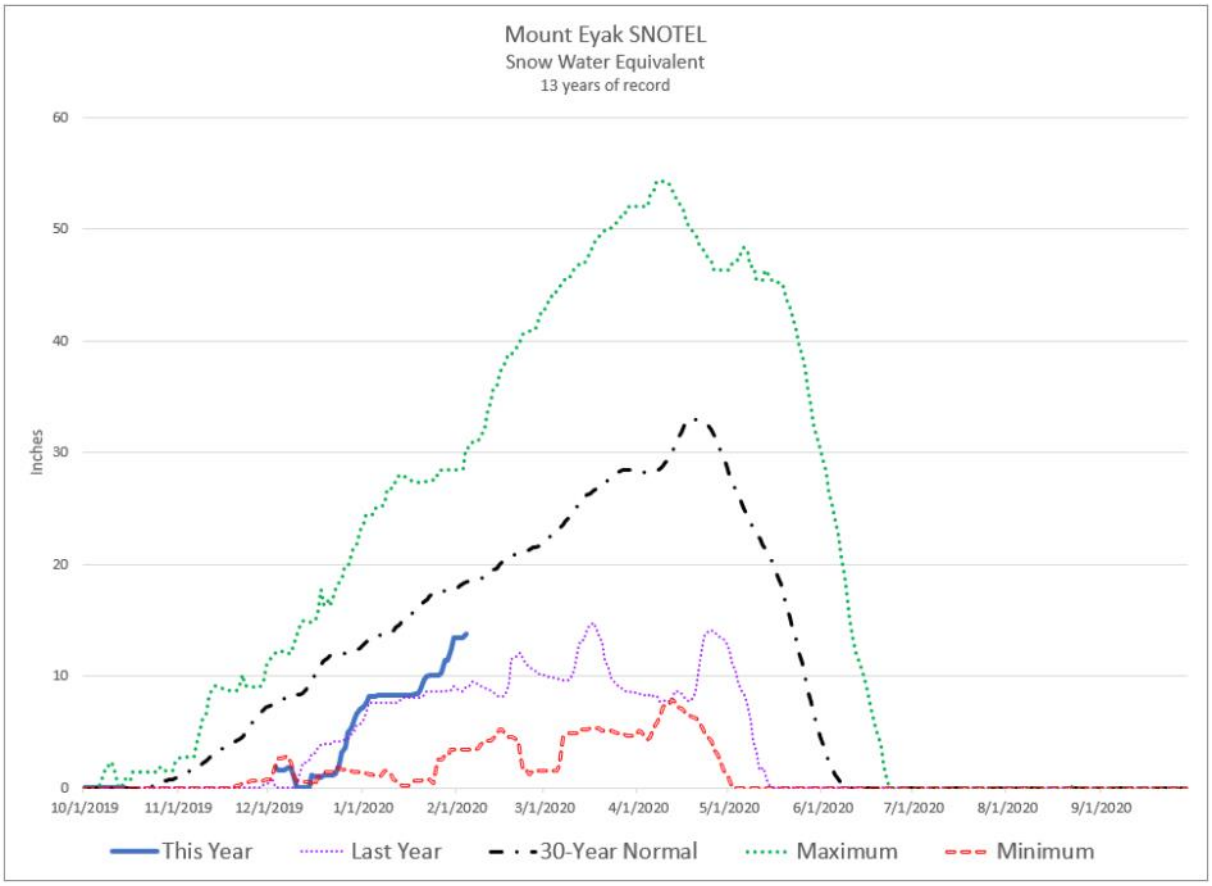
Precipitation

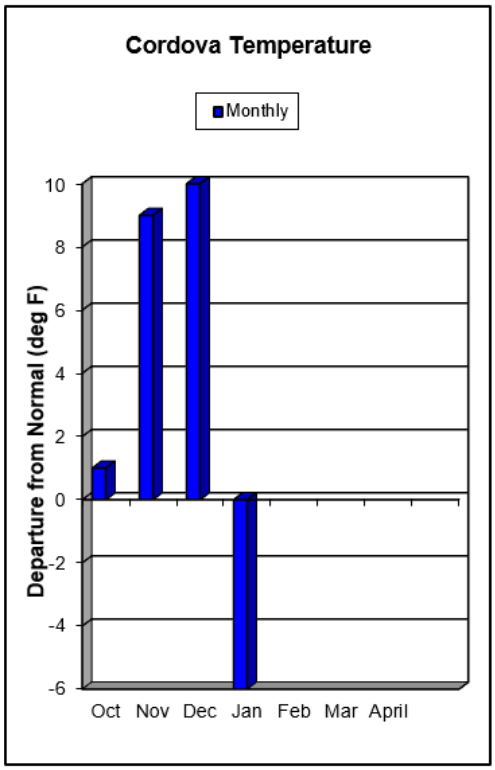
Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Anchor River Divide	1653	18.9	19.2	12.5	151%
Cooper Lake	1200	22.8	31.7	20.0	114%
Grandview	1100	32.2	43.9	30.0	107%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	29.5	39.7	28.2	105%
Kenai Moose Pens	300	7.9	8.8	6.3	125%
Mcneil Canyon	1320	14.1	16.5	13.0	108%
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	38.0	41.2	25.3	150%
Port Graham	300	43.9	40.2	36.9	119%
Summit Creek	1400	14.5	18.8	11.9	122%
Turnagain Pass	1880	26.4	38.9	28.5	93%

Western Gulf – Prince William Sound







Snowpack

Like the last two years, the Prince William Sound area has received above normal precipitation this winter. Like the last two years, reported snowpack is below normal. Similar, but different. This year the eastern side of the Sound is closer to normal snowpack, though a little low and the western side of the sound near the Kenai Peninsula is lower than last year, similar to two years ago.

Western Gulf — Prince William Sound

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal
December 1st							
Exit Glacier	400	6	0	18	0.6	0.0	3.2
Grouse Creek Divide	700	0	0	---	0.0	0.0	2.9
Nicks Valley	4280	78	70	---	---	---	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	8	0	14	1.2	0.0	4.2
Upper Tsaina River	1750	28	28	---	5.3	5.8	5.2
January 1st							
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	7	20	---	2.2	4.8	8.0
Grouse Creek Divide	700	5	17	---	2.2	5.3	8.3
Mt. Eyak	1405	23	26	---	7.2	6.0	12.8
Nicks Valley	4280	140	107	---	---	---	---
Upper Tsaina River	1750	54	55	---	12.1	12.8	9.3
February 1st							
Exit Glacier	400	21	17	42	4.2	6.6	11.7
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	19	18	---	4.0	6.4	11.7
Grouse Creek Divide	700	18	17	---	3.8	6.0	12.3
Lowe River	600	46*	---	44	10.5*	---	11.1
Mt. Eyak	1405	52	24	---	13.5	8.9	17.9
Nicks Valley	4280	115	107	---	---	---	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	---	---	59	---	---	18.6
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	60	---	60	15.0	---	16.7
Tsaina River	1650	44*	51	48	10.3*	12.7	11.2
Upper Tsaina River	1750	63	66	---	14.0	15.7	12.9
Valdez	50	38*	---	42	9.3*	---	11.4
Worthington Glacier	2100	66*	68	60	17.4*	19.5	16.8

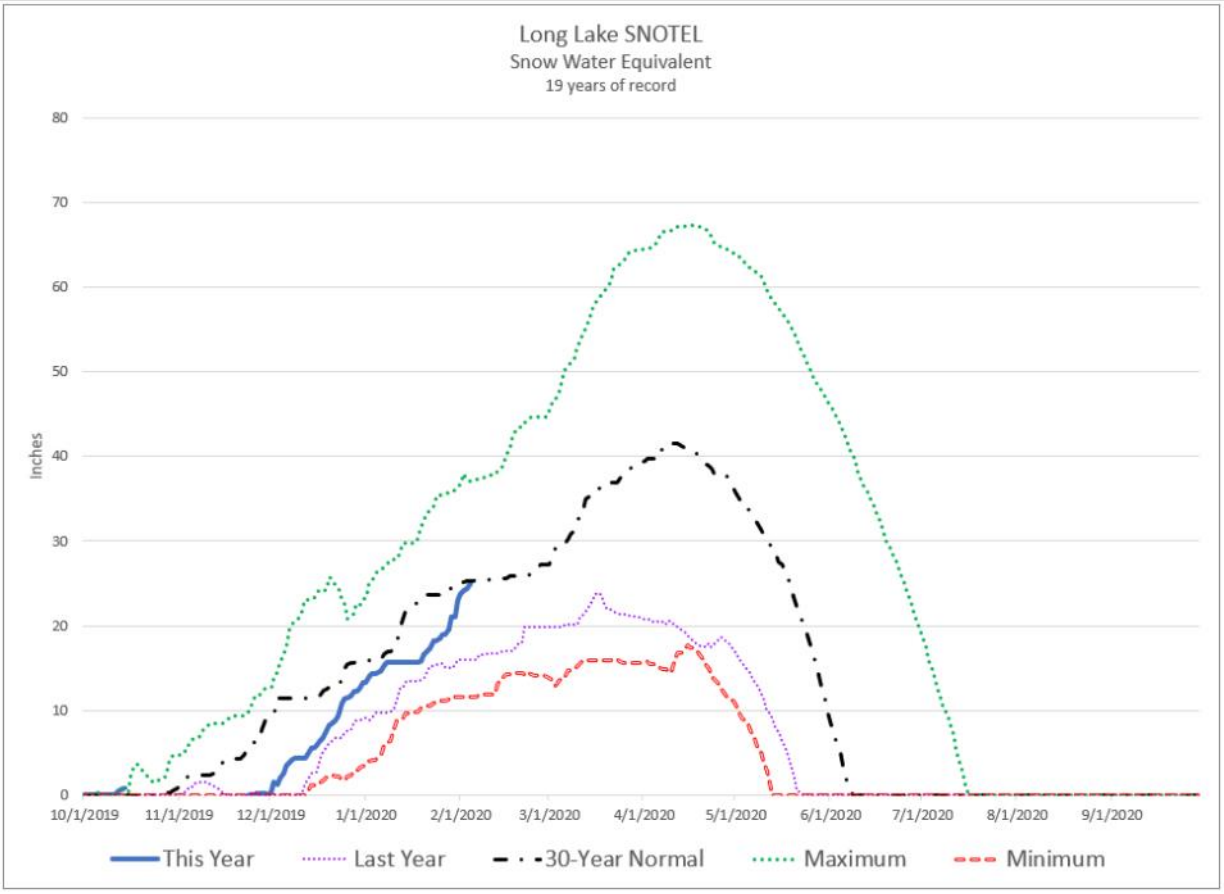
**Estimate*

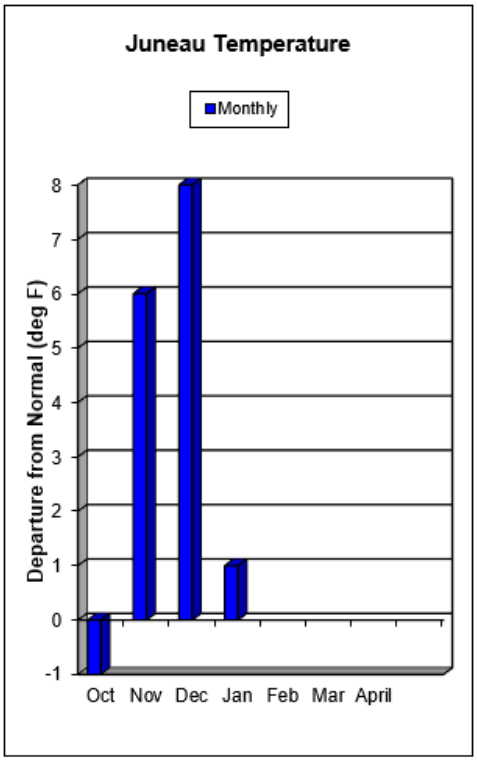
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Esther Island	50	63.9	92.4	60.7	105%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	29.5	39.7	28.2	105%
Mt. Eyak	1405	63.4	76.3	---	---
Nuchek	50	69.9	92.1	---	---
Port Graham	300	43.9	40.2	36.9	119%
Seal Island	20	---	43.4	---	---
Strawberry Reef	30	36.6	47.9	---	---
Sugarloaf Mtn	550	40.4	44.8	29.3	138%

Southeast





Snowpack

Once again, Southeast started winter late. Though still sporting below normal snowpack, December and January storms have brought the Southeast snowpack closer to a normal February snowpack than it has been in a few years. It's been 3 winters since Cropley Lake has been this high in February, 6 years for Long Lake SNOTEL, and 6 years for the Petersburg snow course. Typically, low elevation sites reach maximum snowpack in March and higher sites reach maximum snowpack in April.

Southeast

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth			Water Content		
		Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median	Current	Last Year	1981-2010 Median
December 1st							
Cropley Lake	1650	5	---	21	0.8	---	5.7
Eagle Crest	1200	7	---	6	0.8	---	1.0
Fish Creek	500	0	---	0	0.0	---	---
Long Lake	850	4	0	---	0.4	0.0	9.5
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	8	---	22	0.8	---	4.2
Petersburg Reservoir	550	0	---	---	0.0	---	---
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	0	---	---	0.0	---	---
West Creek	475	8	---	---	0.8	---	---
January 1st							
Flower Mountain	2510	---	---	---	12.0	11.5	---
Heen Latinee	2065	28	18	---	8.7	3.0	---
Long Lake	850	39	32	---	13.3	9.2	15.9
February 1st							
Cropley Lake	1650	64	---	56	15.5	---	18.4
Fish Creek	500	18	---	14	2.0	---	3.1
Flower Mountain	2510	77	43	---	18.0	13.6	---
Heen Latinee	2065	58	27	---	15.3	6.4	---
Long Lake	850	85	45	---	23.8	16.0	25.2
Petersburg Reservoir	550	18	---	16	3.4	---	3.7
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	58	---	48	14.9	---	16.7
West Creek	475	45	---	---	9.8	---	---

**Estimate*

Precipitation Data

Inches Accumulated since October 1st (as of February 1, 2020)

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Long Lake	850	83.9	69.1	75.0	112%
Heen Latinee	2065	24.2	32.2	---	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	25.4	21.3	20.1	126%

For further information contact:

NRCS Alaska web site: **www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ak/snow/**
NRCS Water and Climate Center web site: **http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/**

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