

Alaska Snow Survey Report



May 1, 2015

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Issued by:

Jason Weller, Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

Released by:

Robert Jones
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Palmer, Alaska

Published by:

Daniel Fisher, Hydrologist
Tony DeMarco, Hydrologist
Dan Kenney, Hydrologic Technician
Snow, Water and Climate Staff
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Palmer, Alaska

Cover photo: Spruce tree cutoffs mark the way across an unnamed lake in the Bear Creek Drainage, north of Galena, AK. The Galena-Huslia Winter Trail was part of the 2015 Iditarod Route.

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General Overview

SnowPack

Like last month, snowpack across the southern and western parts of Alaska remain below normal, much of it well below normal. Most low lying areas have melted out. Parts of the Interior have experienced early meltout as well and are now significantly below normal, specifically parts of the Koyukuk basin and lower Tanana.

Snowpacks become more normal in the northeast parts of the state with isolated areas of above normal snowpack in the Chena Basin and upper Porcupine Basin. Three sites in the upper Porcupine Basin, across in the Yukon Territory set new record highs and are near 200% of normal.

The upper Yukon Basin remains near normal as a whole, though the White River valley has experienced noteworthy early melting.

Southcentral remain much below normal, though parts of the Kenai Peninsula made gains in snowpack during the month.

Precipitation

The Arctic, Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska received a bountiful supply of precipitation during April. The rest of the state, not so much.

Of course, 200% of normal only equates to 1.3" and 0.8" of April precipitation at the Arctic sites of Prudhoe Bay and Sagwon SNOTEL sites while Long Lake SNOTEL, southeast of Juneau, had to receive 16.8" of April precipitation to make 243% of normal precipitation for the month.

The Kenai Peninsula also received about twice of normal April precipitation, ranging from 122% at Turnagain Pass to 303% of normal at Kachemak Creek SNOTEL, on the southwestern side of Kachemak Bay. This moisture extended east across Prince William Sound where sites averaged 177% of normal precipitation for the month.

The Anchorage area and the Mat-Su region received mixed precipitation with several sites both below and above normal for the month. The Mat-Su Basin averaged 79% of normal for the month and 70% for the winter.

The rest of the state, however, generally received below normal precipitation for the month. The ten sites in the Tanana Basin averaged 55% of normal precipitation for the month and the four sites in the Koyukuk Basin averaged 32% of normal for the month.

Temperature

Like the rest of the winter, temperatures across most of Alaska were above normal during the month of April. In most areas temperatures were further above normal than last month. Only the coastal areas in Southcentral and Southeast were closer to normal this month, rather than last month. Cordova and Juneau were only 1°F above normal for the month.

Barrow and Bettles were at 9°F above normal for the month, up from 4 and 5°F above normal last month. Fort Yukon was 8° above normal while Fairbanks, Bethel, Homer and Talkeetna were 6 °F above normal. Anchorage, Whitehorse, Gulkana and Nome were all either 3 or 4°F above normal for the month.

These warm temperatures across the state made for an early spring and advanced melting of the snowpack in many places.

Streamflow Forecasts

FORECAST POINT*	Percent of Ave. Flow	Period
Yukon River at Eagle	97	May - July
Porcupine River nr Int'l Boundary.....	128	May - July
Yukon River near Stevens Village	121	May - July
Tanana River at Fairbanks	88	May - July
Tanana River at Nenana	88	May - July
Little Chena River near Fairbanks	89	May - July
Chena River near Two Rivers	98	May - July
Salcha near Salchaket	92	May - July
Sagvanirktok River near Pump Station 3	105	May - July
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse	97	May - July
Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek	60	May - July
Gulkana River at Sourdough	94	May - July
Little Susitna River near Palmer	78	May - July
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna	83	May - July
Ship Creek near Anchorage	59	May - July
Kenai River at Cooper Landing	77	May - July
Gold Creek near Juneau	72	May - July

Snowmelt Runoff Index (SRI): for streams which no longer have stream gauging stations

FORECAST POINT	INDEX	Index	Key:
Koyukuk River at Hughes.....	-0.9		
MF Koyukuk R near Wiseman	0.0		
Slate Creek at Coldfoot.....	-0.4		
Beaver Creek above Victoria Creek.....	0.0		
Birch Creek below South Fork.....	0.0		
Caribou Creek at Chatanika.....	-0.7		
Susitna River near Gold Creek.....	-2.2	-2 to -3	much below average snow-melt runoff
Chulitna River near Talkeetna.....	-3.0		
Deshka River at mouth near Willow.....	-2.9		
Montana Creek at Parks Highway.....	-2.6		
Willow Creek near Willow.....	-2.3	-1 to -2	below average snowmelt runoff
Skwentna River at Skwentna.....	-3.0		
Chuitna River near Tyonek.....	-3.0		
Campbell Creek near Spenard.....	-3.0		
Indian Creek at Indian.....	-3.0	-1 to +1	average snow-melt runoff
Bird Creek at Bird Creek	-3.0		
Glacier Creek nr Girdwood	-3.0		
Six Mile Creek near Hope.....	-2.9		
Resurrection Creek near Hope.....	-1.7	+1 to +2	above average snowmelt runoff
Grouse Ck at Grouse Lake Outlet nr Seward	-2.6		
Anchor River near Anchor Point	-3.0		
Deep Creek near Ninilchik.....	-3.0		
Ninilchik River near Ninilchik.....	-3.0	+2 to +3	much above average snow-melt runoff
Fritz Creek near Homer.....	-3.0		
Skagway River at Skagway.....	1.5		
Municipal Watershed C nr Petersburg	-2.5		

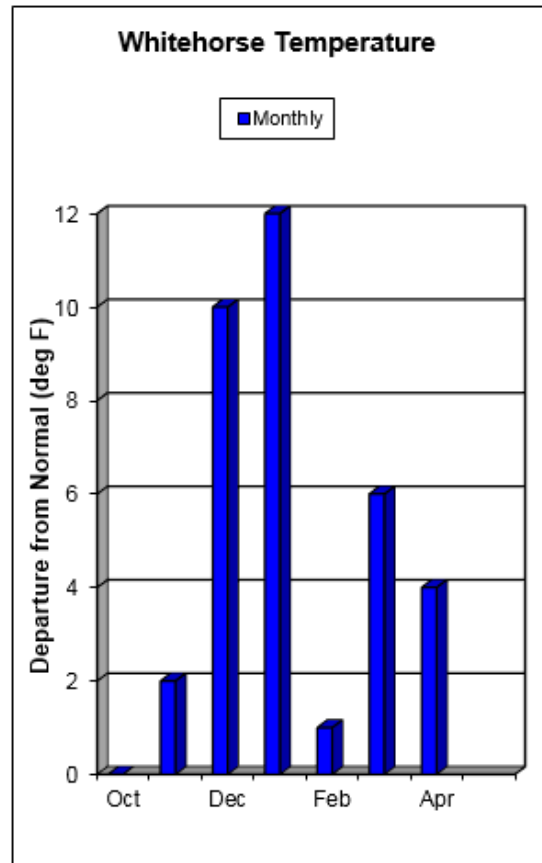
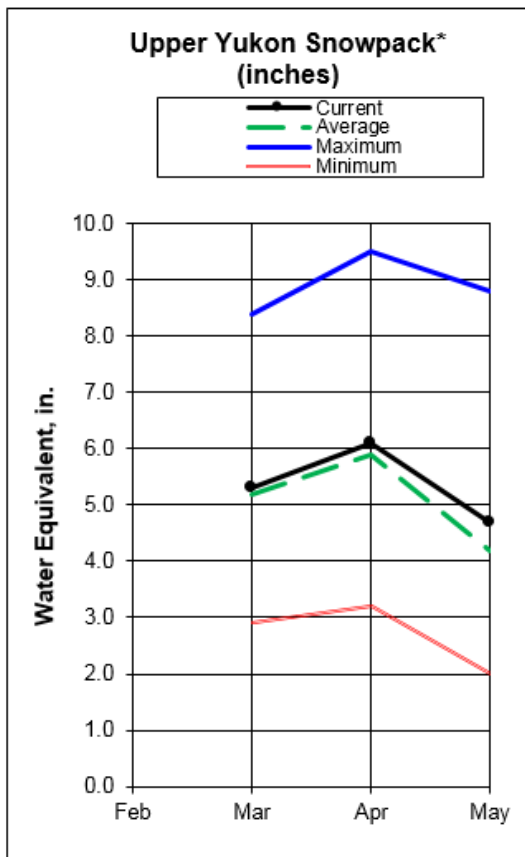
HOW FORECASTS ARE MADE

Most of the annual streamflow in the western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snow courses and automated SNOTEL sites, along with precipitation, antecedent streamflow, and indices of the El Niño / Southern Oscillation are used in computerized statistical and simulation models to prepare runoff forecasts. These forecasts are coordinated between hydrologists in the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service. Unless otherwise specified, all forecasts are for flows that would occur naturally without any upstream influences.

Forecasts of any kind, of course, are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertain knowledge of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast. The others can be interpreted similarly.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertain the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known; this is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or if they wish to increase their chances of having an adequate supply of water for their operations, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. On the other hand, if users are concerned about receiving too much water (for example, threat of flooding), they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. Regardless of the forecast value users choose for operations, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water. (Users should remember that even if the 90% exceedance probability forecast is used, there is still a 10% chance of receiving less than this amount.) By using the exceedance probability information, users can easily determine the chances of receiving more or less water.

Upper Yukon Basin



Snow pack

The Upper Yukon basin has fairly normal snowpack with three of the four main sub basins with normal to above normal snowpack and one sub basin, the White River, with below normal snowpack.

The basin above Whitehorse is considered normal, but ranges from no snow at a couple of sites to 120% of normal at Jordan Lake which has 14" of snow and 4.2" of water content.

The Stewart and Pelly Drainage snowpacks show less variability and the 13 sites in these basins average 109% of normal ranging from 86% of normal at Finlayson Airstrip to 150% of normal at Hoole River snow course. This area is typified by Russel Lake snow course which has 31" of snow and 9.3" of water content, or 108% of normal. This general above normal snowpack continues north to the area north of Dawson. The three Dawson area snow courses averaged 105% of normal ranging from 80% of normal at Grizzly Creek to 121% of normal at Midnight Dome. The Dawson area sites were completely melted out by this time last year.

The White River Drainage snow measurement sites have generally melted out. Casino Creek was the only site out of seven which were measured which had any snow and ironically it gained both depth and water content since last month. Casino Creek was measured at 151% of normal with 24" of snow depth and 6.5" of water content. This mirrors last year when during this time Casino Creek was again the only snow course in the basin with snow, but had 5.9" of water content.

Upper Yukon Basin

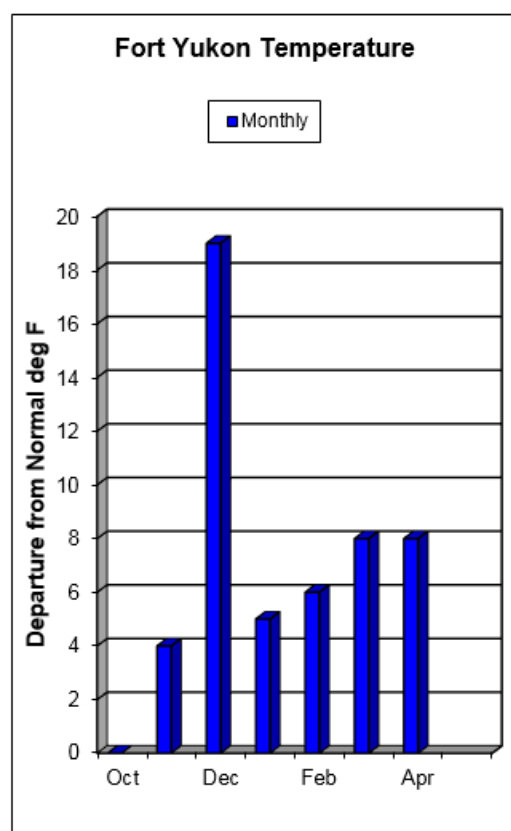
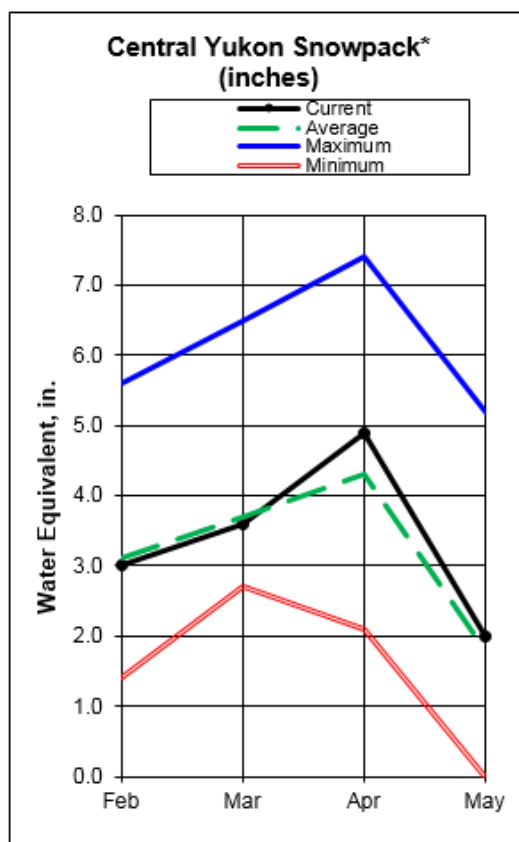
Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Arrowhead Lake	3675	No Survey	---	---	---	---	30	7.6
Atlin	2395	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	0	0.0
Beaver Creek	2150	29-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8
Burns Lake	3650	29-Apr	28	9.2	33	10.0	27	8.4
Burwash Airstrip	2660	29-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Calumet	4300	27-Apr	25	7.2	32	8.1	33	7.3
Casino Creek	3495	28-Apr	24	6.5	22	5.9	20	4.3
Chair Mountain	3500	29-Apr	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
Duke River	4300	No Survey	---	---	---	---	13	2.8
Eagle Plains	2330	1-May	33	10.1	0	0.0	18	5.1
Eagle River	1115	1-May	28	8.3	18	4.8	17	4.0
Edwards Lake	2720	30-Apr	20	5.9	13	3.4	22	6.0
Finlayson Airstrip	3240	29-Apr	6	1.9	11	2.9	8	2.2
Fuller Lake	3695	30-Apr	31	9.5	34	9.4	27	8.1
Grizzly Creek	3200	1-May	15	4.3	0	0.0	22	5.4
Hoole River	3400	29-Apr	20	5.1	22	5.8	14	3.4
Jordan Lake	3050	29-Apr	14	4.2	23	6.5	13	3.5
King Solomon Dome	3540	28-Apr	17	5.7	0	0.0	18	4.9
Log Cabin (B.C.)	2900	27-Apr	42	15.7	35	12.9	39	15.0
Macintosh	3805	28-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.1
Mayo Airport	1770	27-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meadow Creek	4050	30-Apr	42	12.8	48	15.3	39	11.1
Midnight Dome	2805	28-Apr	25	6.3	0	0.0	20	5.2
Montana Mtn.	3350	28-Apr	18	5.1	16	4.5	17	4.9
Morley Lake	2700	30-Apr	3	1.1	18	6.3	11	3.3
Mt. Berdoe	3395	28-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	2.0
Mt. McIntyre B	3600	1-May	21	5.7	25	7.1	20	5.4
Mt. Nansen	3350	28-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ogilvie River	550	1-May	21	6.0	0	0.0	---	---
Old Crow	980	27-Apr	26	7.0	---	---	19	4.0
Pelly Farm	1550	30-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Plata Airstrip	2725	30-Apr	20	7.2	12	3.9	19	5.9
Rackla Lake	3410	30-Apr	32	8.4	25	6.3	30	8.2
Riffs Ridge	2130	1-May	31	9.3	0	0.0	17	4.7
Rose Creek (Faro)	1080	27-Apr	9	2.5	12	3.0	---	---
Russell Lake	3480	30-Apr	31	9.3	30	8.6	30	8.6
Satasha Lake	3630	28-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6
Summit	985	29-Apr	20	5.6	15	3.8	21	6.4
Tagish	3540	28-Apr	18	5.1	19	5.3	16	4.6
Twin Creeks	2950	30-Apr	17	5.8	16	5.4	20	6.1
Whitehorse Airport	2300	29-Apr	0	0.0	3	0.8	0	0.0
Williams Creek	3000	28-Apr	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.9
Withers Lake	3200	30-Apr	31	10.3	26	7.5	28	8.7

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Yukon River At Eagle	May- Jul	97	109	92	31000	32000

Central Yukon Basin



Snow pack

Like last month, the Central Yukon Basin snow pack ranges from below normal to much above normal.

The upper Porcupine drainage is much above normal with the four snow courses in the Yukon Territory averaging 201% of normal snowpack. Old Crow snow course is the shallowest of the four and is 175% of normal and has 26" of snow and 7.0" of water content. This is the second deepest May 1 reading at the site in 31 years; only the snowpack in 2001 was deeper with 7.9" of water content. The other three snow courses, Riffs Ridge, Eagle Plains and Eagle River, set new record highs.

To the south, American Creek SNOTEL, near Eagle, gained 0.9" of precipitation during the month, but the snowpack is quickly melting out. The site had 1.2" of snow and 3.4" of water content, down from 4.2" of water content last month and a peak snowpack of 4.9" water content on April 20th.

The White Mountains are generally considered above normal. Upper Nome Creek gained 0.6" of precipitation during April and has 20" of snow and an estimated 6.1" of water content. Hess Creek snow course had 15" of snow and 3.5" of water content which is 135% of normal.

The Yukon Flats are quickly melting out. The Fort Yukon SNOTEL site melted out on April 28th which is two days before normal. Likewise north of the Yukon, several snow course are melting out ahead of schedule. Seven Mile snow course, just north of Yukon Crossing, was right at normal last month and is now 53% of normal with 5" of snow and 1.8" of water content.

Central Yukon Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
American Creek	1050	5/1/2015	12	3.4	4	0.9	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	5/1/2015	40	---	41	---	---	---
Cathedral Creek	1800	4/28/2015	14	4.9*	6	2.0	---	---
Coal Creek	1000	4/28/2015	4	1.2	4	1.3	---	---
Copper Creek	2000	4/28/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Crescent Creek	2600	4/28/2015	2	0.6*	0	0.0	---	---
Eagle Summit	3650	5/1/2015	17	---	11	---	---	---
Fort Yukon	430	5/1/2015	0	---	6	---	---	---
Hess Creek	1000	5/1/2015	15	3.5	15	3.6	10	2.6
Lower Beaver Creek	400	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Mission Creek	900	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Old Crow	980	4/27/2015	26	7.0	---	---	19	4.0
Seven Mile	600	5/1/2015	5	1.8	0	0.0	12	3.4
Step Mountain	2850	4/28/2015	17	5.6*	5	1.6	---	---
Thirty Mile	1350	5/1/2015	11	3.1	13	3.4	28	6.6
Three Fingers	3350	4/28/2015	25	8.5*	6	2.0	---	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	5/1/2015	20	---	10	---	---	---

**Estimate*

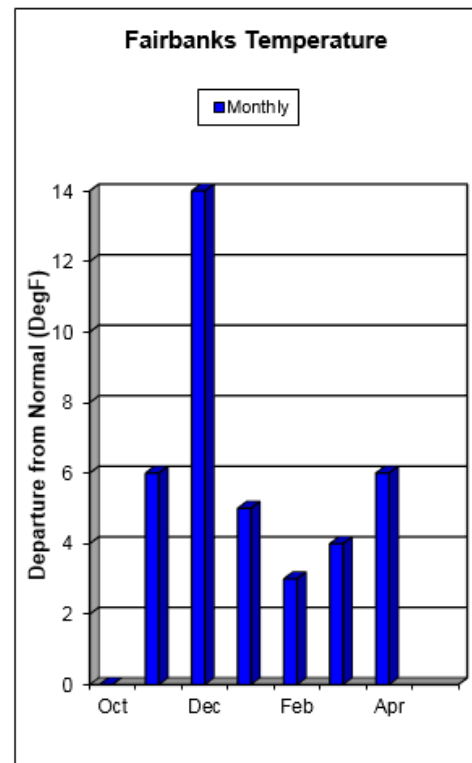
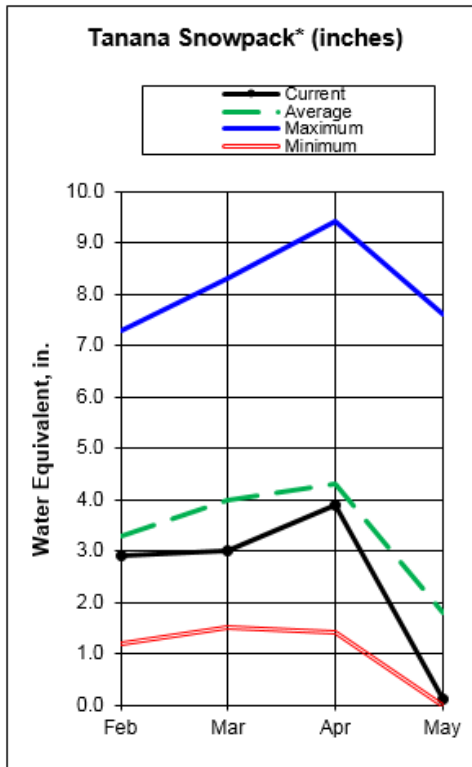
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Porcupine River near Intl Boundary	May- Jul	128	188	88	7170	5600
Yukon River near Stevens Village	May- Jul	121	134	107	56700	46800

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
American Creek	1050	5.1	4.1	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	5.1	5.4	6.7	76%
Chandalar Camp	3300	<i>No Survey</i>	4.1	5.2	---
Eagle Summit	3650	5.7	6.4	5.9	97%
Fort Yukon	430	3.2	5.6	3.9	82%
Upper Nome Creek	2520	6.7	10.1	6.5	103%

Tanana Basin



Snow pack

The Tanana Valley had variable precipitation during April, but was principally below normal, with only the Delta Junction area sites receiving above normal precipitation. The lower and upper parts of the valley received only half of normal precipitation. Low lying areas have melted out, but near normal amounts of snow exist in some parts of the mountains.

The upper valley near Tok is now near 60% of normal snowpack. Down valley near Delta Junction the low lying areas have melted, but Fielding Lake, near Isabel Pass, has 32" of snow and 9.4" of water content, or 92% of normal.

The nine Chena Valley sites averaged 102% of normal but with some lower sites having melted out ahead of normal. Munson Ridge had 28" of snow and 8.1" of water content, 103% of normal. The nearby Chatanika Valley had two lower sites which were melted out which is normal, but the two upper elevation sites, Cleary Summit and Faith Creek, were 150% of normal.

To the south, Kantishna SNOTEL has 6" of snow with an estimated water content of 1.5" which is 68% of normal. All other sites measured in this area were melted out.

Tanana Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Bonanza Creek	1150	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	---	---	0	0.0
Caribou Creek	1250	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	---	---	0	0.0
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	---	---	0	0.0
Chisana	3320	5/1/2015	7	1.8	10	3.4	---	2.8
Cleary Summit	2230	4/29/2015	23	6.3	17	5.2	19	4.9
Colorado Creek	700	4/29/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.0
Fairbanks F.O.	450	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	0.0
Faith Creek	1750	4/29/2015	15	3.9	3	0.8	7	2.0
Fielding Lake	3000	4/30/2015	32	9.4	42	11.4	34	10.2
Fort Greely	1500	4/30/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
French Creek	1800	4/30/2015	20	5.2	5	1.2	13	3.6
Gerstle River	1200	4/30/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6
Granite Crk	1240	5/1/2015	1	0.5	0	0.0	---	0.0
Jatahmund Lake	2180	5/1/2015	0	0.0	---	---	0	0.2
Kantishna	1550	4/29/2015	6	1.5*	6	1.7	9	2.2
Lake Minchumina	730	4/29/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Little Chena Ridge	2000	5/1/2015	4	1.4	0	0.0	---	2.3
Little Chena Bottom	1100	5/1/2015	9	2.3*	0	0.0	8	1.7
Mentasta Pass	2430	4/30/2015	12	3.1*	12	3.9	14	3.9
Monument Creek	1850	5/1/2015	7	3.2	0	0.0	---	2.1
Mt. Ryan	2800	5/1/2015	20	5.4	10	4.2	---	4.7
Munson Ridge	3100	5/1/2015	28	8.1	30	10.0	---	7.9
Paradise Hill	2200	5/1/2015	0	0.0	---	0.0	0	0.0
Rock Creek Bottom	2250	4/29/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8
Rock Creek Ridge	2600	4/29/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	1.9
Shaw Creek Flats	980	4/30/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Teuchet Creek	1640	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	1.3
Tok Junction	1650	4/30/2015	0	0.0	7	1.9	0	0.0
Upper Chena	3000	5/1/2015	24	7.2	22	7.8	21	6.0

*Estimate

Streamflow Forecasts

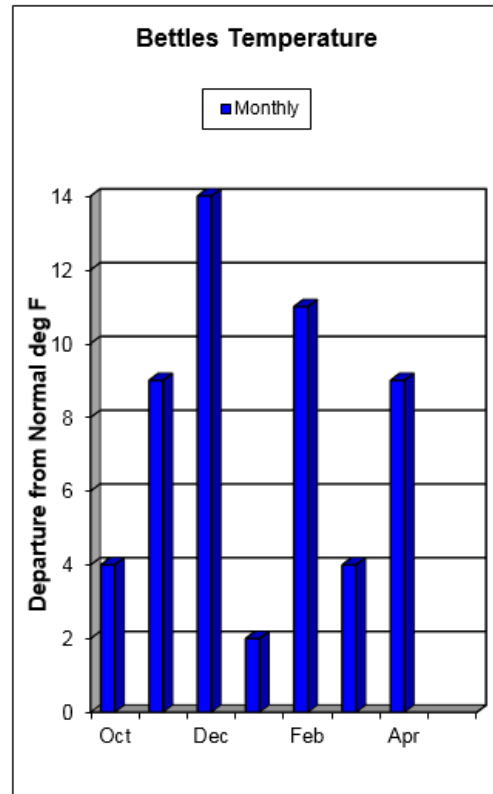
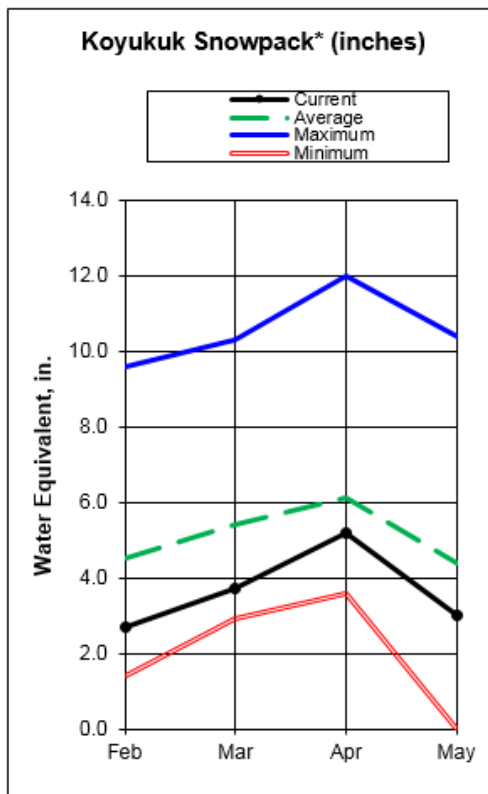
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Salcha River near Salchaket	May- Jul	92	124	65	545	595
Tanana River at Fairbanks	May- Jul	88	102	74	6180	7000
Chena River near Two Rivers	May- Jul	98	133	64	250	255
Little Chena River near Fairbanks	May- Jul	89	120	57	64	72
Tanana River at Nenana	May- Jul	88	102	74	7450	8470

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Chisana	3320	2.7	5.3	---	---
Fairbanks F.O.	450	3.5	4.9	4.9	71%
Granite Crk	1240	4.0	4.7	4.4	91%
Kantishna	1550	4.4	6.4	5.0	88%
Little Chena Ridge	2000	3.7	4.1	6.2	60%
Nenana	415	3.3	3.9	---	---
Tok	1630	3.4	5.2	---	---
Upper Chena	2850	7.3	10.4	7.9	92%

Western Interior Basins



Snow pack

Koyukuk

Low precipitation and above normal temperatures have accelerated the meltout in much of the Koyukuk Basin. The snowpack went from near 90% of normal last month to near just under 60% of normal this month. Sites ranged from melted out to 94% of normal at Table Mountain snow course, north of Coldfoot, which had 15" of snow and 4.5" of water content. In the lower Koyukuk, Hozatka Lake SCAN site was measured with 21" of snow and 4.2" of water content on April 14th, but had melted out by May 3rd.

Kuskokwim

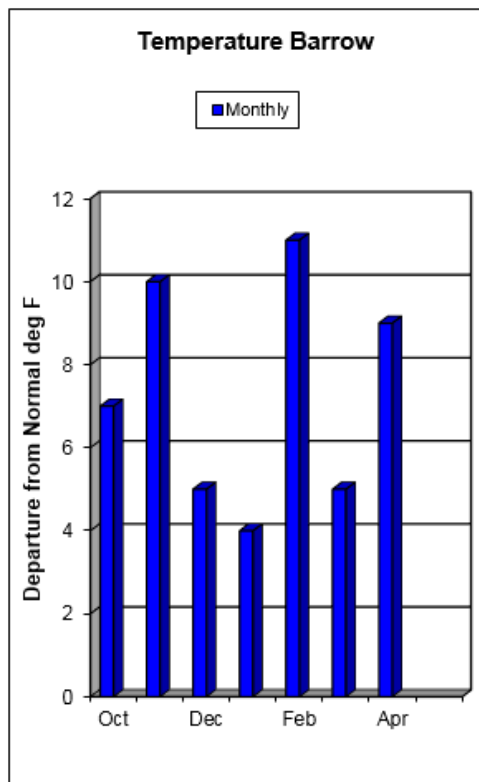
The Kuskokwim Basin snowpack continues to be skimpy this month. The Telaquana Lake snow course receive snow during early April but rapidly melted out again. Lake Minichumina snow course has melted out. The new SNOTEL site at Telaquana Lake received 1.6" of precipitation during April and a total of 4.7" of precipitation since October 1st.

The Purkey Pile Mine snow course was interestingly near normal, but is considered to be somewhat anomalous.

Lower Yukon

The Lower Yukon is much below normal, but better than last year at this time. Ninemile Island, upstream from Nulato, has 19" of snow; last year at this time is had none. Yank Slough, upstream from Grayling had 9" of snow with an estimated water content of 2.6", 35% of normal. Upstream, the sites near Ruby in the Nowitna Refuge have melted out.

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound



Snow pack

Arctic

The Arctic had above normal precipitation. The snowpack is normal to above normal as well. The Umiat snow measurement site, which was measured midmonth, had 18" of snow depth and 3.2" of water content. Sagwon SNOTEL gained 5" of snow during April.

Kotzebue

The Kotzebue Sound area had above normal precipitation for the month. Kelly Station SNOTEL site had 0.6" of precipitation during the month and currently has 23" of snow with 6.7" of water content which is 106% of this site's seven year average. Kotzebue itself received 0.6" of precipitation which is considered 150% of normal, but only has 3" of snow on the ground at the NWS observation station.

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Atigun Pass	4800	5/1/2015	40	---	41	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	5/1/2015	32	---	28	---	---	---
Kelly Station	310	5/1/2015	23	6.7	8	2.1	---	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	5/1/2015	21	---	22	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	5/1/2015	22	---	19	---	---	---
Umiat Airport	267	4/16/2015	19	3.2	---	---	---	---

Streamflow Forecasts

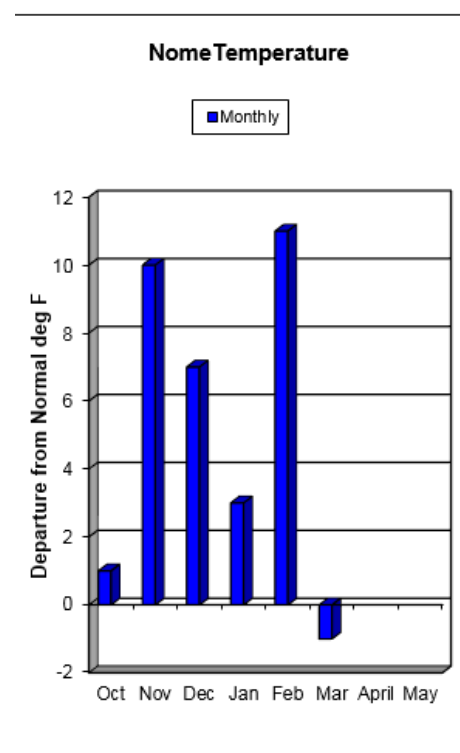
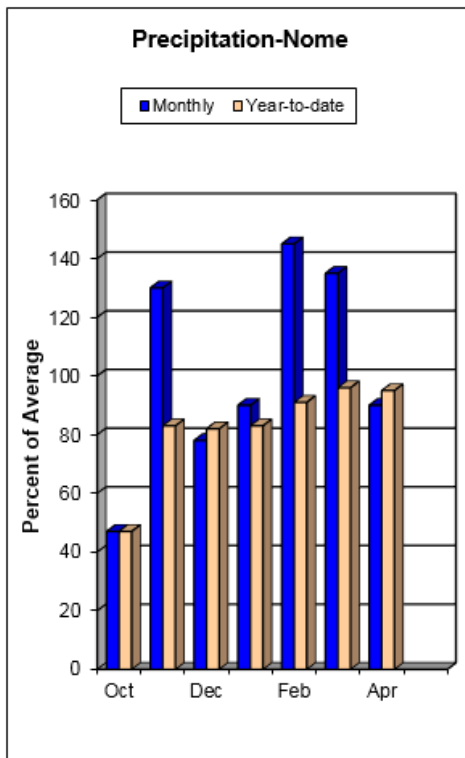
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse	May- Jul	97	138	69	775	795
Sagavanirktok River near Pump Station 3	May- Jul	105	155	71	715	683

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Arctic					
Atigun Camp	3400	---	3.1	3.0	---
Atigun Pass	4800	5.1	5.4	6.7	76%
Barrow	25	1.6	2.3	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	4.4	3.3	3.3	133%
Prudhoe Bay	30	4.0	3.7	4.1	98%
Sagwon	1000	3.7	3.2	3.4	109%
Kotzebue Sound					
Port Red Dog	50	No Survey	5.2	4.3	---
Red Dog Mine	950	No Survey	9.4	5.3	---
Kelly Station	310	5.8	8.9	---	---

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay



Snow pack

Norton Sound

Northern Norton Sound snowpack was the beneficiary of a couple of mid-April storms. Rocky Point SNOTEL received 125% of normal April precipitation. Rocky Point snowpack peaked April 23rd at 25" of snow depth, but has since melted out to 13" by May 1.

Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

The snowpack has mostly melted out in the Y-K Delta. Bethel received a few snowstorms during April, but the snow has since melted. Kanaryagak SCAN site, located southeast of Chevak, started the month with 7" of snow, but most of it melted out during the last week of April and by May 2 had melted out.

Bristol Bay

Snow continues to be minimal or non-existent in the Bristol Bay basin. All measured stations reported no snow. Naknek River SCAN near King Salmon caught 2.3" of precipitation during the month while Weary Lake SCAN site, 20 miles northwest of Dillingham, measured 4.8" during the month.

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay

Snowpack Data

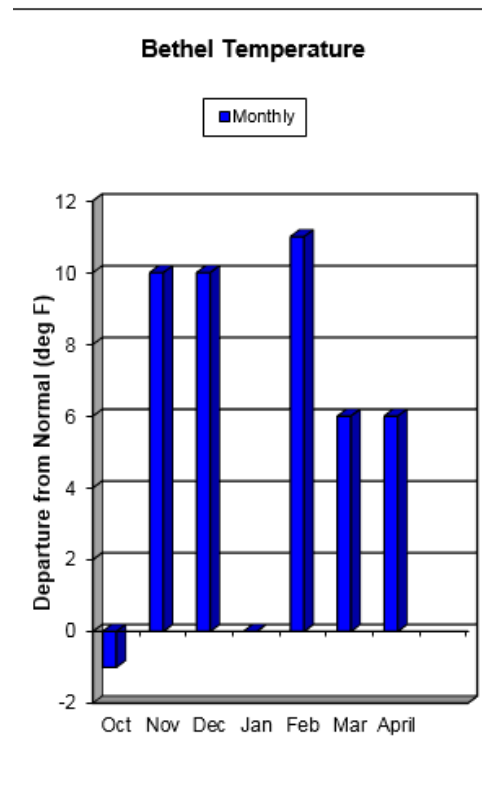
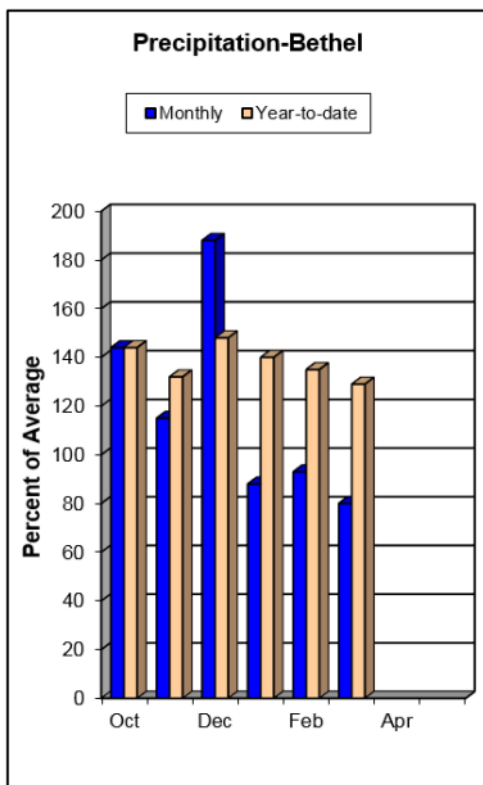
Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Bristol Bay								
Brooks Camp	150	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	0	0.0	---	---
Port Alsworth	270	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	0	0.0	---	---
Three Forks	1300	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	0	0.0	---	---
Weary Lake	100	5/1/2015	2	---	0	---	---	---
Norton Sound								
Pargon Creek	100	5/1/2015	4	1.0*	0	---	---	---
Rocky Point	250	5/1/2015	13	2.4*	0	---	---	---
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta								
Kanaryagak Camp	13	5/1/2015	2	---	0	---	---	---
<i>*Estimate</i>								

*Estimate

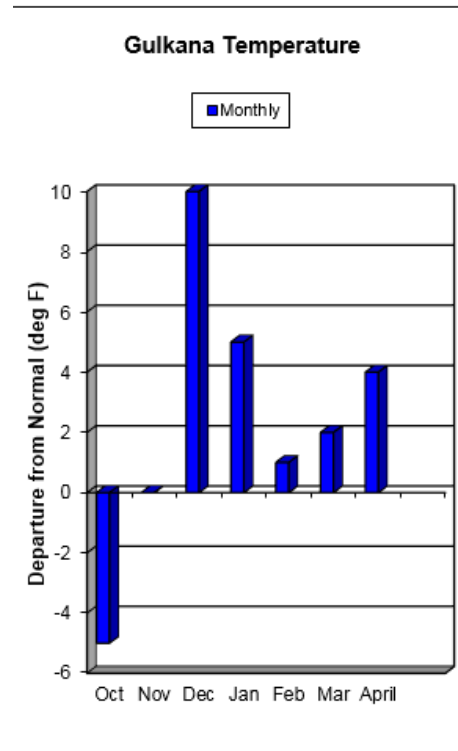
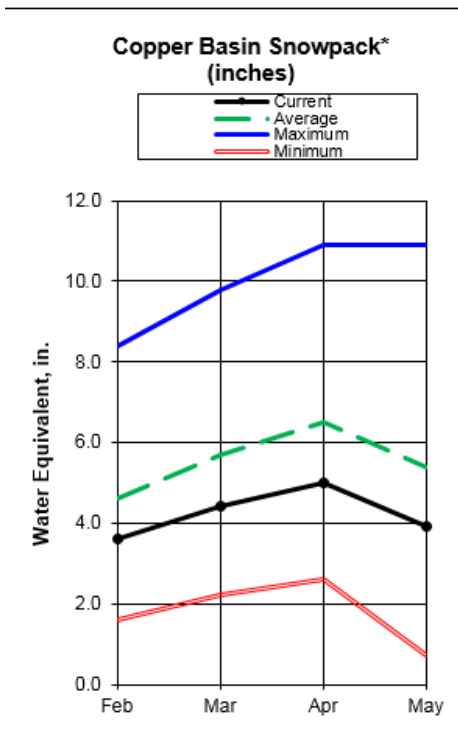
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Bristol Bay					
Lower Mulchatna	320	9.4	12.4	---	---
Naknek River	100	8.7	14.1	---	---
Weary Lake	100	38.8	51.5	---	---
Norton Sound					
Checkers Creek	326	1.9	---	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	---	9.2	6.7	---
Rocky Point	250	4.1	8.4	5.8	71%
Yukon - Kuskokwim Delta					
Kanaryagak Camp	13	3.6	8.5	---	---



Copper Basin



Snow pack

The snowpack in the Copper River Basin is below normal, but parts of the basin floor were near or above normal.

The Alaska Range courses held steady during April and averaged 88% of normal, up 1% from last month and 2% from March. Paxson snow course which is 95% normal has 25" of snow and 6.1" of water content, down from 31" inches on snow and 7.0" of water content last month.

Much of the basin floor has melted out, but the remaining snowpack is at or near normal. The snowpack in the Chugach range is near 75% of normal. Upper Tsaina SNOTEL had 41" of snow with 16.5" of water content, 86% of normal.

Copper Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Chistochina	1950	4/30/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fielding Lake	3000	4/30/2015	32	9.4	42	11.4	34	10.2
Haggard Creek	2540	4/30/2015	18	4.4	12	3.8	14	4.3
Kenny Lake School	1300	4/30/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Little Nelchina	2650	4/30/2015	10	2.5	12	3.2	12	3.7
May Creek	1610	5/1/2015	0	0.0	5	1.3	---	2.0
Mentasta Pass	2430	4/30/2015	12	3.1*	12	3.9	14	3.9
Paxson	2650	4/30/2015	25	6.1*	28	8.2	22	6.4
Tazlina	1250	4/30/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tolsona Creek	2000	4/30/2015	9	2.2	7	2.1	0	0.0
Tsaina River	1650	4/30/2015	22	8.0	30	10.1	42	14.0
Upper Tsaina River	1750	5/1/2015	41	16.5	44	16.7	---	19.2
Worthington Glacier	2100	4/30/2015	51	18.9	53	19.6	63	24.6
<i>*Estimate</i>								

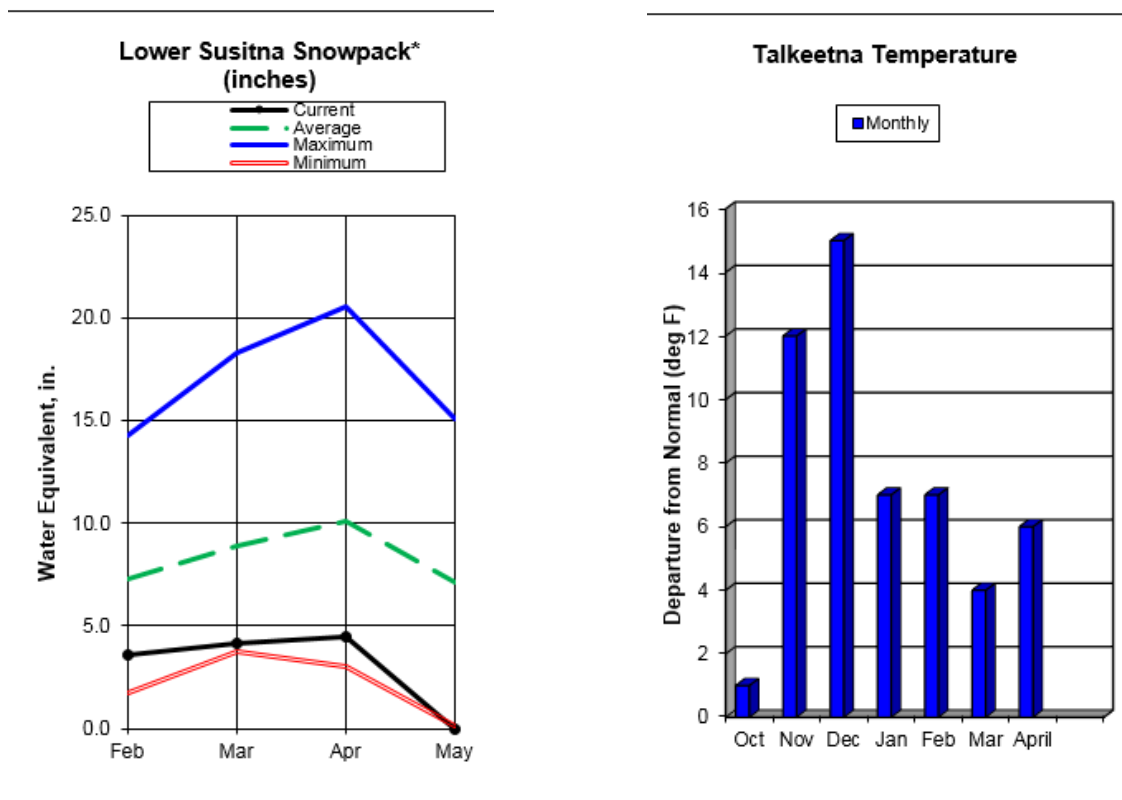
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Gulkana River at Sourdough	May- Jul	94	122	65	390	415

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
May Creek	1610	5.1	8.4	6.5	78%
Upper Tsaina River	1750	21.5	36.4	28.5	75%

Matanuska—Susitna Basin



Snow pack

The snowpack across the Matanuska and Susitna Basins continues to be well below normal. Most low elevation sites have melted out.

The lower Susitna Basin snow courses average to 32% of normal and the upper basin 69%. Su Valley High SNOTEL with 28 years of observations reported no snow for the first time since 2003, the only other year in 28 years of record. Many snow courses in the area reported their lowest numbers since 2003.

In the Matanuska Basin, the southern Talkeetna Mountains are below normal as well. Independence Mine snow course lost 1" of snow depth but gained 1.3" of water during April and now has 48" of snow with 16.2" of water content, 74% of normal. Sheep Mountain was 33% of normal with 4" of snow and 1.0" of water content.

Matanuska—Susitna Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Alexander Lake	160	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	27	7.7
Alexander Lake SNOTEL	160	5/1/2015	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
Archangel Road	2200	4/29/2015	23	8.5	25	9.5	35	11.7
Blueberry Hill	1200	5/1/2015	19	7.7	30	12.4	40	14.1
Chelatna Lake	1450	4/29/2015	19	6.9*	8	3.2	30	9.6
Denali View	700	5/1/2015	2	0.7	14	4.9	27	9.1
Dunkle Hills	2700	4/29/2015	27	9.2*	48	18.5	---	---
Dutch Hills	3100	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	76	28.6	71	25.7
E. Fork Chulitna	1770	5/1/2015	32	10.1	37	12.0	42	12.4
Fishhook Basin	3300	4/29/2015	42	14.2	54	19.5	55	19.5
Fog Lakes	2120	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	5.1	15	3.8
Halfway Slough	350	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	4/29/2015	48	16.2	63	23.3	61	21.8
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	5/1/2015	32	10.6	46	17.4	---	14.6
Lake Louise	2400	4/30/2015	10	2.6	10	2.3	11	2.9
Little Susitna	1700	4/29/2015	10	2.8	15	4.8	21	8.2
Monahan Flat	2710	5/1/2015	21	---	29	---	---	---
Nugget Bench	2010	4/29/2015	19	7.0*	16	6.4	42	13.9
Point Mackenzie	250	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	0.0
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	42	17.4	57	19.7
Sheep Mountain	2900	4/30/2015	4	1.0	4	1.3	11	3.1
Skwentna	160	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	30	9.5
Susitna Valley High	375	5/1/2015	0	0.0	1	0.5	---	5.1
Talkeetna	350	5/1/2015	0	0.0	8	2.7	12	4.0
Tokositna Valley	850	4/29/2015	17	6.8*	10	3.9	44	15.0
Tokositna Valley SNOTEL	850	5/1/2015	25	10.7	14	5.7	---	11.8
Willow Airstrip	200	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	3.3

*Estimate

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Little Susitna River near Palmer	May- Jul	78	101	54	62	80
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna	May- Jul	83	99	67	1270	1530

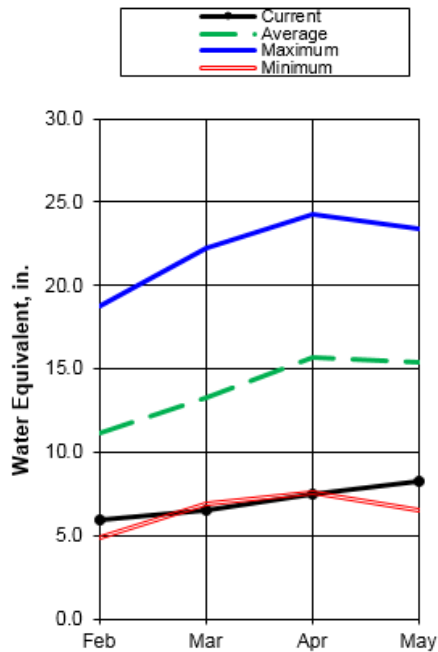
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

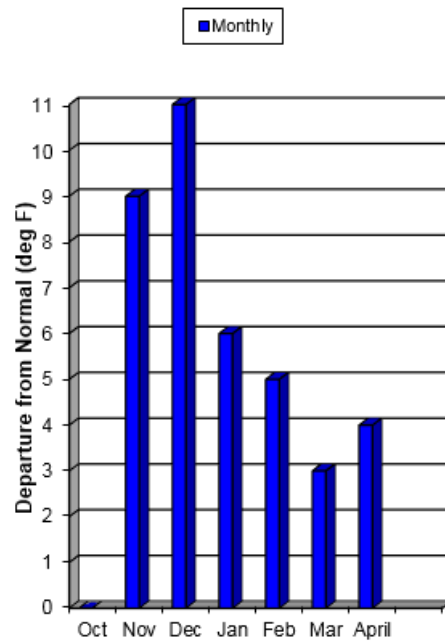
Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Alexander Lake	160	10.7	---	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	13.7	25.0	18.0	76%
Monahan Flat	2710	5.3	7.7	8.6	62%
Susitna Valley High	375	8.6	18.2	13.4	64%
Tokositna Valley	850	15.5	29.8	21.4	72%

Northern Cook Inlet

Ship Creek Snowpack* (inches)



Anchorage Temperature



Snow pack

Snow Conditions in Northern Cook Inlet are much below normal. The 8 snow sites in the basin averaged only 26% of normal, about the same as the last three months.

Even though Mt. Alyeska SNOTEL gained 3.7" of snow water content, it is still only 16% of normal and continues to set a new record low for the 38 year old site. Indian Pass gained 1" and 3.7" of snow water content during April and is now 67% of normal with 51" of snow and 16.3" of water content.

Northern Cook Inlet

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Anchorage Hillside	2080	5/1/2015	0	0.0	7	1.9	---	10.8
Arctic Ski Bowl	3000	No Survey	---	---	---	---	40	14.0
Arctic Valley #1	500	No Survey	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Arctic Valley #2	1000	No Survey	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Arctic Valley #3	1450	No Survey	---	---	---	---	8	2.2
Arctic Valley #4	2030	No Survey	---	---	---	---	13	5.0
Congahbuna Lake	550	No Survey	---	---	---	---	24	8.1
Indian Pass	2350	5/1/2015	51	16.3	38	10.6	---	24.3
Kincaid Park	250	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Moraine	2100	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	6.5
Mt. Alyeska	1540	5/1/2015	17	6.1	31	11.0	---	35.2
Point Mackenzie	250	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	0.0
Portage Valley	50	5/1/2015	0	0.0	4	2.1	14	6.2
South Campbell Creek	1200	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	3.4

*Estimate

Streamflow Forecasts

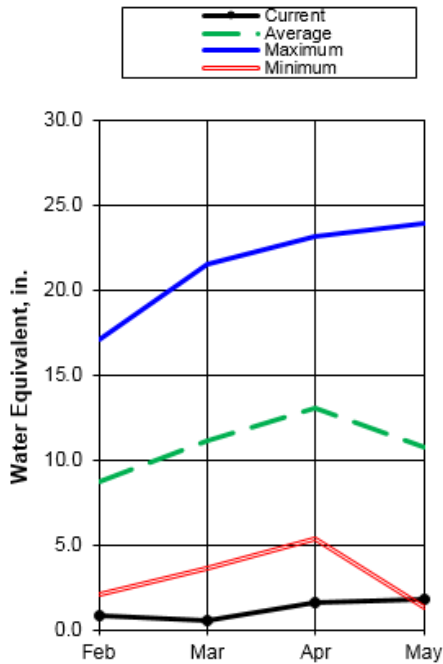
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Ship Creek near Anchorage	May- Jul	59	82	36	33	56

Precipitation

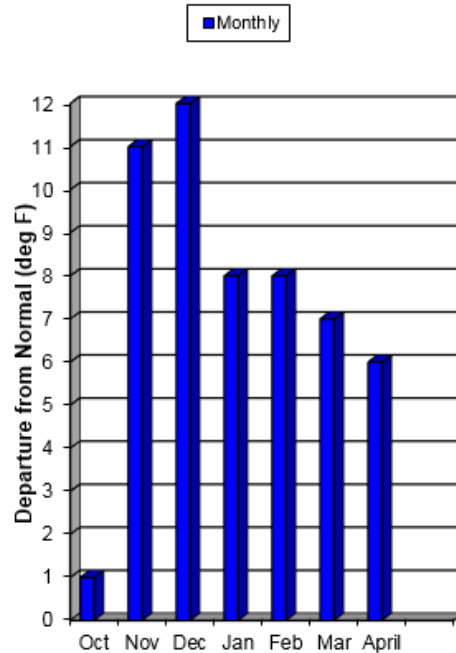
Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Anchorage Hillside	2080	9.1	16.9	15.5	59%
Indian Pass	2350	20.7	29.0	28.4	73%
Moraine	2100	7.5	9.9	12.7	59%
Mt. Alyeska	1540	42.1	42.8	52.9	80%
Point Mackenzie	250	5.2	12.2	8.6	60%

Kenai Peninsula

Northern Kenai Mtn. Snowpack* (inches)



Homer Temperature



Snow pack

The Kenai Peninsula is one of the few parts of the state to make snowpack gains during April. Much of the peninsula received twice the normal amount of April precipitation. However, the measured snowpack is still bleak. The peninsula's 18 sites average 22% of normal, up from 18% last month.

Bertha Creek now has 8" of snow with 2.7" of water content, up from 7" with 1.8" of water content last month. The previous record low at this 45 year old snow course was set in 1970 with 12" of snow with 3.8" of water content.

Nuka Glacier SNOTEL site south of Kachemak Creek saw 6.5" of precipitation during April, which is 165% of normal and now has 20" of snow.

Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Anchor River Divide	1653	5/1/2015	14	5.5	8	4.4	---	10.0
Bertha Creek	950	4/29/2015	8	2.7	21	8.2	50	17.7
Bridge Creek	1300	4/30/2015	0	0.0	5	1.5	32	10.6
Cooper Lake	1200	5/1/2015	1	0.7	12	4.0	---	12.0
Demonstration Forest	780	4/30/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	4.6
Eagle Lake	1400	4/30/2015	5	2.0	0	0.0	24	9.0
Exit Glacier	400	4/30/2015	0	0.0	1	0.7	26	10.8
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	2.3	---	11.0
Grandview	1100	5/1/2015	26	7.5	30	9.3	---	34.6
Grouse Creek Divide	700	5/1/2015	6	1.6	12	---	---	16.0
Jean Lake	620	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Kachemak Creek	1660	5/1/2015	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Kenai Moose Pens	300	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	0.0
Kenai Summit	1390	4/29/2015	7	2.8	7	2.6	30	11.3
Mcneil Canyon	1320	5/1/2015	0	0.0	2	0.3	---	8.0
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	5/1/2015	26	---	15	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	4/29/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mt. Alyeska	1540	5/1/2015	17	6.1	31	11.0	---	35.2
Nuka Glacier	1250	No Survey	---	---	27	11.3	93	42.8
Port Graham	300	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	4.0
Portage Valley	50	5/1/2015	0	0.0	4	2.1	14	6.2
Snug Harbor Road	500	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Summit Creek	1400	5/1/2015	7	3.1	8	2.6	---	6.7
Turnagain Pass	1880	5/1/2015	62	17.4	50	21.3	---	39.8

*Estimate

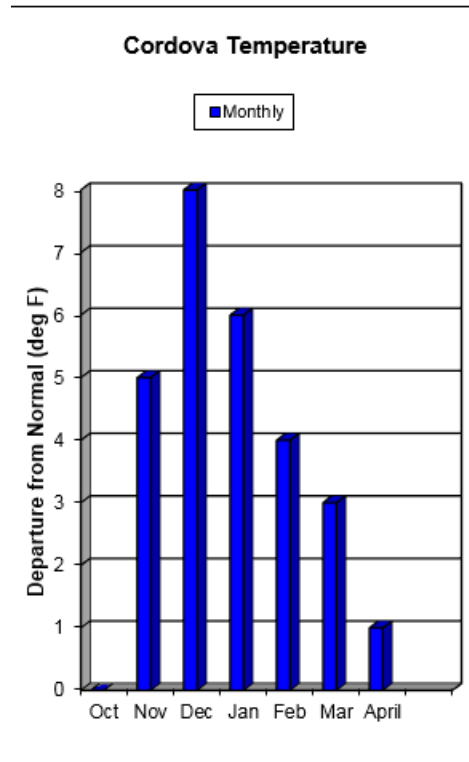
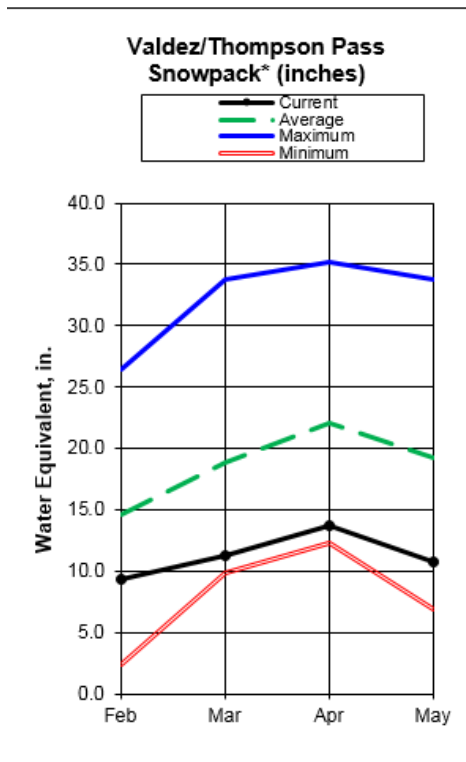
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Kenai River at Cooper Landing	May- Jul	77	90	64	710	920

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Anchor River Divide	1653	16.7	19.6	18.5	90%
Cooper Lake	1200	22.2	29.2	27.1	82%
Grandview	1100	48.3	37.1	46.9	103%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	41.7	43.9	41.9	100%
Kachemak Creek	1660	61.5	51.5	41.7	147%
Kenai Moose Pens	300	3.8	9.8	8.9	43%
Mcneil Canyon	1320	13.6	14.1	17.9	76%
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	41.1	35.7	35.6	115%
Nuka Glacier	1250	73.7	61.1	60.8	121%
Port Graham	300	50.5	50.5	52.8	96%
Summit Creek	1400	14.3	21.7	17.1	84%
Turnagain Pass	1880	39.5	39.9	47.2	84%

Western Gulf



Snow pack

The Western Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound area had above normal precipitation but continues to have below normal snowpack. Measured snowpack in Prince William Sound ranges from 0%-86% of normal. The more substantial snowpacks are in the eastern side of the Sound. The Valdez area snow courses averaged 57% of normal.

Western Gulf

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Exit Glacier	400	4/30/2015	0	0.0	1	0.7	26	10.8
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	5/1/2015	0	0.0	0	2.3	---	11.0
Grouse Creek Divide	700	5/1/2015	6	1.6	12	---	---	16.0
Lowe River	600	4/30/2015	16	5.7	20	7.8	32	11.8
Mt. Eyak	1405	5/1/2015	15	6.9	17	7.3	---	28.1
Nuka Glacier	1250	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	27	11.3	93	42.8
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	5/2/2015	47*	16.5*	---	---	61	23.9
Tsaina River	1650	4/30/2015	22	8.0	30	10.1	42	14.0
Upper Tsaina River	1750	5/1/2015	41	16.5	44	16.7	---	19.2
Valdez	50	4/30/2015	6	2.1	15	5.4	28	10.4
Worthington Glacier	2100	4/30/2015	51	18.9	53	19.6	63	24.6

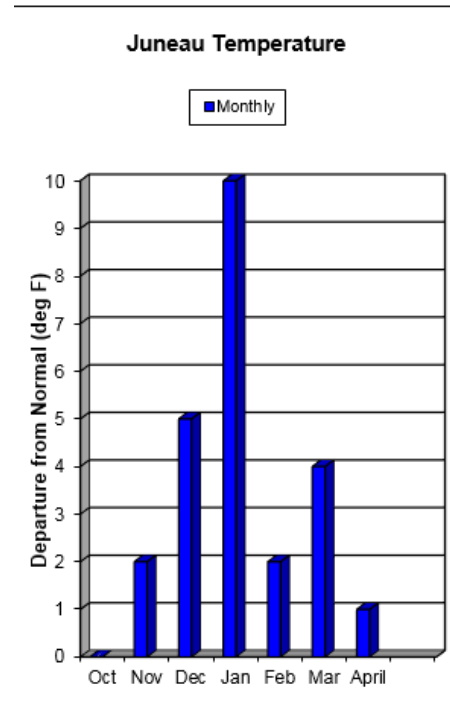
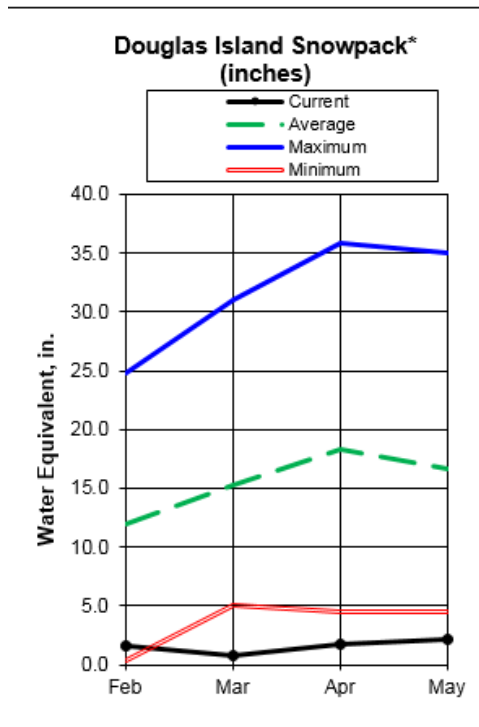
*Estimate

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Esther Island	50	103.1	97.5	89.0	116%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	41.7	43.9	41.9	100%
Mt. Eyak	1405	79.2	85.5	---	---
Nuchek	50	94.6	100.3	---	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	73.7	61.1	60.8	121%
Port San Juan	50	92.4	77.9	85.4	108%
Seal Island	20	46.1	41.1	---	---
Strawberry Reef	30	55.5	41.6	---	---
Sugarloaf Mtn	550	40.7	58.7	44.4	92%
Tatitlek	50	48.7	55.1	44.1	110%

Southeast



Snow pack

The snowpack in Southeast Alaska continues to be paltry. Several new record lows continue to be set. Southeast Alaska received close to twice the normal precipitation for the month of April, but it came as rain to most locations.

The 50 year old Speel River snow course, southeast of Juneau, was reported to have no snow. Speel's previous low was in 1984 when it had 6" of snow and 2.0" of water content. On Douglas Island, Cropley Lake snow course set a new record low with 17" of snow and 6.2" of water content. This is a new record low for the site, which began in 1977. The previous low had been set in 2003 with 30" and 11.2" of water content.

To the south, it is estimated that Petersburg Ridge has no snow. This would be a record low for the 37 year old snow course.

Southeast of Wrangell, near the Tyee Lake Hydroelectric Project, the snowline is near 2000' high, but there is ample snow higher. The Upper Tyee Creek snow course, at 2848' in elevation, has 130" of snow and 49.3" of water content. This is 10% less than last year.

Southeast

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Cropley Lake	1650	4/29/2015	17	6.2	71	29.5	70	29.6
Eagle Crest	1200	4/29/2015	0	0.0	39	14.2	34	12.2
Fish Creek	500	4/29/2015	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Institute Creek	1350	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	3	1.2	---	---
Long Lake	850	5/1/2015	33	14.3	84	32.2	---	35.8
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	4/30/2015	44	17.5	---	---	51	20.7
Mount Tyee	3090	4/17/2015	104	37.8	129	58.0	---	---
Petersburg Reservoir	550	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	0	0.0	0	0.0
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	46	18.6	52	22.4
Rainbow Falls	500	5/1/2015	0*	0.0*	0	0.0	---	---
Speel River	280	5/1/2015	0	0.0	---	24.2	50	22.0
Upper Tyee Creek	2848	4/17/2015	130	49.3	152	53.0	---	---

*Estimate

Streamflow Forecasts

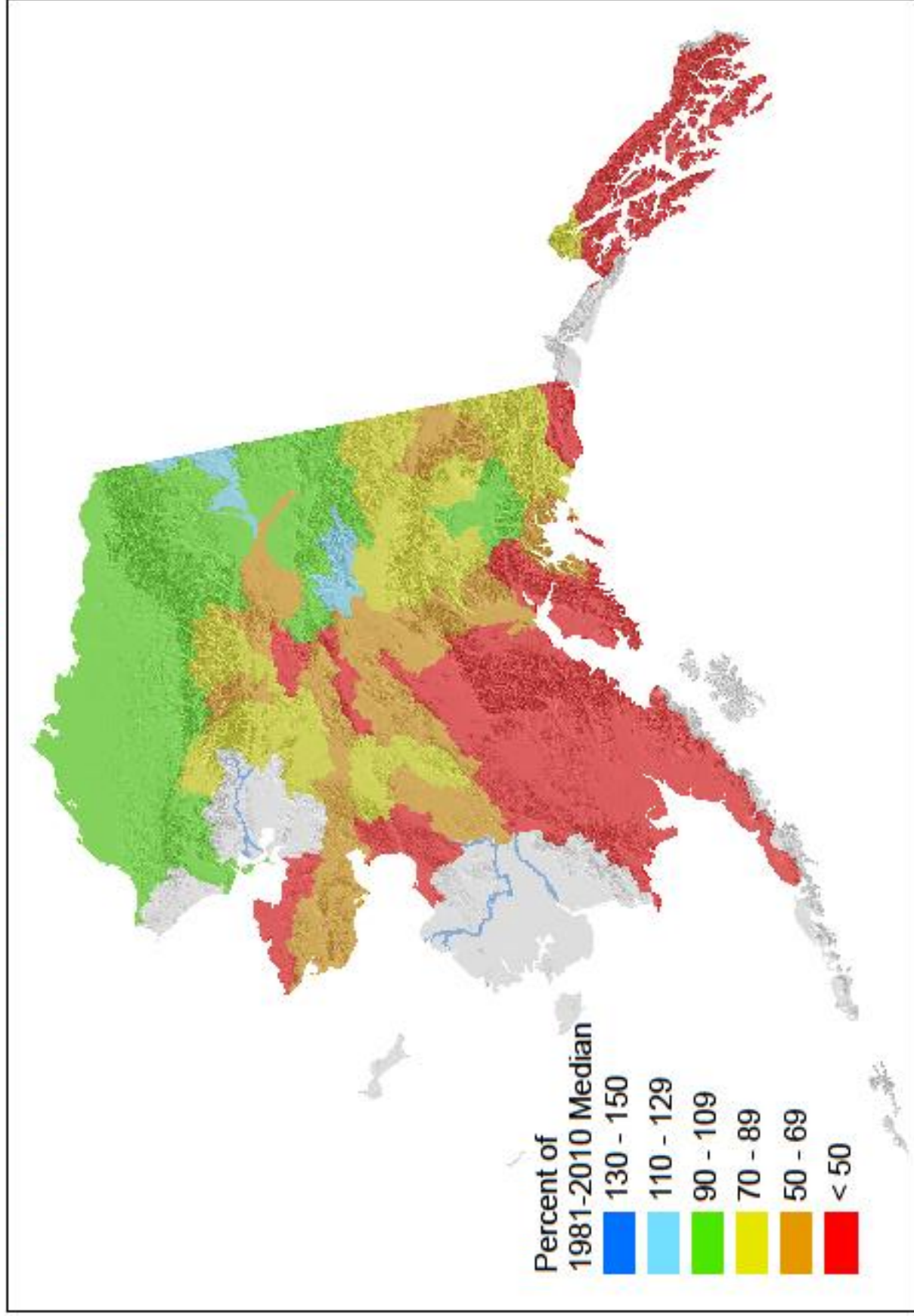
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Gold Creek near Juneau	May- Jul	72	94	48	23	32

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Long Lake	850	119.0	101.1	104.6	114%
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	30.3	26.7	29.6	102%

Alaska Snowpack as of May 1, 2015

Based on Snow Water Content



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/>

Alaska Meteor Burst Communication System (AMBCS) web site: www.ambcs.org

NRCS Snow Survey Office

Daniel Fisher, Hydrologist

800 West Evergreen Avenue

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Telephone: (907) 761-7746

Facsimile: (907) 761-7790

E-mail: Daniel.Fisher@ak.usda.gov

Delta Junction Work Unit

Michael Stephens, Conservationist

Telephone: (907) 895-4241 x 103

Facsimile: (855) 705-9787

E-mail: Michael.Stephens@ak.usda.gov

Fairbanks Hub Office

Joanne Kuykendall, Conservationist

Telephone: (907) 479-3159 x 1010

Facsimile: (855) 833-8625

E-mail: Joanne.Kuykendall@ak.usda.gov

Homer Work Unit

Craig Sanders, Conservationist

Telephone: (907) 235-8177 x 103

Facsimile: (855) 711-9098

E-mail: Craig.Sanders@ak.usda.gov

Central Hub Office

Keith Griswold, Conservationist

Telephone: (907) 373-6492 x 101

Facsimile: (855) 705-9788

E-mail: Keith.Griswold@ak.usda.gov