

Alaska Snow Survey Report



February 1, 2016

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Cover photo: NRCS Civil Engineer, Lonnie Steinke, enroute to measure the Tolsona snow course. The snow course had 16" of snow with 2.8" of water content. Which is 88% of normal.

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General Overview

SnowPack

The snowpack across Alaska varies considerably from well above normal in parts of the Interior to non-existent in low lying coastal areas around the state. Much of the state has fairly normal or slightly below normal snowpack. Seasonal snowpack started two weeks early at many Interior Alaska areas, around late-September. A snowstorm on September 26 started the winter snowpack at Bettles, Indian Pass, Tokositna Valley, Chena Basin sites and several other sites across the state. Due to a warm October, those locations which did not start winter early started it late. Most snow monitoring sites started the season snowpack by the first week of November.

Due to warmer temperatures this winter, the snowpacks in the more temperate parts of the state vary considerably with elevation. These areas include Southcentral, Southeast, Southwest, and the Copper Valley. While there is always a natural snowpack gradient due to elevation, this year (like the last two years) there is a great divergence from normal snowpack the lower in elevation a site is. This is best illustrated at the Douglas Island snow courses, across from Juneau. At 1650 feet of elevation, Cropley Lake snow course had 89% of normal snowpack. Dropping to 1200 feet of elevation, Eagle Crest snow course was 51% of normal. At 500 feet of elevation, Fish Creek snow course had no snow.

Much of the Interior snowpack is near or above normal. The exception is the upper Tanana Valley which was below normal, around 85%.

Precipitation

During October, Alaska received mostly normal amounts of precipitation. The exceptions were the Northwest Alaska where the Seward Peninsula sites measured 168% of normal precipitation and the Upper Tanana and Arctic Basins which received just 40% and 60% of normal precipitation, respectively.

November was wet with the exception of the Arctic. SNOTEL and SCAN sites across Alaska reported an average of 182% above normal precipitation for the month. These ranged from just above normal in the Northern Kenai-Cook Inlet area to 340% of normal for the 4 Susitna Basin SNOTEL sites. Only the Arctic received below normal precipitation, though the three sites in the Sagavanirktok basin were still near 80% of normal.

The weather went from wet to dry as the calendar turned to December. Only the Kenai Peninsula, as a basin, collected above normal precipitation. The six sites on the southern Kenai averaged 113% of normal precipitation for the month. Most of the rest of the state experienced below to well below normal precipitation. The seven sites in the White Mountains above Fairbanks received an average of 54% of normal precipitation for December. This dearth of moisture covered the Southeast, most of the Interior and into the Arctic. January precipitation mimicked December's. The Interior and the Arctic were dry again. However, the moisture which fell on the Kenai was more robust and more widespread. Prince William Sound and Southeast also received above normal precipitation. The six sites on the southern Kenai averaged 230% of normal precipitation for the month. The seven sites in the White Mountains above Fairbanks received an average of 17% of normal precipitation for the month. By the end of February, most of the basins in Alaska had received normal to above normal precipitation for the winter. The notable exceptions are the Arctic and the upper Tanana Basin.

General Overview

Temperature

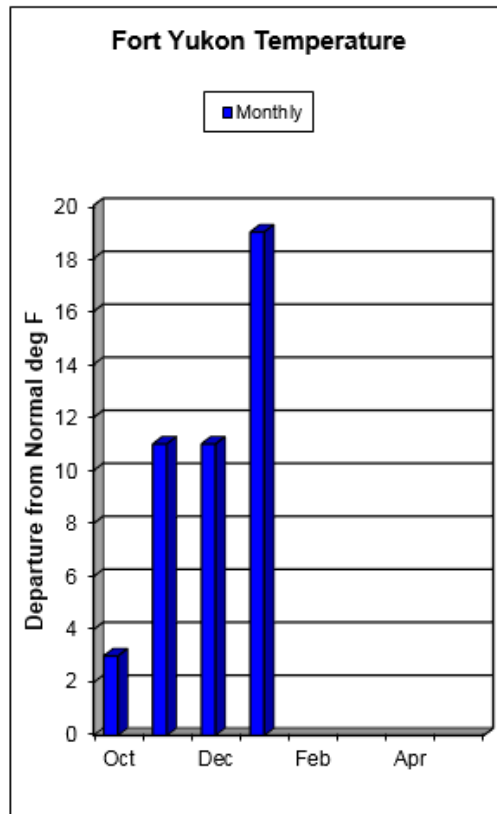
Temperatures this winter season started out near or above normal with most sites being 3-7°F above normal for the month. This made October generally warmer than last October. Similarly, temperatures during November were also above normal, but with greater variation. Southcentral sites cooled down and became closer to normal: Talkeetna dropped from 7°F above normal in October to 5°F above normal in November. Comparably, Anchorage dropped from 5°F to 1°F above normal, Homer, from 5°F to 3°F above normal. Other areas such as the Interior continued to diverge from normal: Fairbanks temperatures changed from 5°F above normal in October to 7°F above normal in November; Bettles and Gulkana saw similar rises. Fort Yukon, however, jumped from 3°F above normal to 11°F above normal for November.

December temperatures continued to be above normal. Most areas diverged from normal temperatures in similar magnitude as they had in October or November. Barrow was the only exception which experienced normal temperatures for the month.

Then there was January. El Niño brought January warm air masses moving in from the Pacific and much above normal temperatures. Bettles, Fort Yukon and Whitehorse were 18 or 19°F above normal for the month. The rest of the state ranged from 9°F to 13°F above normal, from Juneau to Barrow and all parts in between.

This winter hasn't been as warm as last year although both have been substantially above normal. October and January were warmer this year, but November and December cooler.

Central Yukon Basin



Snow pack

The Central Yukon Basin snowpack is near normal across much of the basin and is fairly similar to last year's snowpack at this time.

The Upper Nome SNOTEL, in the headwaters of Beaver Creek, has 24 inches of snow and has caught 4.0 inches of precipitation since October 1st, or 108% of normal. This is about an inch more than last year at this time.

The American Creek SNOTEL site, just outside Eagle, AK, has 15 inches of snow with 3.3 inches of water content, 5 inches shallower but with 0.1 inch more of water content than last year. In the Forty-Mile River country, near the fork of the Taylor and Top-of-the-World Highways, the new Jack Wade Junction SNOTEL site has 30 inches of snow and 6.2 inches of water content.

The Fort Yukon SNOTEL site has 15 inches of snow and its precipitation gauge has captured 2.9 inches of precipitation since October 1st, 112% of normal.

On the lower part of the basin, Seven Mile snow course, near the Yukon Crossing, was 92% of normal with 21 inches of snow and 3.5" of water content - one inch deeper but 0.7" less water than last year.

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
December 1st								
American Creek	1050	12/1/2015	12	2.4	9	1.7	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	12/1/2015	31	---	16	---	---	---
Eagle Summit	3650	12/1/2015	24	---	15	---	---	---
Fort Yukon	430	12/1/2015	13	---	5	---	---	---
Hess Creek	1000	12/1/2015	17	3.0	14	1.8	---	---
Jack Wade Jct	3585	12/1/2015	23	4.4	---	---	---	---
Mission Creek	900	No Survey	---	---	---	---	10	---
Seven Mile	600	12/1/2015	14	2.8	12	1.5	---	---
Thirty Mile	1350	12/1/2015	24	5.3	14	1.8	---	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	12/1/2015	26	---	12	---	---	---
January 1st								
American Creek	1050	1/1/2016	14	3.0	12	2.2	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	1/1/2016	38	---	25	---	---	---
Eagle Summit	3650	1/1/2016	24	---	16	---	---	---
Fort Yukon	430	1/1/2016	14	---	13	---	---	---
Jack Wade Jct	3585	1/1/2016	28	5.3	---	---	---	---
Mission Creek	900	No Survey	---	---	---	---	14	2.8
Upper Nome Creek	2520	1/1/2016	25	---	20	---	---	---
February 1st								
American Creek	1050	2/1/2016	15	3.3	19	3.3	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	2/1/2016	43	---	29	---	---	---
Borealis	1330	No Survey	---	---	16	2.9	19	3.1
Cathedral Creek	1800	No Survey	---	---	28	5.6	---	---
Copper Creek	2000	No Survey	---	---	39	8.2	---	---
Crescent Creek	2600	No Survey	---	---	20	3.2	---	---
Eagle Summit	3650	No Survey	26	---	16	---	---	---
Fort Yukon	430	2/1/2016	15	---	14	---	---	---
Fossil	1400	No Survey	---	---	16	2.8	18	3.5
Hess Creek	1000	2/3/2016	18	3.7	21	4.5	21	3.6
Jack Wade Jct	3585	2/1/2016	30	6.2	---	---	---	---
Mission Creek	900	No Survey	---	---	---	---	16	3.1
Seven Mile	600	2/3/2016	21	3.5	20	4.2	22	3.8
Step Mountain	2850	No Survey	---	---	29	5.9	---	---
Thirty Mile	1350	2/3/2016	30	5.9	21	4.4	30	5.8
Three Fingers	3350	No Survey	---	---	33	6.9	---	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	2/1/2016	24	5.8*	19	---	---	---
Windy Gap	1900	No Survey	---	---	21	4.2	19	3.7
Wolf	1200	No Survey	---	---	17	3.1	18	3.0

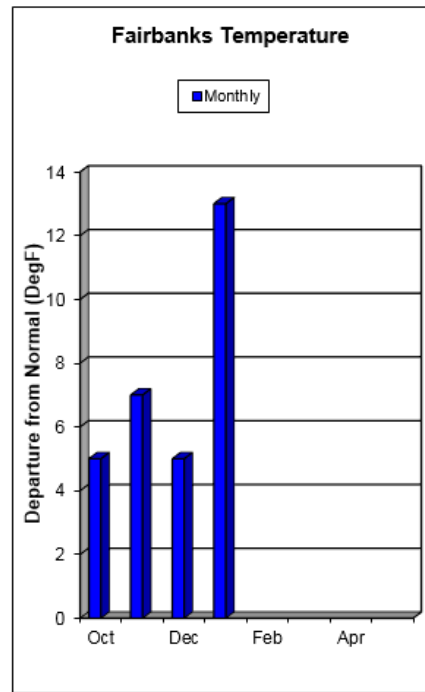
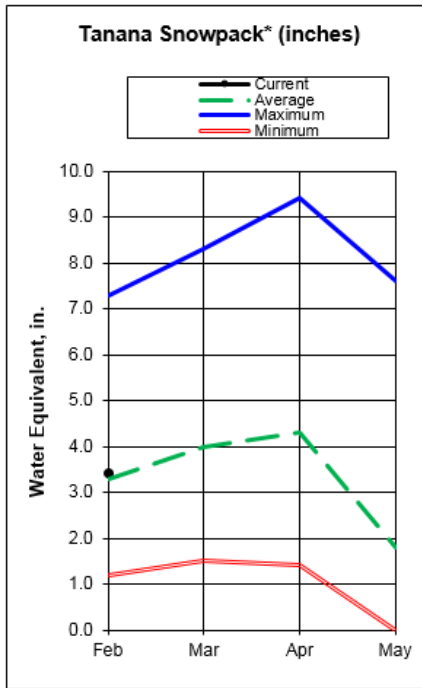
*Estimate

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
American Creek	1050	3.0	3.3	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	3.0	2.3	3.9	77%
Chandalar Camp	3300	2.3	3.1	3.9	59%
Eagle Summit	3650	4.5	3.4	3.9	115%
Fort Yukon	430	2.9	2.4	2.6	112%
Jack Wade Jct	3585	5.3	---	---	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	4.0	3.2	3.7	108%

Tanana Basin



Snowpack

The lower Tanana Valley has had slightly below normal precipitation for the water year. Its snowpack, however, is above normal due to an earlier than normal start to the season. The upper Tanana Basin, though, is below normal in both precipitation and snowpack.

The upper valley above Tok averages 85% of normal, up from 70% last year. The snow courses near Delta Junction averaged 97% of normal, down slightly from 101% last year. The snowpack in this area generally decreases towards Tok. Granite Creek SNOTEL site has received 50% of normal precipitation.

The snowpack increases further down valley. The five measured sites in the Chena Valley average 135% on normal. Munson Ridge SNOTEL has 29 inches of snow with 7.0 inches of water content, 140% of normal. The snowpack in the White Mountains started on September 26, about two weeks ahead of schedule.

The snowpack in the basin below the Chena is also above normal. The Kantishna snow course has 20 inches of snow with 3.9 inches of water content, 122% of normal.

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Chisana	3320	3.0	1.7	---	---
Fairbanks F.O.	450	3.4	2.5	3.3	103%
Granite Crk	1240	1.6	3.4	3.2	50%
Kantishna	1550	4.6	3.5	3.5	131%
Little Chena Ridge	2000	3.6	2.6	4.1	88%
Nenana	415	3.2	2.5	---	---
Tok	1630	1.9	2.7	---	---
Upper Chena	2850	4.9	3.9	4.8	102%

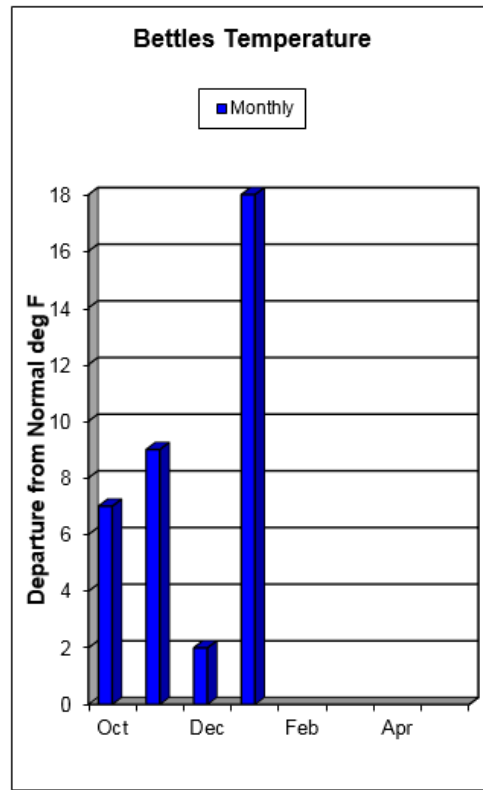
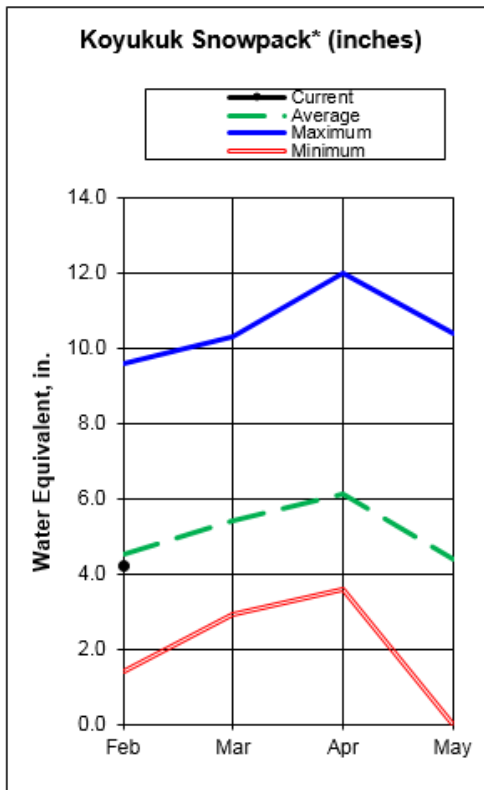
Tanana Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Con- tent	Snow Depth	Water Content
December 1st								
Bonanza Creek	1150	11/30/2015	20	4.5	9	1.2	---	---
Caribou Creek	1250	12/1/2015	14	2.7	8	1.0	12	1.6
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	12/1/2015	16	3.3	8	1.0	12	1.6
Chisana	3320	12/1/2015	14	2.5	8	1.1	---	1.9
Cleary Summit	2230	12/1/2015	27	5.2	14	2.0	---	---
Colorado Creek	700	12/1/2015	19	3.2	10	1.1	---	---
Fairbanks F.O.	450	12/1/2015	15	2.4	5	0.5	---	1.4
Faith Creek	1750	12/1/2015	22	3.5	11	1.1	8	1.5
Fielding Lake	3000	12/1/2015	32	6.0	---	---	---	---
Fort Greely	1500	12/2/2015	9	1.5	12	1.6	10	1.3
French Creek	1800	11/30/2015	22	4.3	16	2.8	16	2.6
Gerstle River	1200	12/2/2015	8	1.0	12	1.6	11	1.6
Granite Crk	1240	12/1/2015	7	1.2	11	2.0		1.6
Kantishna	1550	11/30/2015	16	3.0	---	---	---	---
Lost Creek	3030	11/30/2015	10	1.8	8	1.0	---	---
Mentasta Pass	2430	12/1/2015	16	2.8	---	---	---	---
Monument Creek	1850	12/1/2015	21	3.7	11	1.8	---	1.8
Mt. Ryan	2800	12/1/2015	21	4.4	12	2.0	---	2.0
Munson Ridge	3100	12/1/2015	30	6.0	17	3.6	---	3.5
Rock Creek Bottom	2250	11/29/2015	20	3.0	---	---	12	1.4
Shaw Creek Flats	980	11/30/2015	9	1.0	10	1.3	10	1.2
Teuchet Creek	1640	12/1/2015	13	2.9	11	1.9	---	1.6
Tok Junction	1650	12/1/2015	10	1.4	---	---	---	---
January 1st								
Chisana	3320	1/1/2016	13	2.6	9	1.4	---	2.2
Fairbanks F.O.	450	1/1/2016	15	2.5	10	1.4	---	2.0
Granite Crk	1240	1/1/2016	9	1.7	10	2.3	---	2.2
Monument Creek	1850	1/1/2016	20	4.1	15	2.7	---	2.5
Mt. Ryan	2800	1/1/2016	21	5.0	18	3.0	---	2.7
Munson Ridge	3100	1/1/2016	29	6.7	22	4.8	---	4.1
Teuchet Creek	1640	1/1/2016	14	3.2	12	2.4	---	2.1
February 1st								
Bonanza Creek	1150	2/2/2016	19	5.0	16	3.2	18	3.4
Caribou Creek	1250	2/2/2016	13	3.0	11	2.1	16	2.7
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	2/2/2016	16	3.8	12	2.2	17	2.9
Chisana	3320	2/1/2016	13	2.7	11	1.6	---	3.4
Fairbanks F.O.	450	2/1/2016	15	2.7	12	1.8	---	2.5
Fielding Lake	3000	2/2/2016	35	7.9	33	6.2	32	6.6
Fort Greely	1500	2/3/2016	11	2.5	16	2.8	14	2.4
French Creek	1800	2/1/2016	20	4.5	20	3.9	19	3.9
Gerstle River	1200	2/3/2016	10	1.6	15	2.4	16	2.4
Granite Crk	1240	2/1/2016	10	2.2	17	3.4	---	3.0
Kantishna	1550	2/1/2016	20	3.9	---	---	20	3.2
Lake Minchumina	730	2/1/2016	17	3.3*	14	2.0	15	2.1
Lost Creek	3030	1/29/2016	13	2.6*	10	1.9	---	---
Mentasta Pass	2430	2/2/2016	18	3.8	18	3.0	22	4.0
Monument Creek	1850	2/1/2016	18	4.2	18	3.1	---	3.1
Mt. Ryan	2800	2/1/2016	21	5.3	19	3.4	---	3.6
Munson Ridge	3100	2/1/2016	29	7.0	25	5.5	---	5.0
Shaw Creek Flats	980	2/1/2016	12	1.7	13	1.7	13	2.0
Teuchet Creek	1640	2/1/2016	15	3.3	15	2.9	---	2.8
Tok Junction	1650	2/2/2016	13	2.0	16	2.4	17	2.6

*Estimate

Western Interior Basins



Snow pack

Koyukuk

The Koyukuk Basin has a little below normal precipitation for the water year but has normal snowpack this winter. The Bettles SNOTEL site is right at median snowpack with 25 inches of depth and 4.3 inches of water content. Snowpack at Bettles and Coldfoot started two weeks earlier than normal this winter.

Kuskokwim

There are fewer sites reporting in the Kuskokwim basin this winter, but the few that are indicate a more robust higher elevation snowpack in the basin than the previous few years with more precipitation. The Aniak SCAN site has 9" of snow and has received 6.5 inches of water since October 1st, about 138% of its 13-year average precipitation.

Lower Yukon

The Aerial Markers in the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge measured similar depths as compared to the last three years and are a little below normal.

Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Data

			This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
Site Name	Elev.	Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Koyukuk								
December 1st								
Bettles Field	640	12/1/2015	21	3.3	3	0.4	---	1.9
Bonanza Forks	1200	12/1/2015	14	2.2	6	0.8	---	---
Cloverleaf	170	11/27/2015	23	---	---	---	---	---
Coldfoot	1040	12/1/2015	20	3.8	7	1.2	---	2.1
Colville Bend	170	11/27/2015	24	---	---	---	---	---
Disaster Creek	1550	12/2/2015	13	2.0	4	0.5	---	---
Gobblers Knob	2030	12/1/2015	1	---	1	---	---	---
Jr Slough	160	11/27/2015	17	---	---	---	---	---
Kanuti Lake	524	12/1/2015	11	---	---	---	---	---
Table Mountain	2200	12/2/2015	13	2.1	7	1.0	---	---
Treat Island	190	11/27/2015	23	---	---	---	---	---
January 1st								
Bettles Field	640	1/1/2016	24	3.8	15	2.5	---	3.0
Cloverleaf	170	1/1/2016	19	---	23	---	---	---
Coldfoot	1040	1/1/2016	28	4.7	16	2.3	---	2.8
Colville Bend	170	1/1/2016	23	---	24	---	---	---
Gobblers Knob	2030	1/1/2016	2	---	3	---	---	---
Huggins Creek	290	1/1/2016	17	---	---	---	---	---
Jr Slough	160	1/1/2016	17	---	22	---	---	---
Kanuti Lake	524	1/1/2016	13	---	---	---	---	---
Treat Island	190	1/1/2016	22	---	21	---	---	---
February 1st								
Bettles Field	640	2/1/2016	25	4.3	11	2.7	---	4.3
Bonanza Forks	1200	2/3/2016	15	2.8	14	2.3	21	3.8
Cloverleaf	170	1/28/2016	21	3.8	21	3.4	---	---
Coldfoot	1040	2/1/2016	26	5.4	16	2.6	---	4.2
Colville Bend	170	1/28/2016	13	---	28	4.8	---	---
Disaster Creek	1550	No Survey	---	---	14	2.4	17	2.5
Gobblers Knob	2030	2/1/2016	0	---	1	---	---	---
Huggins Creek	290	1/28/2016	17	3.1*	21	3.8*	---	---
Jr Slough	160	1/28/2016	17	3.4*	24	4.2	---	---
Kaldoyeit	750	2/1/2016	28	5.2*	21	4.0*	---	---
Kanuti Chalatna	670	2/1/2016	24	4.3*	21	4.0*	---	---
Kanuti Kilolitna	550	2/1/2016	18	3.4*	10	1.8*	---	---
Kanuti Lake	524	2/1/2016	14	2.5*	---	---	---	---
Minnkokut	580	2/1/2016	37	6.9*	17	3.0*	---	---
Nolitna	560	2/1/2016	18	3.3*	11	1.9*	---	---
Table Mountain	2200	No Survey	---	---	14	2.4	18	3
Treat Island	190	1/28/2016	13	---	24	4.2	---	---
Kuskokwim								
December 1st								
Aniak	80	12/1/2015	8	---	3	---	---	---
Canyon Lake	550	12/1/2015	10	---	0	---	---	---
Purkeypile Mine	2025	11/30/2015	18	3.3	---	---	---	---
Telaquana Lake SNOTEL	1275	12/1/2015	15	3.8	4	0.8	---	---
January 1st								
Aniak	80	1/1/2016	10	---	3	---	---	---
Canyon Lake	550	1/1/2016	20	---	1	---	---	---
Telaquana Lake SNOTEL	1275	1/1/2016	15	4.1	6	2.2	---	---
February 1st								
Aniak	80	2/1/2016	9	2.6*	3	---	---	---
Mcgrath	340	2/1/2016	18	4.5*	13	---	23	4.1
Purkeypile Mine	2025	2/1/2016	23	5.0	16	2.9	19	3.4
Telaquana Lake	1550	No Survey	---	---	5	0.8	---	---
Telaquana Lake SNOTEL	1275	2/1/2016	16	4.9	6	2.3	---	---

Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Data—continued

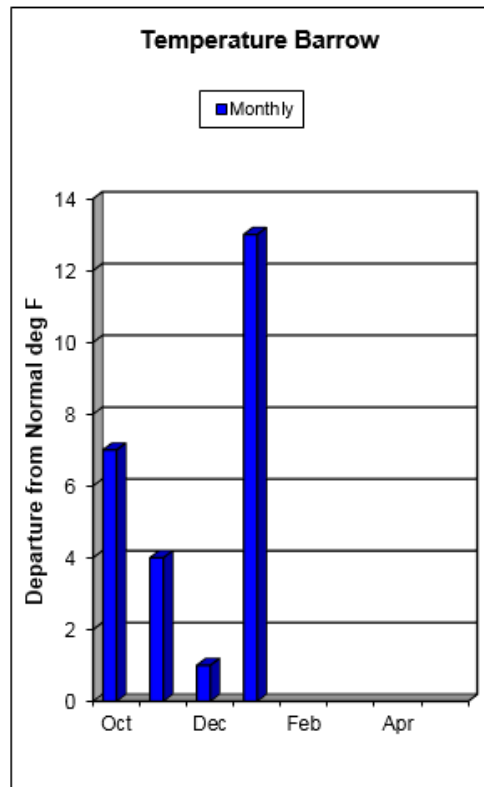
Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Lower Yukon								
December								
Deer Creek	195	11/26/2015	21	---	---	---	---	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	11/26/2015	18	---	---	---	---	---
Middle Innoko	150	11/26/2015	14	---	---	---	---	---
Ninemile Island	140	11/26/2015	18	---	---	---	---	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	11/26/2015	7	---	---	---	---	---
Squirrel Creek	150	11/26/2015	29	---	---	---	---	---
Upper Innoko	180	11/26/2015	21	---	---	---	---	---
Wapoo Hills	220	11/26/2015	19	---	---	---	---	---
January								
Deer Creek	195	1/2/2016	24	---	24	---	---	---
Grouch Creek	220	No Survey	---	---	24	---	---	---
Holikachuk	100	1/2/2016	34	---	18	---	---	---
Little Mud River	855	1/2/2016	15	---	17	---	---	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	1/2/2016	18	---	21	---	---	---
Menoti Creek	380	No Survey	---	---	16	---	---	---
Middle Innoko	150	1/2/2016	24	---	23	---	---	---
Ninemile Island	140	1/2/2016	20	---	19	---	---	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	1/2/2016	9	---	16	---	---	---
Squirrel Creek	150	1/2/2016	33	---	28	---	---	---
Upper Innoko	180	1/2/2016	18	---	17	---	---	---
Wapoo Hills	220	1/2/2016	31	---	19	---	---	---
Yankee Slough	100	1/2/2016	24	---	22	---	---	---
February								
Deer Creek	195	2/1/2016	24	4.7*	19	3.6*	---	---
Innoko Camp	83	2/1/2016	16	4.78	---	---	---	---
Little Mud River	855	2/1/2016	15	3.1	15	2.8*	---	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	2/1/2016	15	3.0*	20	3.7	---	---
Middle Innoko	150	2/1/2016	24	4.5*	---	---	---	---
Ninemile Island	140	1/28/2016	22	4.0*	20	3.6*	---	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	1/28/2016	11	2.1*	9	1.7*	---	---
Squirrel Creek	150	1/28/2016	33	6.3*	28	4.8*	---	---
Wapoo Hills	220	2/1/2016	31	6.0*	---	---	---	---
Yankee Slough	100	1/30/2016	19	3.7*	---	---	---	---

*Estimate

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Inches Accumulated since October 1st		
			Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Koyukuk					
Bettles Field	640	4.5	1.7	4.6	98%
Coldfoot	1040	4.1	1.7	4.3	95%
Gobblers Knob	2030	4.5	2.6	5.1	88%
Kuskokwim					
Aniak	80	6.5	3.8	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	6.3	2.2	---	---
Lower Yukon					
Innoko Camp	83	6.6	2.8	---	---

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound



Snow pack

Arctic

The Arctic has below normal precipitation for the water year. Most likely the snowpack is below normal as well, but hard to determine definitively. The three precipitation sites along the Dalton Highway average 70% of normal precipitation for the water year. The seasonal snowpack at Imnaviat Creek, in the foothills of the Brooks Range, started on September 9th.

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
December 1st								
Atigun Pass	4800	12/1/2015	31	---	16	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	12/1/2015	21	---	26	---	---	---
Kelly Station	310	12/1/2015	10	---	2	0.2	---	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	12/1/2015	3	---	0	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	12/1/2015	15	---	16	---	---	---
January 1st								
Atigun Pass	4800	1/1/2016	38	---	25	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	1/1/2016	21	---	27	---	---	---
Kelly Station	310	1/1/2016	11	---	5	0.6	---	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	1/1/2016	7	---	5	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	1/1/2016	23	---	17	---	---	---
February 1st								
Atigun Pass	4800	2/1/2016	43	---	29	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	2/1/2016	20	---	35	---	---	---
Kelly Station	310	2/1/2016	18	2.4*	12	1.5	---	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	2/1/2016	7	---	6	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	2/1/2016	15	---	16	---	---	---

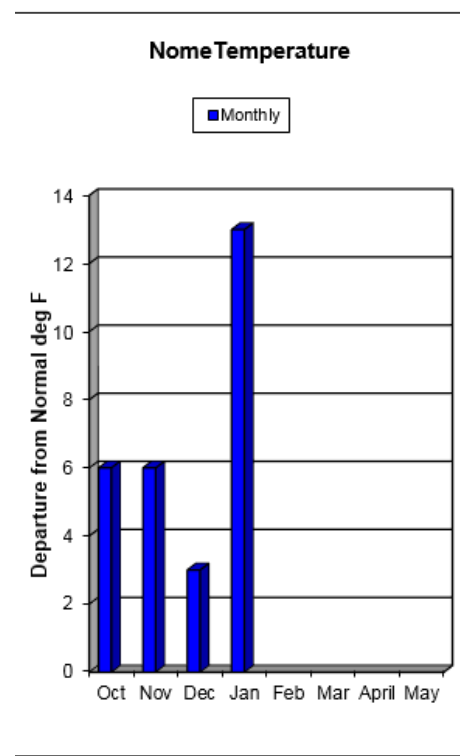
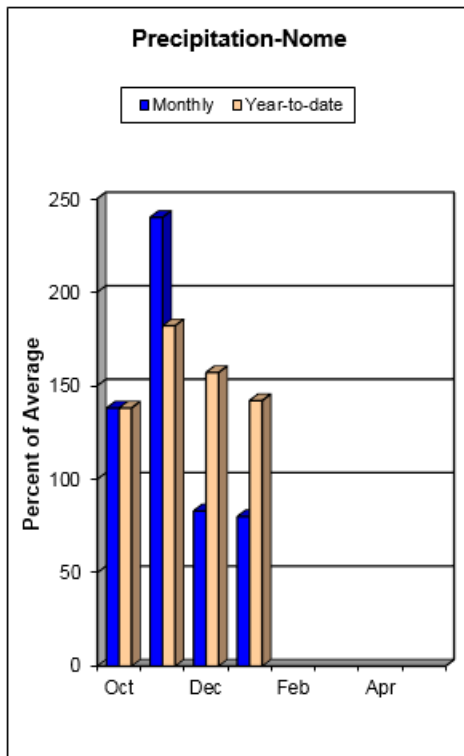
*Estimate

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Arctic					
Atigun Camp	3400	1.4	1.4	1.7	82%
Atigun Pass	4800	3.0	2.3	3.9	77%
Imnaviat Creek	3050	1.3	3.3	2.1	62%
Prudhoe Bay	30	1.1	1.0	2.0	55%
Sagwon	1000	1.9	2.7	2.1	90%
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	3.2	2.1	---	---

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay



Snow pack

Norton Sound

The Norton Sound area has received above normal precipitation. The Seward Peninsula also has received more snow than the previous three years. The last time the Rocky Point SNOTEL had this much snow on February 1st was in 2011. However, the snow does not extend far south; the new Unalakleet SCAN site, located outside of town at 310 feet of elevation, had no snow on February 1st and had caught only 2.4 inches of precipitation for the water year.

Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

Snowpack is low in the Y-K Delta, but better than last year. The Kanaryagak Camp SCAN site, located south-east of Chevak, has 13 inches of snow depth, compared to 8 inches last year and 1 inch for the year before. Snowpack started at Kanaryagak on November 10th. Precipitation at the NWS site in Bethel is right at normal for the water year.

Bristol Bay

Snow is low in the Bristol Bay basin for a third straight year with many low lying area with no snow cover at all. Port Alsworth snow course had no snow, compared to 5 inches last year. However, to the west, Canyon Lake in the Goodnews River drainage, had 12 inches of snow compared to none last year.

Naknek River SCAN received 9.3 inches of precipitation since Oct 1st, compared to 5.1 inches last year. Weary Lake SCAN has collected 27.8 inches, 2.2 inches more than last year at this time.

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay

Snowpack Data

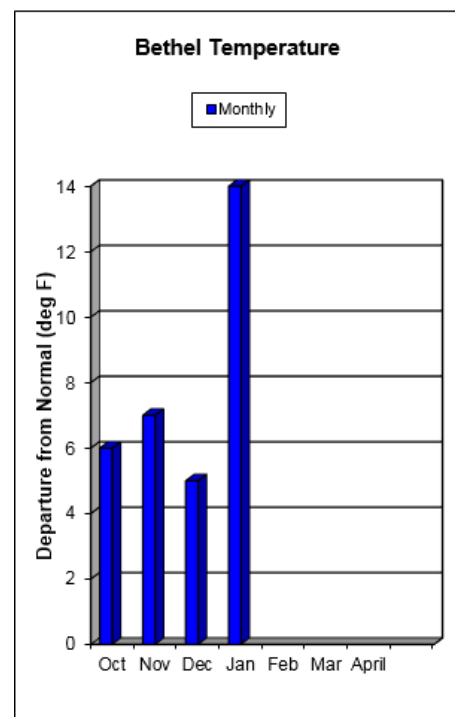
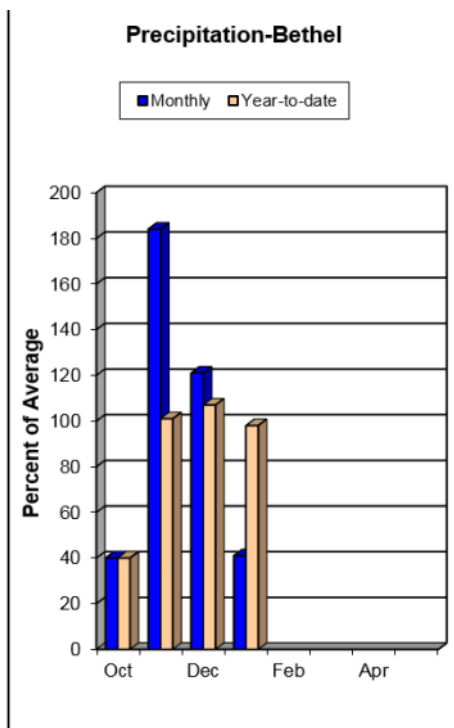
<u>Snowpack Data</u>			This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
Site Name	Elev.	Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Con- tent	Snow Depth	Water Con- tent
Bristol Bay								
February								
Canyon Lake	550	2/1/2016	11.0	---	0	---	---	---
Naknek River	100	2/1/2016	0	0.0	0	---	---	---
Port Alsworth	270	2/1/2016	0	0.0	5	1.0	17	3.1
Weary Lake	100	2/1/2016	7	2.4*	5	---	---	---
Norton Sound								
February								
Checkers Creek	326	2/1/2016	10	1.7*	---	---	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	2/1/2016	11	2.7*	1	---	---	---
Rocky Point	250	2/1/2016	21	4.5*	5	---	---	---
Unalakleet	290	2/1/2016	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta								
February								
Kanaryagak Camp	13	2/1/2016	13	---	8	---	---	---

*Estimate

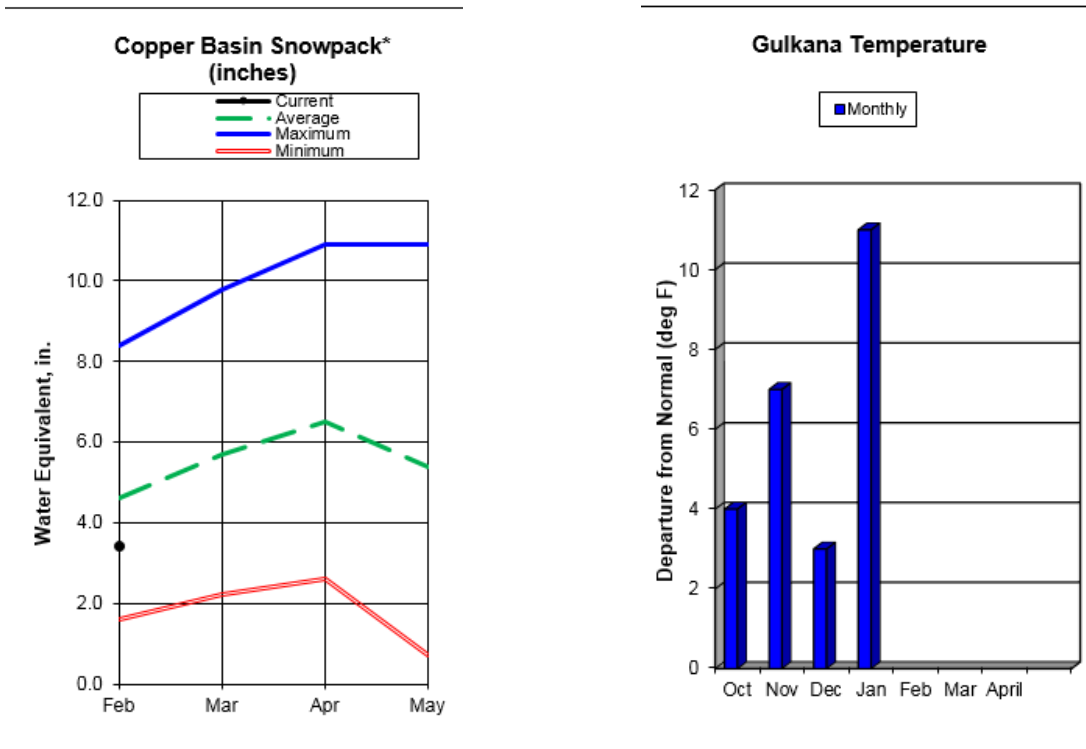
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Bristol Bay					
Lower Mulchatna	320	8.5	5.4	---	---
Naknek River	100	9.3	5.1	---	---
Weary Lake	100	27.8	25.6	---	---
Norton Sound					
Checkers Creek	326	2.4	1.5	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	6.9	---	3.9	177%
Rocky Point	250	6.4	2.4	4.1	156%
Unalakleet	290	2.4	---	---	---
Yukon - Kuskokwim Delta					
Kanaryagak Camp	13	3.5	2.6	---	---



Copper Basin



Snow pack

The snowpack in the Copper River Basin, like last year, varies from slightly above to slightly below normal.

The Alaska Range courses averaged 104% of normal. Paxson snow course measured at 22 inches of snow with 4.8 inches of water content, 91% of normal, a little shallower, but 0.4 inches wetter than last year at this time.

The basin floor snowpack was below normal, with its seven sites averaging 74% of normal. Lower elevation sites had started to melt out before the last freeze and snowstorm. The low snowpack continues west into the eastern Talkeetnas where Sheep Mountain was 78% of normal with 17 inches of depth and 3.1 inches of water content. The only site above normal in the basin floor was the furthest eastern site, Chistochina, which was 108% of normal with 17 inches of depth and 2.8" of water content.

In the Chugach Range, the Upper Tsaina SNOTEL site has had slightly above normal precipitation for the water year and 60 inches of snow with 18.4 inches of water content, 108% of normal. The snowpack at this site started on November 4th, over two weeks later than normal.

Copper Basin

Snowpack Data

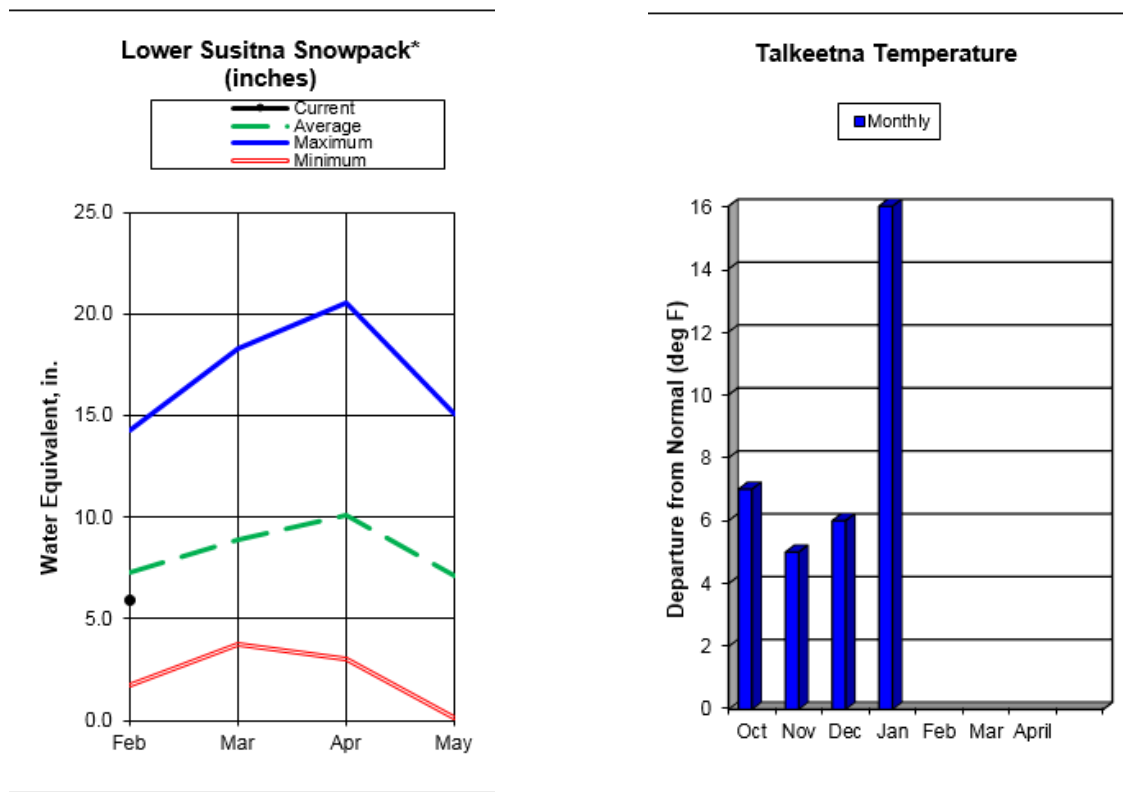
Snowpack Data			This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
Site Name	Elev.	Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
December								
Chistochina	1950	12/1/2015	14	2.0	---	---	---	---
Chokosna	1550	11/29/2015	0	0.0	15	2.9	---	---
Copper Center	1264	12/2/2015	7	1.2	16	2.4	---	---
Fielding Lake	3000	12/1/2015	32	6.0	---	---	---	---
Haggard Creek	2540	12/1/2015	12	1.8	---	---	---	---
Kenny Lake School	1300	11/30/2015	6	1.3	10	1.9	10	1.3
Little Nelchina	2650	11/30/2015	8	1.0	12	1.6	12	1.5
Long Glacier	4820	12/2/2015	21	---	13	---	---	---
Lost Creek	3030	11/30/2015	10	1.8	8	1.0	---	---
May Creek	1610	12/1/2015	12	2.6	8	1.8	---	2.0
Mentasta Pass	2430	12/1/2015	16	2.8	---	---	---	---
Notch	2643	12/2/2015	6	---	8	---	---	---
Paxson	2650	12/1/2015	19	3.4	---	---	---	---
Tazlina	1250	11/30/2015	6	1.3	12	2.1	9	1.1
Tebay Lake	1930	12/2/2015	43	---	9	---	---	---
Tolsona Creek	2000	11/30/2015	11	1.7	12	2.1	11	1.8
Tsaina River	1650	12/1/2015	27	6.2	---	---	---	---
Upper Tsaina River	1750	12/1/2015	22	5.9	13	2.9	---	5.2
January								
May Creek	1610	1/1/2016	13	3.0	10	2.5	---	3.0
Upper Tsaina River	1750	1/1/2016	45	9.3	34	7.6	---	9.3
February								
Chistochina	1950	2/2/2016	17	2.8	22	2.6	17	2.6
Chokosna	1550	2/1/2016	6	1.1	22	3.7	---	---
Copper Center	1264	2/1/2016	12	2.2*	26	4.4	---	---
Dadina Lake	2160	No Survey	---	---	26	3.9	25	4.4
Fielding Lake	3000	2/2/2016	35	7.9	33	6.2	32	6.6
Haggard Creek	2540	2/2/2016	16	2.4	25	3.8	23	4.1
Horsepasture Pass	4300	2/1/2016	18	3.2*	15	2.1	27	4.6
Kenny Lake School	1300	2/1/2016	8	1.8	20	3.1	14	2.6
Little Nelchina	2650	2/1/2016	15	2.3	16	2.2	22	3.9
Long Glacier	4820	2/2/2016	29	5.9*	33	5.9	---	---
May Creek	1610	2/1/2016	16	3.4	18	3.6	---	3.7
Mentasta Pass	2430	2/2/2016	18	3.8	18	3.0	22	4.0
Monsoon Lake	3100	No Survey	---	---	16	3.1	25	4.6
Notch	2643	2/2/2016	7	1.4*	8	1.2	---	---
Paxson	2650	2/2/2016	22	4.8	24	4.4	27	5.3
Sanford River	2280	No Survey	---	---	32	5.0	22	3.8
St. Anne Lake	1990	No Survey	---	---	21	3.0	19	3.7
Tazlina	1250	2/1/2016	10	2.2	24	3.3	15	2.8
Tebay Lake	1930	2/2/2016	66	15.2*	39	7.4	---	---
Tolsona Creek	2000	2/1/2016	16	2.8	20	3.2	18	3.2
Tsaina River	1650	2/2/2016	54	12.8	40	7.7	48	11.2
Twin Lakes	2400	No Survey	---	---	13	2.5	24	4.4
Upper Tsaina River	1750	2/1/2016	59	13.9	49	10.6	---	12.9
Worthington Glacier	2100	2/2/2016	71	18.1	54	11.9	60	16.8

*Estimate

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
May Creek	1610	6.7	4.4	4.7	143%
Upper Tsaina River	1750	18.3	15.4	19.9	92%

Matanuska—Susitna Basin



Snow pack

The snowpack across the Matanuska and Susitna Basins is much more robust and varied than last year. Midwinter rains, which diminished some low lying snowpacks, came as snow to higher elevations. Precipitation for the winter has been above normal, with the four SNOTEL sites averaging 122% of normal.

The lower Susitna Basin snow courses average to 86% of normal, up from 57% last year. The Willow Airstrip Snow course has 18 inches of snow, the same as last year at this time, but has 4.9 inches of water content (86% of normal) compared to 2.6" of water content last year.

The Upper Susitna Basin snowpack is above normal on the western side of the Talkeetnas and below normal on the eastern side of the Talkeetnas. Lake Louise and Horsepasture Pass on the eastern side are both near 70% of normal, while on the western side, Blueberry Hill and East Fork Chulitna snow courses, along the Parks Highway are near 130% of normal. The snowpack in the Peters Hills is considered normal.

In the Matanuska Basin, the snowpack in the southern Talkeetna Mountains are above normal, with much of the snow coming earlier in the winter. Independence Mine snow course has 63 inches of snow with 20.1 inches of water content, 135% of normal and three times the amount of water content over last year at this time. The snowpack at the Independence Mine SNOTEL site started on September 15th, three weeks early.

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
December 1st								
Alexander Lake	160	12/1/2015	22	5.8	1	0.1	---	---
Archangel Road	2200	12/3/2015	33	7.6	3	0.4	---	4.6
Blueberry Hill	1200	11/30/2015	48	10.4	9	0.9	---	---
Chelatna Lake	1450	12/1/2015	17	---	---	---	16	---
Denali View	700	11/30/2016	26	6.2	9	0.8	18	3.4
Dunkle Hills	2700	12/1/2015	54	---	---	---	---	---
Dutch Hills	3100	12/1/2015	68	---	---	---	36	9.5
E. Fork Chulitna	1770	11/30/2015	50	9.4	11	1.0	20	3.9
Fishhook Basin	3300	12/3/2015	58	14.2	7	1.0	28	6.3
Halfway Slough	350	11/30/2015	14	3.2	8	0.8	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	12/3/2015	67	17.2	8	1.2	31	6.8
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	12/1/2015	---	11.5	7	1.6	---	4.2
Lake Louise	2400	11/30/2015	10	1.3	13	1.7	12	1.6
Little Susitna	1700	12/3/2015	26	5.7	2	0.3	20	3.4
Monahan Flat	2710	12/1/2015	28	---	9	---	---	---
Nugget Bench	2010	No Survey	31	---	---	---	27	---
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	No Survey	55	---	---	---	33	7.6
Sheep Mountain	2900	11/30/2015	10	1.3	8	0.9	14	1.8
Susitna Valley High	375	12/1/2015	14	4.9	2	0.4	---	2.9
Talkeetna	350	11/30/2015	15	3.9	8	0.8	13	1.8
Tokositna Valley	850	12/1/2015	31	8.6	6	1.0	---	4.3
Willow Airstrip	200	11/30/2015	15	2.6	14	1.2	16	2.5
January 1st								
Alexander Lake	160	1/1/2016	24	6.9	15	3.0	---	---
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	1/1/2016	46	12.9	28	6.0	---	5.9
Monahan Flat	2710	1/1/2016	32	---	17	---	---	---
Susitna Valley High	375	1/1/2016	18	5.7	7	2.3	---	5.0
Tokositna Valley	850	1/1/2016	40	11.5	27	6.4	---	6.0

**Estimate*

Matanuska—Susitna Basin

Snowpack Data —continued

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
February 1st								
Alexander Lake	160	2/1/2016	34	8.7	23	4.7	37	8.0
Alexander Lake SNOTEL	160	2/1/2016	26	7.5	19	3.8	---	---
Archangel Road	2200	1/29/2016	41	11.2	29	5.9	38	10.0
Blueberry Hill	1200	2/2/2016	47	13.4	31	6.6	43	10.7
Chelatna Lake	1450	2/2/2016	22	5.3*	25	5.2	38	8.6
Clearwater Lake	2650	No Survey	---	---	20	2.8	22	4.0
Curtis Lake	2850	No Survey	---	---	13	2.4	20	3.2
Denali View	700	2/2/2016	32	8.5*	25	4.0	35	8.8
Dunkle Hills	2700	2/2/2016	48	13.7*	18	3.1	---	---
Dutch Hills	3100	2/2/2016	52	15.7	43	11.1	62	18.0
E. Fork Chulitna	1770	2/2/2016	44	12.5	30	5.8	41	9.5
Fishhook Basin	3300	1/29/2016	57	16.9	36	7.8	46	12.5
Fog Lakes	2120	No Survey	---	---	11	1.6	20	3.4
Halfway Slough	350	2/2/2016	16	3.8	16	2.2	---	---
Horsepasture Pass	4300	2/1/2016	18	3.2*	15	2.1	27	4.6
Independence Mine	3550	1/29/2016	63	20.1	38	9.4	52	14.5
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	2/1/2016	48	14.2	27	7.0	---	8.6
Lake Louise	2400	2/1/2016	14	2.2	19	2.6	19	3.0
Little Susitna	1700	1/29/2016	36	8.8	26	4.6	34	8.0
Monahan Flat	2710	2/1/2016	33	7.3*	19	---	---	---
Nugget Bench	2010	2/2/2016	31	8.7*	21	4.4	42	10.8
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	2/2/2016	57	17.2*	42	10.5	56	15.5
Sheep Mountain	2900	2/1/2016	17	3.1	16	2.6	21	4.0
Skwentna	160	2/1/2016	29	6.9	21	4.5	36	8.0
Square Lake	2950	No Survey	---	---	17	2.8	20	3.1
Susitna Valley High	375	2/1/2016	19	6.2	15	3.4	---	6.3
Talkeetna	350	2/2/2016	18	4.2	19	2.7	24	4.8
Tokositna Valley	850	2/1/2016	45	13.2	30	7.3	---	8.5
Tyone River	2400	No Survey	---	---	15	2.1	20	4.0
Upper Oshetna River	3150	No Survey	---	---	7	1.1	19	3.1
Upper Sanona Creek	3100	No Survey	---	---	12	1.7	23	3.9
Willow Airstrip	200	2/2/2016	18	3.8	18	2.6	25	4.9

*Estimate

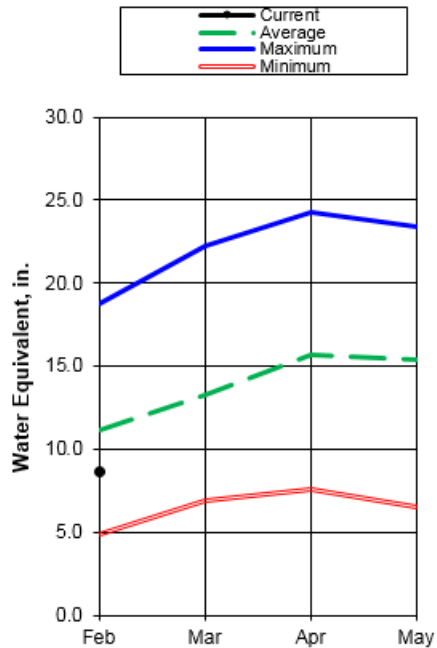
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

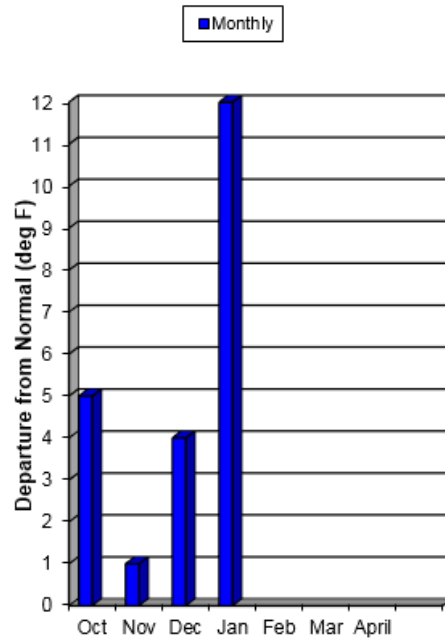
Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Alexander Lake	160	14.7	7.2	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	15.7	8.1	11.0	143%
Monahan Flat	2710	6.6	2.8	5.8	114%
Susitna Valley High	375	9.8	6.7	8.8	111%
Tokositna Valley	850	17.5	9.9	15.2	115%

Northern Cook Inlet

Ship Creek Snowpack* (inches)



Anchorage Temperature



Snow pack

It's the third straight year of paltry snowpack in northern Cook Inlet. The 8 snow sites in this area average 60% of normal, more robust than last year's 30% or the year before's 42%.

Precipitation for this winter has been normal to below normal. Winter temperatures, while above normal, have been cooler than last year. This has caused the precipitation we have received to fall as snow in the mountains and rain in the lowlands. As a result, higher sites are closer to normal. Indian Pass, at 2350 feet of elevation, is 76% of normal with 44" of snow and 12.6" of water content. Compare this to Kinkaid Park at 250 feet of elevation, which had 1 inch of snow, a record low for this site which began in 1992.

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
December 1st								
Anchorage Hillside	2080	12/1/2015	8	2.0	3	0.6	---	3.5
Indian Pass	2350	12/1/2015	---	5.0	11	1.9	---	6.3
Kincaid Park	250	12/1/2015	3	0.8	2	0.3	7	1.2
Moraine	2100	12/1/2015	4	1.5	2	0.3	---	2.3
Mt. Alyeska	1540	12/1/2015	12	4.5	3	---	---	7.5
Portage Valley	50	12/1/2015	0	0.0	1	0.1	14	2.8
South Campbell Creek	1200	12/1/2015	4	1.0	5	1.0	12	2.2
January 1st								
Anchorage Hillside	2080	1/1/2016	17	3.2	7	1.8	---	5.7
Indian Pass	2350	1/1/2016	---	8.0	34	6.6	---	12.3
Kincaid Park	250	No Survey	---	---	---	---	12	2.4
Moraine	2100	1/1/2016	12	2.7	4	0.7	---	4.5
Mt. Alyeska	1540	1/1/2016	38	11.4	15	---	---	14.7
Portage Valley	50	12/30/2016	11	3.4	0	0.1	32	7.2
February 1st								
Anchorage Hillside	2080	2/1/2016	19	4.3	10	3.0	---	7.1
Indian Pass	2350	2/1/2016	44	12.6	32	8.0	---	16.6
Kincaid Park	250	2/1/2016	1	0.2*	6	0.6	15	3.1
Moraine	2100	2/1/2016	18	4.3	3	0.6	---	5.4
Mt. Alyeska	1540	2/1/2016	44	12.8	9	2.4	---	20.8
Portage Valley	50	2/2/2016	0	0.0	8	0.9	26	8.4
South Campbell Creek	1200	2/1/2016	6	1.4	10	1.1	20	4.7

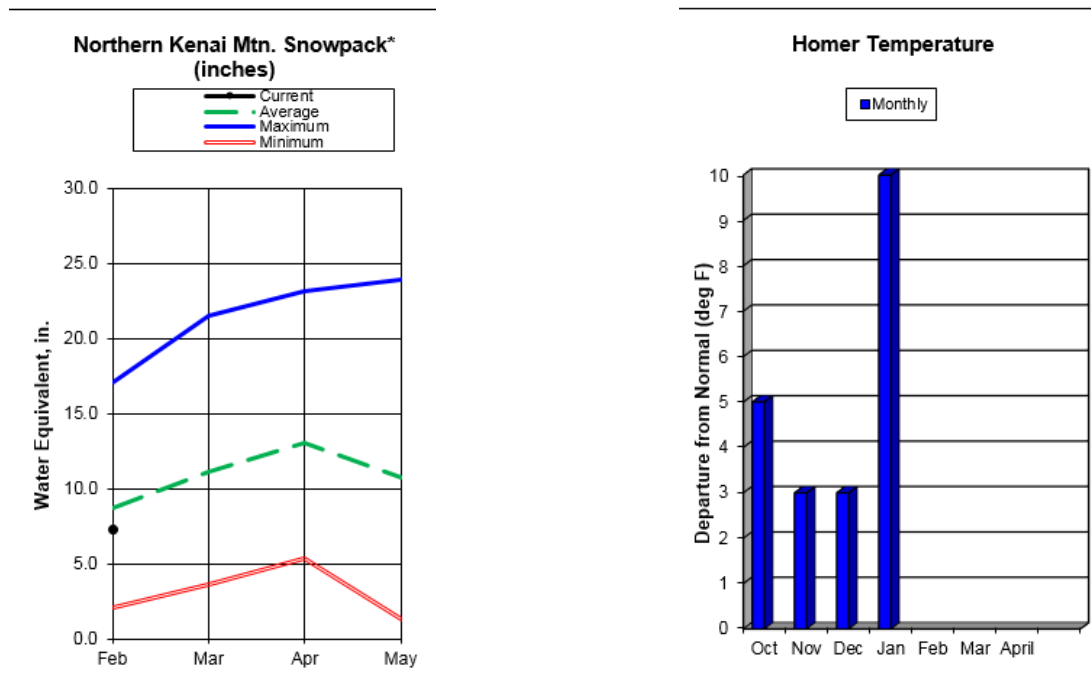
**Estimate*

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Anchorage Hillside	2080	7.9	5.4	10.3	77%
Indian Pass	2350	17.3	11.8	18.3	95%
Moraine	2100	6.3	5.1	8.5	74%
Mt. Alyeska	1540	34.9	27.6	33.5	104%

Kenai Peninsula



Like last year, the Kenai Peninsula has experienced above normal precipitation. Temperatures have also been above normal, but not nearly to the degree they were last year. As a result, the snowpack on the Kenai is close-to, but below normal and not nearly as low as last year. Snowpack on the Peninsula started about a week later than normal this year.

The Peninsula's 18 snow sites average 87% of normal compared to 22% last year and 38% two years ago. The 11 precipitation sites are 128% of normal for the water year compared to 95% last year. Precipitation came as a mix of rain and snow. Higher areas received the bulk of the precipitation as snow while low lying areas received rain which diminished those snowpacks.

While most upper sites are right at normal, Turnagain Pass SNOTEL is 130% of normal with 93 inches of snow and 29.8 inches of water content. This is nearly three times the snow it had last year at this time. More typical is Kenai Summit snow course, near Summit Lake, which is 103% of normal with 35 inches of snow and 9.9 inches of water content, 8.5 inches more water content than last year. Lower sites, like Kenai Moose Pens SNOTEL, north of Sterling, had 11 inches of snow with 2.8 inches of water content, 76% of normal.

This elevation contrast persists further south on the Peninsula. Anchor River Divide SNOTEL, at 1653 feet of elevation, had 37 inches of snow with 11.6 inches of water content, 132% of normal. Lower down and closer to Homer, Bridge Creek snow course had 15 inches of snow and 4.4 inches of water content, 59% of normal.

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge has introduced several new snow sites this year which will help establish spatial snow patterns on the Peninsula. Though these sites don't have a long history, they display the same elevational trends as the established markers this month.

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
December 1st								
Anchor River Divide	1653	12/1/2015	7	2.5	5	1.1	---	2.9
Bertha Creek	950	12/2/2015	11	1.6	1	0.1	---	---
Bridge Creek	1300	12/1/2015	0	0.0	5	0.5	12	1.5
Cooper Lake	1200	12/1/2015	6	2.8	2	0.2		3.2
Demonstration Forest	780	12/1/2015	0	0.0	3	0.5	8	1.0
Exit Glacier	400	No Survey	---	---	9	1.9	18	3.2
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	12/1/2015	1	0.4	1	0.3	---	3.5
Grandview	1100	12/1/2015	17	3.9	3	0.8	---	5.3
Grouse Creek Divide	700	12/1/2015	5	2.4	0	0.0	---	2.9
Jean Lake	620	12/1/2015	0	0.0	5	0.5	8	1.0
Kenai Moose Pens	300	12/1/2015	5	1.2	1	0.2	---	1.2
Kenai Summit	1390	12/2/2015	15	2.5	4	0.4	20	4.0
Lower Kachemak Creek	1915	12/1/2015	10	---	---	---	---	---
Mcneil Canyon	1320	12/1/2015	0	0.0	4	0.3		1.9
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	12/1/2015	25	---	8	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	12/2/2015	1	0.2	0	0.0	11	1.6
Mt. Alyeska	1540	12/1/2015	12	4.5	3	---	---	7.5
Nuka Glacier	1250	12/1/2015	13	3.2	18	3.0	14	4.2
Port Graham	300	12/1/2015	0	0.0	1	0.1	---	0.5
Portage Valley	50	12/1/2015	0	0.0	1	0.1	14	2.8
Snug Harbor Road	500	12/1/2015	0	0.0	3	0.6	8	1.0
Summit Creek	1400	12/1/2015	10	3.5	3	0.3	---	2.6
Turnagain Pass	1880	12/1/2015	24	6.2	19	5.6	---	7.4
January 1st								
Anchor River Divide	1653	1/1/2016	29	7.2	12	4.0	---	5.9
Bertha Creek	950	No Survey			4	0.8	34	8.4
Cooper Lake	1200	1/1/2016	17	4.8	6	1.3	---	8.2
Exit Glacier	400	12/29/2016	15	4.2	5	2.0	32	8.0
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	1/1/2016	15	5.4	5	2.3	---	8.0
Grandview	1100	1/1/2016	45	12.3	7	1.7	---	14.2
Grouse Creek Divide	700	1/1/2016	27	8.3	1	0.4	---	8.3
Jean Lake	620	12/31/2016	1	0.2	---	---	10	2.2
Kenai Moose Pens	300	1/1/2016	7	1.8	3	0.8	---	2.5
Kenai Summit	1390	No Survey	---	---	9	1.6	32	7.3
Lower Kachemak Creek	1915	1/1/2016	10	---	---	---	---	---
Mcneil Canyon	1320	1/1/2016	16	5.4	2	1.0	---	4.7
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	1/1/2016	43	---	3	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	18	4.0
Mt. Alyeska	1540	1/1/2016	38	11.4	15	---	---	14.7
Port Graham	300	1/1/2016	6	2.2	0	0.0	---	3.5
Portage Valley	50	12/30/2016	11	3.4	0	0.1	32	7.2
Snug Harbor Road	500	12/31/2016	0	0.0	---	---	12	1.8
Summit Creek	1400	1/1/2016	19	5.4	7	2.4	---	6.2
Turnagain Pass	1880	1/1/2016	74	17.2	35	9.7	---	15.3
Snug Harbor Road	500	12/1/2016	0	0.0	3	0.6	8	1.0
Summit Creek	1400	12/1/2016	10	3.5	3	0.3	---	2.6
Turnagain Pass	1880	12/1/2016	24	6.2	19	5.6	---	7.4
February 1st								
Anchor River Divide	1653	2/1/2016	37	11.6	13	5.2	---	8.8
Barbara Lake	249	1/30/2016	7	1.8*	New Site		---	---
Bear Creek	2516	1/30/2016	18	5.1*	New Site		---	---
Bertha Creek	950	1/31/2016	31	9.9	2	0.4	44	12.4
Benjamin Creek	3090	1/30/2016	55	16.4*	New Site		---	---
Bridge Creek	1300	2/1/2016	15	4.4	3	0.3	30	7.4

Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack Data – continued

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Center Moose	144	1/30/2016	2	0.5*	New Site		---	---
Chickaloon Bench	200	1/30/2016	2	0.5*	New Site		---	---
Cooper Lake	1200	2/1/2016	21	7.5	8	2.5	---	11.3
Cytex Pass	1860	1/30/2016	30	9.2*	New Site		---	---
Demonstration Forest	780	2/1/2016	5	1.6	2	0.4	20	4.8
Eagle Lake	1400	No Survey	---	---	---	---	32	7.8
Exit Glacier	400	No Survey	---	---	7	1.9	42	11.7
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	2/1/2016	19	7.4	7	2.0	---	11.7
Fox River Bench	1214	1/30/2016	13	4.2*	New Site		---	---
Grandview	1100	2/1/2016	54	20.9	4	0.4	---	19.7
Grouse Creek Divide	700	2/1/2016	28	11.7	2	0.3	---	12.3
Hidden Creek	279	1/30/2016	0	0.0	New Site		---	---
Jean Lake	620	2/2/2016	2	0.4	6	0.9	14	3.0
Kenai Moose Pens	300	2/1/2016	11	2.8	5	1.2	---	3.6
Kenai Summit	1390	1/31/2016	35	9.9	8	1.4	37	9.6
Lower Kachemak Creek	1915	2/1/2016	21	---	---	---	---	---
Mcneil Canyon	1320	2/1/2016	17	6.6	5	1.9	---	7.1
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	2/1/2016	71	---	8	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	1/31/2016	8	2.1	2	0.5	20	4.9
Moose River Flats	262	1/30/2016	0	0.0	New Site		---	---
Mosquito Lake	279	1/30/2016	7	1.8*	New Site		---	---
Mt. Alyeska	1540	2/1/2016	44	12.8	9	2.4	---	20.8
Mystery Bowl	2765	1/30/2016	7	1.7*	New Site		---	---
Nikolai Creek	853	1/30/2016	7	1.9*	New Site		---	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	No Survey	---	---	---	---	59	18.6
Pepper Lake	213	1/30/2016	3	0.8*	New Site		---	---
Port Graham	300	2/1/2016	0	0.0	3	0.9	---	4.8
Portage Valley	50	2/2/2016	0	0.0	8	0.9	26	8.4
Skilak Lake 14	266	1/30/2016	0	0.0	New Site		---	---
Snug Harbor Road	500	2/2/2016	0	0.0	4	0.5	15	3.6
Summit Creek	1400	2/1/2016	27	7.6	7	2.8	---	8.1
Trapper Joe Ridge	2424	1/30/2016	10	2.5*	New Site		---	---
Turnagain Pass	1880	2/1/2016	93	29.8	31	10.9	---	23.0
Tustemena Lake	384	1/30/2016	0	0.0	New Site		---	---
Upper Killey River	810	1/30/2016	2	0.5*	New Site		---	---

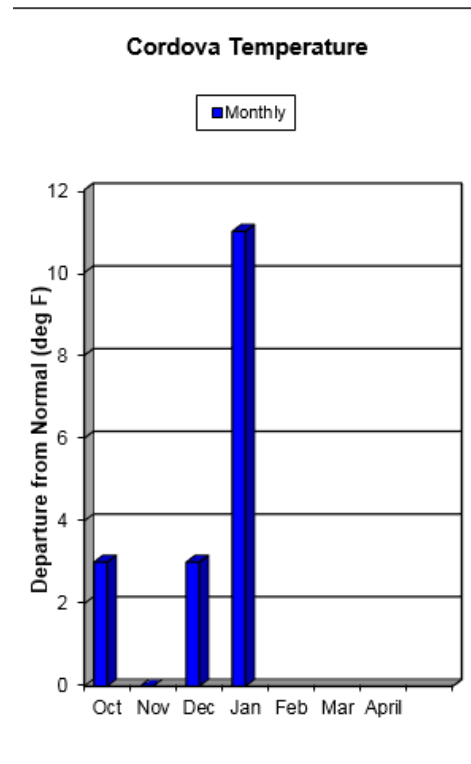
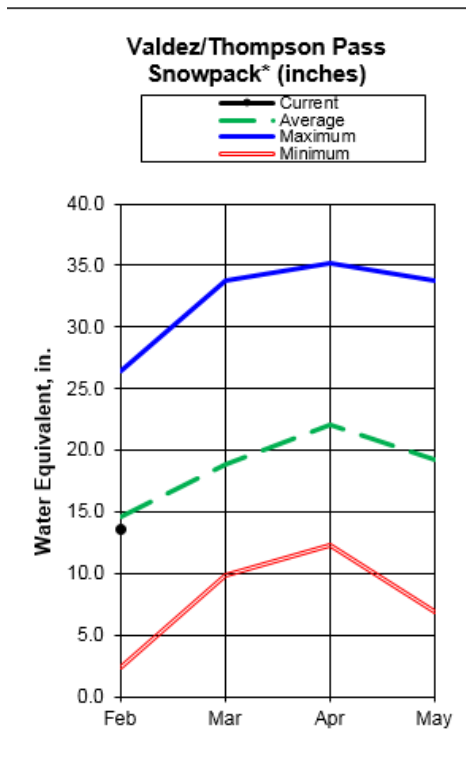
*Estimate

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Anchor River Divide	1653	17.9	9.7	12.5	143%
Cooper Lake	1200	19.0	14.1	20.0	95%
Grandview	1100	40.4	32.5	30.0	135%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	39.2	25.8	28.2	139%
Kachemak Creek	1660	49.7	40.9	30.6	162%
Kenai Moose Pens	300	6.5	2.2	6.3	103%
Mcneil Canyon	1320	14.9	8.3	13.0	115%
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	32.5	26.5	25.3	128%
Nuka Glacier	1250	52.3	49.9	41.3	127%
Port Graham	300	43.1	33.3	36.9	117%
Summit Creek	1400	14.7	8.9	11.9	124%
Turnagain Pass	1880	35.6	24.2	28.5	125%

Western Gulf



Snow pack

The Western Gulf of Alaska region has normal to below normal snowpack and has above normal precipitation. Warmer than normal temperatures have brought rain instead of snow to many locations.

Measured snowpack in Prince William Sound ranges from 62%-108% of normal. All these areas likely received above normal precipitation and the snowpacks reflect whether the precipitation came as rain or snow.

The snowpack at Mt Eyak SNOTEL, above Cordova, started on November 11, the same as last year and about two weeks later than normal.

Western Gulf

Snowpack Data

<u>Snowpack Data</u>			This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
Site Name	Elev.	Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
December								
Exit Glacier	400	No Survey	---	---	9	1.9	18	3.2
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	12/1/2015	1	0.4	1	0.3	---	3.5
Grouse Creek Divide	700	12/1/2015	5	2.4	0	0.0	---	2.9
Mt. Eyak	1405	12/1/2015	11	6.1	3	0.8	---	7.4
Nuka Glacier	1250	12/1/2015	13	3.2	18	3.0	14	4.2
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	12/2/2015	35	9.4	12	1.2	---	---
Tsaina River	1650	12/1/2015	27	6.2	---	---	---	---
Upper Tsaina River	1750	12/1/2015	22	5.9	13	2.9	---	5.2
January								
Exit Glacier	400	12/29/2016	15	4.2	5	2.0	32	8.0
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	1/1/2016	15	5.4	5	2.3	---	8.0
Grouse Creek Divide	700	1/1/2016	27	8.3	1	0.4	---	8.3
Lowe River	600	No Survey	---	---	24	4.5	---	---
Mt. Eyak	1405	1/1/2016	34	9.6	7	2.9	---	12.8
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	12/29/2016	46	12.0	17	5.4	41	---
Tsaina River	1650	No Survey	---	---	28	5.8	---	---
Upper Tsaina River	1750	1/1/2016	45	9.3	34	7.6	---	9.3
Worthington Glacier	2100	No Survey	---	---	36	8.7	---	---
February								
Exit Glacier	400	No Survey	---	---	7	1.9	42	11.7
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	2/1/2016	19	7.4	7	2.0	---	11.7
Grouse Creek Divide	700	2/1/2016	28	11.7	2	0.3	---	12.3
Lowe River	600	2/2/2016	35	10.0*	36	8.0	---	11.1
Mt. Eyak	1405	2/1/2016	30	11.1	14	3.5	---	17.9
Nuka Glacier	1250	No Survey	---	---	---	---	59	18.6
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	2/3/2016	52	16.0	40	10.2	60	16.7
Tsaina River	1650	2/2/2016	54	12.8	40	7.7	48	11.2
Upper Tsaina River	1750	2/1/2016	59	13.9	49	10.6	---	12.9
Valdez	50	2/2/2016	31	10.1*	31	7.1	42	11.4
Worthington Glacier	2100	2/2/2016	71	18.1	54	11.9	60	16.8
<i>*Estimate</i>								

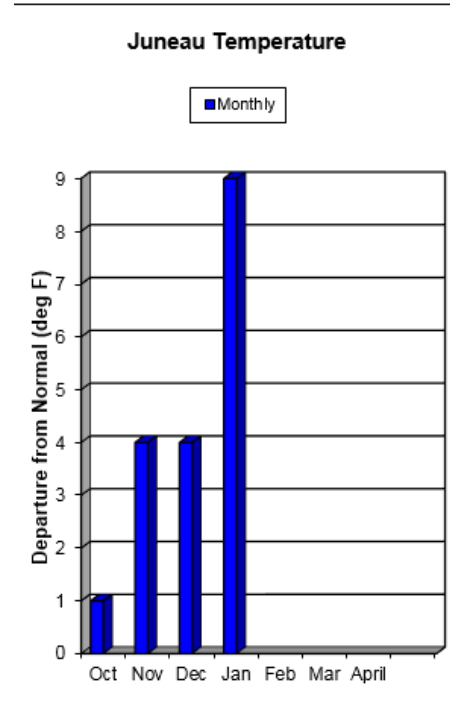
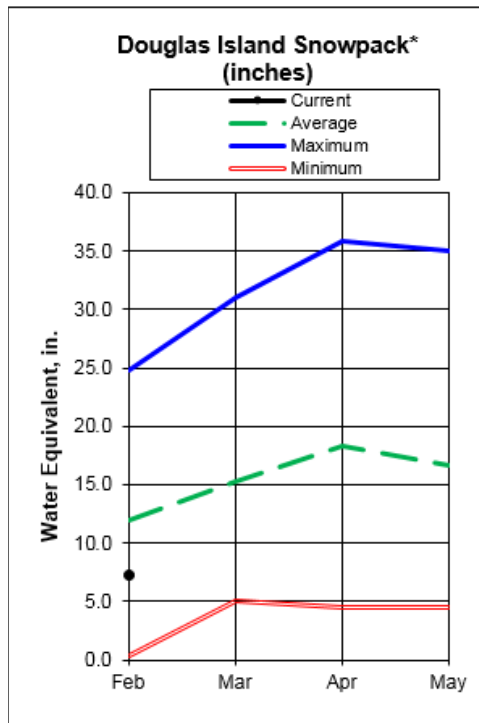
*Estimate

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Esther Island	50	94.1	67.6	60.7	155%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	39.2	25.8	28.2	139%
Mt. Eyak	1405	59.2	49.2	---	---
Nuchek	50	59.2	49.2	---	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	52.3	49.9	41.3	127%
Port San Juan	50	78.0*	59.1	56.7	138%
Seal Island	20	40.7	29.1	---	---
Strawberry Reef	30	46.2	35.5	---	---
Sugarloaf Mtn	550	34.1	21.5	29.3	116%
Tatitlek	50	37.4	28.8	30.6	122%

Southeast



Snow pack

The snowpack in Southeast Alaska is below normal, but more vigorous than last year. Temperatures have been above normal this winter and are similar to last year. As a result, much of the precipitation which has fallen on low lying areas has been rain instead of snow. Like the last two years, the higher the elevation, the more normal the snowpack is.

This is best illustrated at the Douglas Island snow courses, across from Juneau. Fish Creek snow course is at 500 feet of elevation and had no snow. Eagle Crest snow course, at 1200 feet of elevation, had 15 inches of snow and 5.4 inches of water content, which is 51% of normal. Even higher at 1650 feet of elevation, Cropley Lake snow course has 42 inches of snow and 16.4 inches of water content, 89% of normal and much better than last February's measurements of 14 inches of snow with 3.2 inches of water content.

Heèn Latinee SNOTEL was installed 25 miles north of Juneau in collaboration with University of Alaska Southeast and the U.S. Forest Service. The site sits at 2070 feet of elevation and had 37" of snow with 10.1 inches of water content and started the seasonal snowpack a week earlier than Long Lake SNOTEL.

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
December 1st								
Cropley Lake	1650	12/3/2015	30	9.2	11	2.0	21	5.7
Eagle Crest	1200	12/3/2015	12	4.0	10	1.0	6	1.0
Fish Creek	500	12/3/2015	0	0.0	7	1.0	0	---
Institute Creek	1350	11/29/2015	14	3.2	13	2.0	---	---
Long Lake	850	12/1/2015	15	5.2	11	2.5	---	9.5
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	12/3/2015	36	7.4	11	1.8	22	4.2
Petersburg Reservoir	550	12/1/2015	0	0.0	18	1.7	---	---
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	11/30/2015	23	6.1	10	1.2	---	---
Rainbow Falls	500	12/1/2015	0	0.0	12	1.7	---	---
West Creek	475	12/2/2015	15	4.2	0	0.0	---	---
January 1st								
Cropley Lake	1650	No Survey	---	---	---	---	40	11.9
Eagle Crest	1200	No Survey	---	---	---	---	24	7.4
Fish Creek	500	No Survey	---	---	---	---	10	1.8
Long Lake	850	1/1/2016	48	12.0	31	9.5	---	15.9
Lost Lake	425	No Survey	---	---	---	---	20	2.1
Petersburg Reservoir	550	12/31/2016	18	2.2	0	0.0	9	1.3
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	12/31/2016	38	8.8	7	1.4	36	10.0
Upper Swan Lake	1700	No Survey	---	---	---	---	31	6.0
February 1st								
Cropley Lake	1650	1/29/2016	42	16.4	14	3.2	56	18.4
Eagle Crest	1200	1/29/2016	15	5.4	5	0.8	36	10.6
Fish Creek	500	1/29/2016	0	0.0	6	0.7	14	3.1
Institute Creek	1350	2/1/2016	4	0.8	2	0.5	---	---
Long Lake	850	2/1/2016	54	18.6	36	12.7	---	25.2
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	2/1/2016	54	14.0	40	12.8	54	13.6
Petersburg Reservoir	550	1/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	3.7
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	1/29/2016	28	10.6	7	1.2	48	16.7
Rainbow Falls	500	2/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
West Creek	475	2/8/2016	36	10.2	8	1.0	---	---

**Estimate*

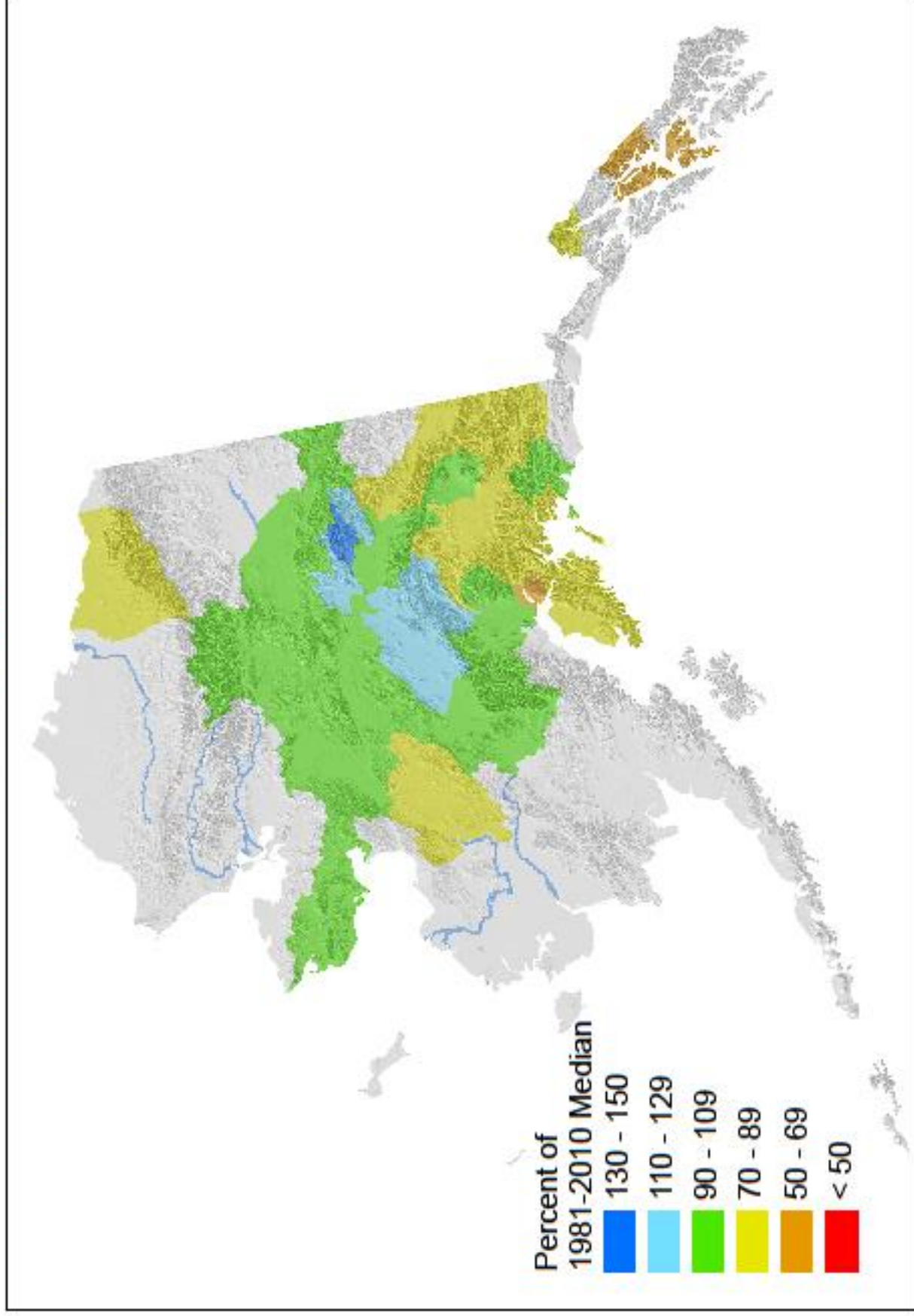
Precipitation Data

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Long Lake	850	76.9	80.3	75.0	103%
H��n Latinee	2065	29.1	---	---	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	23.0	22.7	20.1	114%

Alaska Snowpack as of February 1, 2016

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

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