

Alaska Snow Survey Report



May 1, 2016

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Cover photo: Little Susitna Snow Course was almost melted out in time for May's snow survey measurement. Snow still persists at higher elevations, however.

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General Overview

Snow Pack

The snowpack across Alaska is generally below normal. Continued much above normal temperatures have accelerated melt out in many regions. Many low lying areas have melted out. There are areas with above normal snowpacks, but these areas are expected to melt at an accelerated rate this spring.

The only region of the state which continued to gain snowpack during April this year is the North Slope and the Arctic.

Areas in the state with above normal snowpack include higher elevations in the Kenai and Talkeetna mountains and the upper Porcupine River Basin. It is likely there are other regions of above normal snowpack in upper unmeasured Alaska mountain ranges.

Many lower valleys have already melted out. Great swaths of the lower Yukon, Tanana, Kuskokwim, Copper, and many other basins are now brown or green rather than white.

Precipitation

Precipitation was varied across the state during April. Southeast Alaska and near the Gulf coast, including the southern Kenai Peninsula, were wetter regions during the month. Much of the Interior had below normal precipitation and western Alaska and the Arctic had generally close to normal precipitation.

Southeast Alaska precipitation ranged from near normal to significantly above normal. Long Lake SNOTEL caught 10.9" of precipitation during the month, which is 157% of its normal. Similarly, on the Gulf side of the Kenai Peninsula, many sites experienced from near normal to twice normal precipitation during the month. Nuka Glacier SNOTEL measured 12.4" of precipitation during April, 190% of average for the month.

Much of the Interior only received about half of normal April precipitation, although this varied within basins. The 10 precipitation sites in the Tanana Basin averaged 55% of normal for the month, but ranged from no caught precipitation at Rhoads Creek, near Delta Junction to 1.0" of precipitation at Munson Ridge in the Chena, which is right at normal.

Much of western Alaska, from the Y-K Delta to Kotzebue Sound, experienced near normal precipitation during April. Comparably, the North Slope had near normal precipitation during the month. Sagwon SNOTEL, 70 miles south of Prudhoe Bay, caught 0.5" of precipitation, near its average of 0.4".

General Overview Continued

Temperature

This winter's trend of above normal temperatures extended through April, hastening early snowpack meltout across the state.

Nome and Bethel both were basking in 16 and 17°F above normal temperatures for the month of April. Both towns had monthly temperature averages above freezing for April.

Fairbanks, Barrow, Talkeetna, and Bettles all experienced average monthly temperatures which were double-digits above normal for April.

Many locations experienced 7-8°F above normal temperatures for the month. These include Homer, Gulkana, Anchorage, in southcentral Alaska and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

The more maritime locations of Cordova and Juneau were also above normal, but more moderated. Juneau was 4°F above normal for the month and Cordova was 5°F above normal for the month. Fort Yukon also experienced more moderated temperatures during April and was only 5°F during April compared to 11°F above normal in March.

Streamflow Forecasts

FORECAST POINT*	Percent of Ave. Flow	Period
Yukon River at Eagle	85	April - July
Porcupine River nr Int'l Boundary.....	90	April - July
Yukon River near Stevens Village	90	April - July
Tanana River at Fairbanks	77	April - July
Tanana River at Nenana	79	April - July
Little Chena River near Fairbanks	78	April - July
Chena River near Two Rivers	76	April - July
Salcha near Salchaket	77	April - July
Sagvanirktok River near Pump Station 3	89	April - July
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse	89	April - July
Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek	—	April - June
Gulkana River at Sourdough	70	April - July
Little Susitna River near Palmer	100	April - July
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna	99	April - July
Ship Creek near Anchorage	71	April - July
Kenai River at Cooper Landing	102	April - July
Gold Creek near Juneau	69	April - July

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

FORECAST POINT	INDEX	Index	Key:
Koyukuk River at Hughes.....	—		
MF Koyukuk R near Wiseman	-1.6		
Slate Creek at Coldfoot.....	-1.8		
Beaver Creek above Victoria Creek.....	—		
Birch Creek below South Fork.....	—		
Caribou Creek at Chatanika.....	-1.8		
Susitna River near Gold Creek.....	-2.4	-2 to -3	much below average snow-melt runoff
Chulitna River near Talkeetna.....	-2.4		
Deshka River at mouth near Willow.....	-3.0		
Montana Creek at Parks Highway.....	-2.3		
Willow Creek near Willow.....	-1.6	-1 to -2	below average snowmelt runoff
Skwentna River at Skwentna.....	—		
Chuitna River near Tyonek.....	—		
Campbell Creek near Spenard.....	-2.8		
Indian Creek at Indian.....	-3.0	-1 to +1	average snow-melt runoff
Bird Creek at Bird Creek	-3.0		
Glacier Creek nr Girdwood	-2.8		
Six Mile Creek near Hope.....	-2.4		
Resurrection Creek near Hope.....	—	+1 to +2	above average snowmelt runoff
Grouse Ck at Grouse Lake Outlet nr Seward	-2.5		
Anchor River near Anchor Point	-3		
Deep Creek near Ninilchik.....	-3		
Ninilchik River near Ninilchik.....	-3	+2 to +3	much above average snow-melt runoff
Fritz Creek near Homer.....	-2.8		
Skagway River at Skagway.....	-2.7		
Municipal Watershed C nr Petersburg	-2.8		

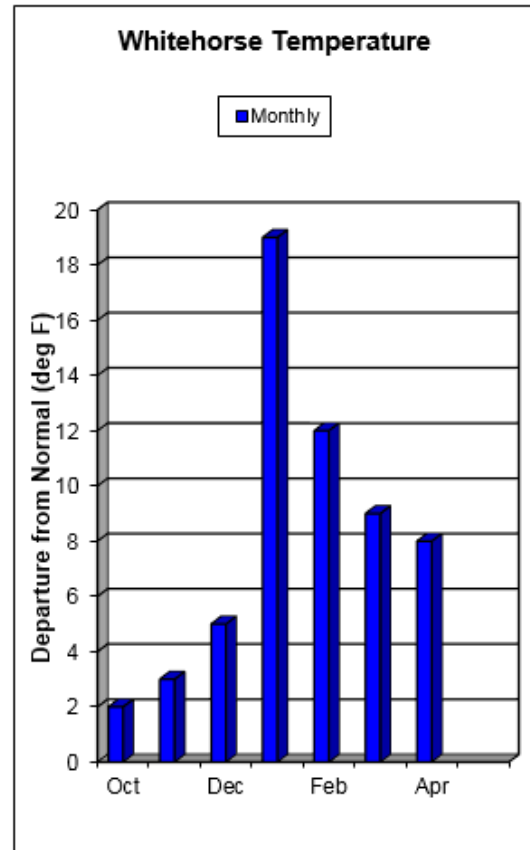
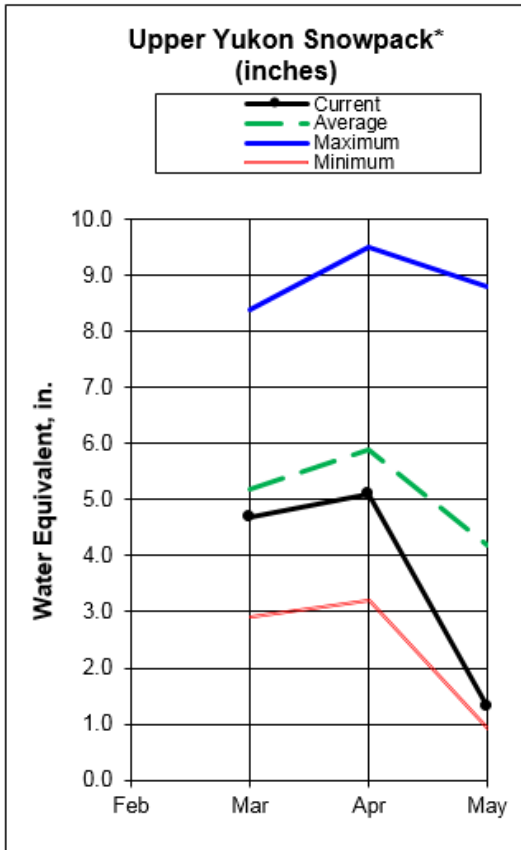
HOW FORECASTS ARE MADE

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

Spring is early in the Yukon. Of the 30 reporting snow measurement sites in the Upper Yukon, 20 have already melted out. While it's not unusual to find snow courses without snow in the Yukon on May 1, it is unusual to have this many. Some snow courses, like Montana Mountain, south of Whitehorse, haven't been snow free for the May 1 survey since 1979.

The sites surrounding Dawson City, which had normal to above normal snowpack last month, are now completely snow free. The seven snow sites in the White River drainage south of Dawson are also completely snow free, though some of them started melting out in March.

The snowpack upstream from Whitehorse dropped from 77% of normal last month to 37% of normal this month. The most robust snow course in this area was the Meadow Creek snow course which had 27" of snow and 9.3" of water content 84% of normal, similar to last month.

To the east, the Stewart and Pelly drainage snowpacks endured April better than the other basins. The 12 snow sites in this basin averaged 74% of normal, down from 87% last month. Sites ranged from melted out to 110% of normal at Calumet snow course with 25" of depth and 8.0" of water content.

Upper Yukon Basin

Snowpack Data

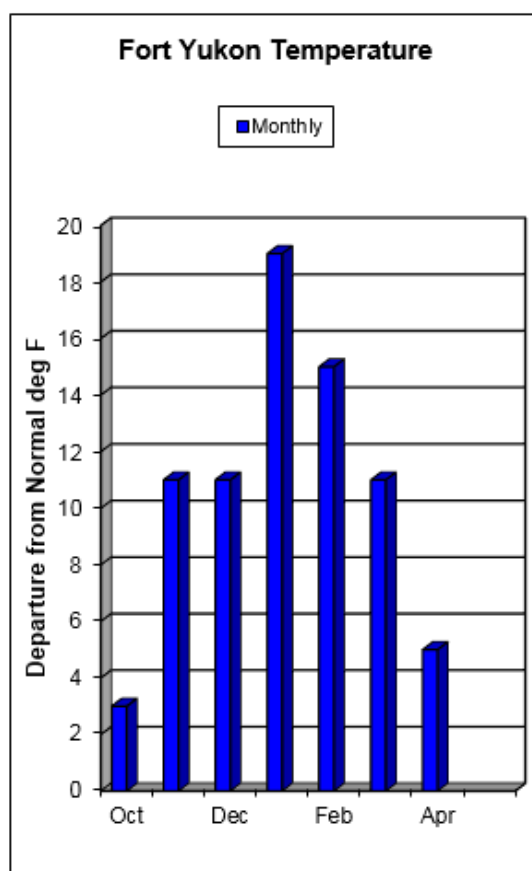
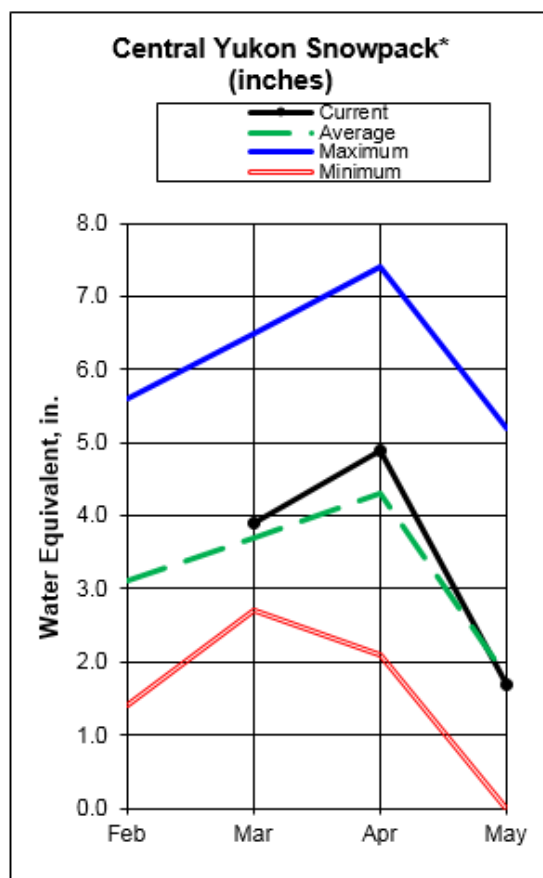
			This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			This Year	This Year	Last Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	1981-2010 Normal
Site Name	Elev.	Date	Snow	Water Con-	Snow	Water Con-	Snow	Water Con-
Arrowhead Lake	3675	5/1/2016	0*	0.0*	---	---	30	7.6
Atlin	2395	5/1/2016	0	0.0	---	---	0	0.0
Beaver Creek	2150	4/27/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8
Blackstone River	1020	4/30/2016	0	0.0	12	3.6	---	---
Burns Lake	3650	4/27/2016	23	7.9	28	9.2	27	8.4
Burwash Airstrip	2660	4/27/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Calumet	4300	4/28/2016	25	8.0	25	7.2	33	7.3
Canyon Mine	1160	4/26/2016	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
Casino Creek	3495	4/26/2016	0	0.0	24	6.5	20	4.3
Chair Mountain	3500	5/1/2016	0*	0.0*	0	0.0	---	---
Duke River	4300	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	13	2.8
Eagle Plains	2330	4/30/2016	24	7.3	33	10.1	18	5.1
Eagle River	1115	4/30/2016	0	0.0	28	8.3	17	4.0
Edwards Lake	2720	4/26/2016	13	3.6	20	5.9	22	6.0
Finlayson Airstrip	3240	4/27/2016	0	0.0	6	1.9	8	2.2
Frances River	730	4/27/2016	2	0.6*	0	0.0	---	---
Fuller Lake	3695	4/26/2016	26	8.8	31	9.5	27	8.1
Grizzly Creek	3200	4/30/2016	0	0.0	15	4.3	22	5.4
Hoole River	3400	4/27/2016	0	0.0	20	5.1	14	3.4
Hyland River	855	4/27/2016	0	0.0	12	4.5	---	---
Jordan Lake	3050	5/1/2016	0*	0.0*	14	4.2	13	3.5
King Solomon Dome	3540	4/25/2016	0	0.0	17	5.7	18	4.9
Log Cabin (B.C.)	2900	4/27/2016	16	6.9	42	15.7	39	15.0
Macintosh	3805	4/26/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.1
Mayo Airport	1770	4/28/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meadow Creek	4050	4/28/2016	27	9.3	42	12.8	39	11.1
Midnight Dome	2805	4/25/2016	0	0.0	25	6.3	20	5.2
Montana Mtn.	3350	4/26/2016	0	0.0	18	5.1	17	4.9
Morley Lake	2700	4/25/2016	0	0.0	3	1.1	11	3.3
Mt. Berdoe	3395	4/26/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	2.0
Mt. McIntyre B	3600	4/25/2016	5	1.4	21	5.7	20	5.4
Mt. Nansen	3350	4/26/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ogilvie River	550	4/30/2016	18	4.7*	21	6.0	---	---
Old Crow	980	5/1/2016	19	5.5*	26	7.0	19	4.0
Pelly Farm	1550	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pine Lake Airstrip	995	4/26/2016	13	4	24	7.7	---	---
Plata Airstrip	2725	4/26/2016	9	2.7	20	7.2	19	5.9
Rackla Lake	3410	4/26/2016	26	6.9	32	8.4	30	8.2
Riffs Ridge	2130	4/30/2016	17	4.1	31	9.3	17	5
Rose Creek (Faro)	1080	4/25/2016	0	0.0	9	2.5	---	---
Russell Lake	3480	4/26/2016	23	7.0	31	9.3	30	8.6
Satasha Lake	3630	4/26/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6
Summit	985	4/29/2016	13	4.1	20	5.6	21	6.4
Tagish	3540	4/27/2016	2	0.8	18	5.1	16	4.6
Twin Creeks	2950	4/26/2016	7	2.1	17	5.8	20	6.1
Watson Lake Airport	685	4/26/2016	0	0.0	---	0.0	---	---
Whitehorse Airport	2300	4/25/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Williams Creek	3000	4/26/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.9
Withers Lake	3200	4/26/2016	22	7.3	31	10.3	28	8.7

**Estimate*

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Yukon River At Eagle	May-Jul	85	97	73	27200	32000
			10			

Central Yukon Basin



Snow pack

The seven measured Central Yukon Basin snow sites averaged near normal, ranging from melted out at Fort Yukon to 143% of normal in the Upper Porcupine. The snowpack in this area is quickly melting out, however, with much of the snowpack in the Yukon Flats already gone.

In the White Mountains, the Upper Nome Creek SNOTEL melted out on May 3rd and caught 0.9" of precipitation during April.

In the Fortymile region, the new Jack Wade Junction SNOTEL, near the junction of the Taylor and the Top-of-the-World Highways, had 21 inches of snow and 6.3 inches of water content, a loss of 13" and 1.3" of water content over the month. The American Creek SNOTEL, near Eagle, AK, melted out on May 2.

The Porcupine basin snow courses, in the Yukon Territory, averaged 95% of normal, down from 105% last month. These sites ranged from melted out at Eagle River snow course to 143% of normal at Eagle Plains snow course which had 24" of snow with 7.3" 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	5/1/2016	4	0.7	12	3.4	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	5/1/2016	47	---	40	---	---	---
Cathedral Creek	1800	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	14	4.9	---	---
Coal Creek	1000	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	4	1.2	---	---
Copper Creek	2000	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Crescent Creek	2600	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	2	0.6	---	---
Eagle Summit	3650	5/1/2016	24	---	17	---	---	---
Fort Yukon	430	5/1/2016	0	---	0	---	---	---
Hess Creek	1000	4/28/2016	19	4.0	15	3.5	10	2.6
Jack Wade Jct	3585	5/1/2016	21	6.3	---	---	---	---
Mission Creek	900	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Old Crow	980	5/1/2016	19	5.5	26	7.0	19	4.0
Seven Mile	600	4/28/2016	13	3.4	5	1.8	12	3.4
Step Mountain	2850	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	17	5.6	---	---
Thirty Mile	1350	4/28/2016	23	6.7	11	3.1	28	6.6
Three Fingers	3350	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	25	8.5	---	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	5/1/2016	6	2.2*	20	---	---	---

*Estimate

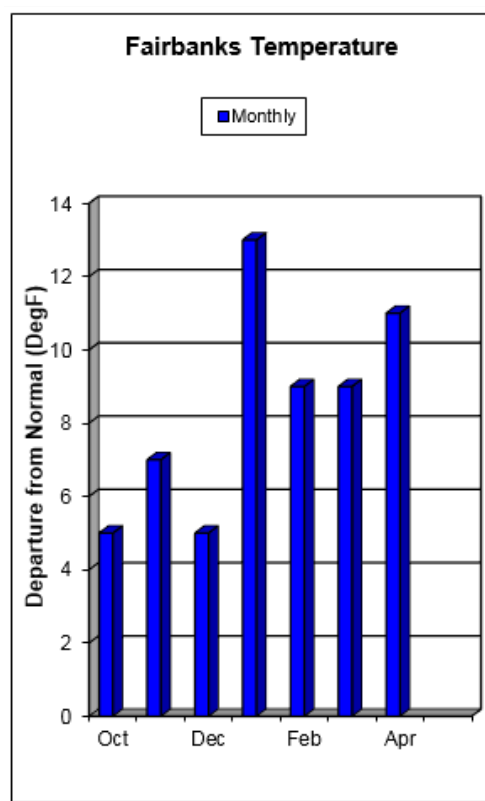
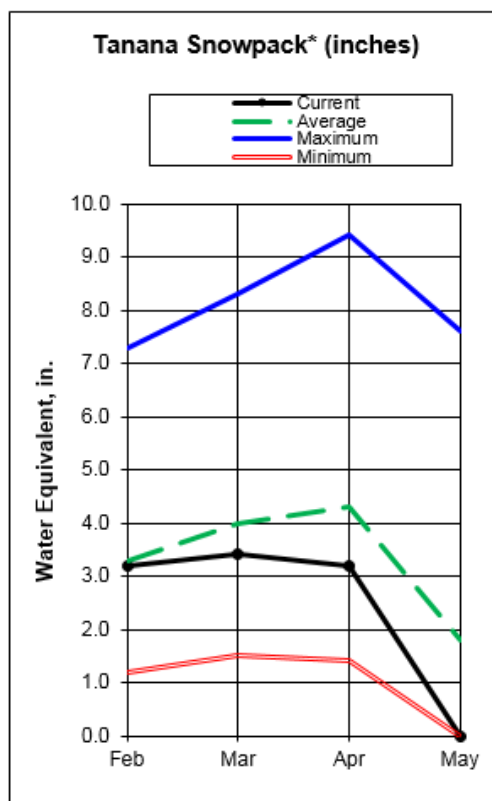
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Porcupine River near Intl Boundary	May-Jul	90	131	62	5040	5600
Yukon River near Stevens Village	May-Jul	90	103	77	42120	46800

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
American Creek	1050	3.9	5.1	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	5.0	5.3	6.7	75%
Chandalar Camp	3300	4.5	<i>No Survey</i>	5.2	87%
Eagle Summit	3650	5.5	6.0	5.9	93%
Fort Yukon	430	3.7	3.2	3.9	95%
Jack Wade Jct	3585	6.4	---	---	---
Upper Nome Creek	2520	6.1	6.7	6.5	94%

Tanana Basin



Snow pack

The warm and dry spell during April continued to devastate the snowpack in the Tanana Basin. The lowest snow site with measurable snow was at 2200' of elevation. Of the 27 measured sites, only 8 had snow to measure.

Near Delta Junction, the Granite Creek SNOTEL site melted out on April 10th, 16 days before the median meltout. South in the Alaska Range, Fielding Lake snow course at 3000' feet had 25" of snow and 9.6" of water content, 94% of normal.

The majority of the other sites with measurable snow were located in the upper Chena basin. Mt. Ryan SNOTEL melted out on May 2, 14 days ahead of the median meltout date.

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	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Caribou Creek	1250	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	0	0.0	0	0.0
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chisana	3320	5/1/2016	0	0.0	7	1.8	---	2.8
Cleary Summit	2230	4/28/2016	14	3.7	23	6.3	19	4.9
Colorado Creek	700	4/30/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.0
Fairbanks F.O.	450	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	0.0
Faith Creek	1750	4/28/2016	0	0.0	15	3.9	7	2.0
Fielding Lake	3000	4/28/2016	25	9.6	32	9.4	34	10.2
Fort Greely	1500	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
French Creek	1800	5/2/2016	0	0.0	20	5.2	13	3.6
Gerstle River	1200	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6
Granite Crk	1240	5/1/2016	0	0.0	1	0.5	---	0.0
Jatahmund Lake	2180	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.2
Kantishna	1550	4/27/2016	0	0.0	6	1.5	9	2.2
Lake Minchumina	730	4/27/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Mentasta Pass	2430	4/28/2016	0	0.0	12	3.1	14	3.9
Monument Creek	1850	5/1/2016	0	0.0	7	3.2	---	2.1
Mt. Ryan	2800	5/1/2016	1	0.8	20	5.4	---	4.7
Munson Ridge	3100	5/1/2016	18	6.8	28	8.6	---	7.9
Paradise Hill	2200	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rock Creek Bottom	2250	4/27/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8
Rock Creek Ridge	2600	5/1/2016	0*	0.0*	0	0.0	8	1.9
Shaw Creek Flats	980	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	0	0.0	0	0.0
Teuchet Creek	1640	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	1.3
Tok Junction	1650	4/28/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

*Estimate

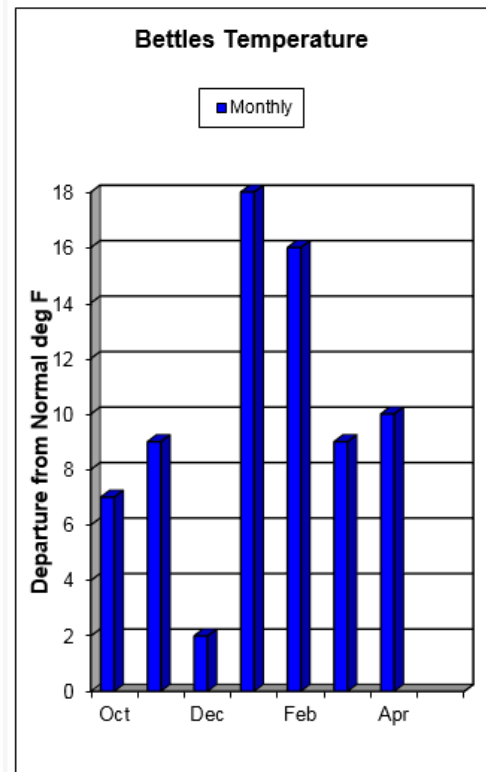
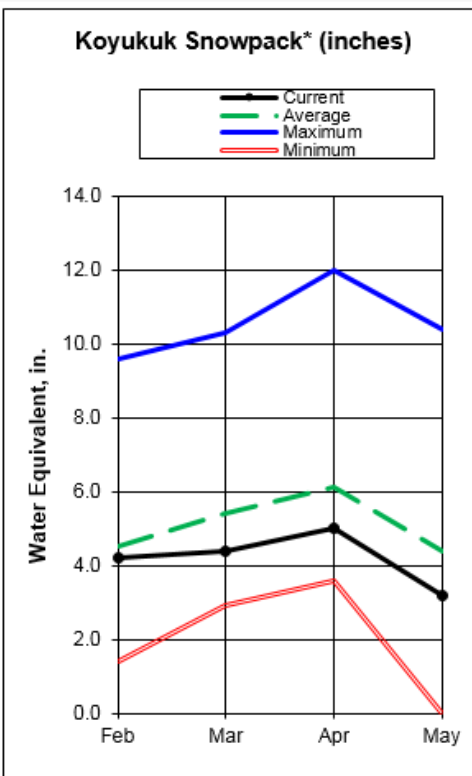
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Salcha River near Salchaket	May-Jul	77	107	53	460	595
Tanana River at Fairbanks	May-Jul	77	91	63	5380	7000
Chena River near Two Rivers	May-Jul	76	112	42	195	255
Little Chena River near Fairbanks	May-Jul	78	110	46	56	72
Tanana River at Nenana	May-Jul	79	93	64	6670	8470

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Chisana	3320	3.7	2.7	---	---
Fairbanks F.O.	450	4.3	3.5	4.9	88%
Granite Crk	1240	2.2	4.8	4.4	50%
Kantishna	1550	5.0	4.4	5.0	100%
Little Chena Ridge	2000	4.3	4.4	6.2	69%
Nenana	415	3.5	3.3	---	---
Tok	1630	2.4	3.4	---	---
Upper Chena	2850	5.6	7.3	7.9	71%

Western Interior Basins



Snow pack

Koyukuk

For another month the Koyukuk basin received below normal precipitation and had above normal temperatures. The six measured sites in the Koyukuk averaged 61% of normal snowpack. The lower basin appears to be well along the way to being melting out while the upper basin, in the foothills of the Brooks Range, still is retaining some snow and will likely melt out only a week ahead of median.

Kuskokwim

Much of the measured snowpack in the Kuskokwim has melted out. Most of the remaining snowpack in the basin resides in the higher elevations of the Alaska Range. Both Aniak SCAN and Telaquana Lake SNOTEL melted out on April 8th.

Lower Yukon

The lower Yukon area had above normal temperatures during April and much of the basin has melted out. The Innoko Camp SCAN melted out on April 25th and gained no measurable precipitation during the month.

Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Con- tent	Snow Depth	Water Con- tent	Snow Depth	Water Con- tent
Koyukuk								
Bettles Field	640	5/1/2016	14	4.6	13	4.9	---	6.6
Bonanza Forks	1200	4/28/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	4.2
Cloverleaf	170	No Survey	---	---	9	2.9	---	---
Coldfoot	1040	5/1/2016	11	3.6	15	5.4	---	6.1
Colville Bend	170	No Survey	---	---	15	4.9	---	---
Disaster Creek	1550	4/28/2016	2	0.7	0	0.0	14	3.4
Gobblers Knob	2030	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	---	---	---
Huggins Creek	290	No Survey	---	---	9	3	---	---
Jr Slough	160	No Survey	---	---	7	2.3	---	---
Kaldoyeit	750	No Survey	---	---	18	5.5	10	2.8
Kanuti Chalatna	670	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	16	3.8
Kanuti Kilolitna	550	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	9	2.8
Kanuti Lake	524	5/1/2016	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
Minnkokut	580	No Survey	---	---	6	1.9	26	6.6
Nolitna	560	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	14	---
Table Mountain	2200	4/28/2016	15	3.8	15	4.5	20	4.8
Taiholman	540	No Survey	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Treat Island	190	No Survey	---	---	15	4.8	---	---
Kuskokwim								
Aniak	80	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Canyon Lake	550	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Mcgrath	340	No Survey	---	---	---	---	9	3.0
Purkeypile Mine	2025	No Survey	---	---	9	2.4	9	2.6
Telaquana Lake	1550	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Lower Yukon								
Deer Creek	195	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Grouch Creek	220	No Survey	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Holikachuk	100	No Survey	---	---	---	---	9	3.2
Horsefly Creek	180	No Survey	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Little Mud River	855	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Menotl Creek	380	No Survey	---	---	---	---	16	6.4
Middle Innoko	150	No Survey	---	---	---	---	0	0.0
Ninemile Island	140	No Survey	---	---	19	5.9	---	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Squirrel Creek	150	No Survey	---	---	15	4.8	---	---
Upper Innoko	180	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	0	0.0
Wapoo Hills	220	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	0	0.0
Yankee Slough	100	No Survey	---	---	9	2.6	24	7.5
Yetna River	120	No Survey	---	---	---	---	0	0.0

*Estimate

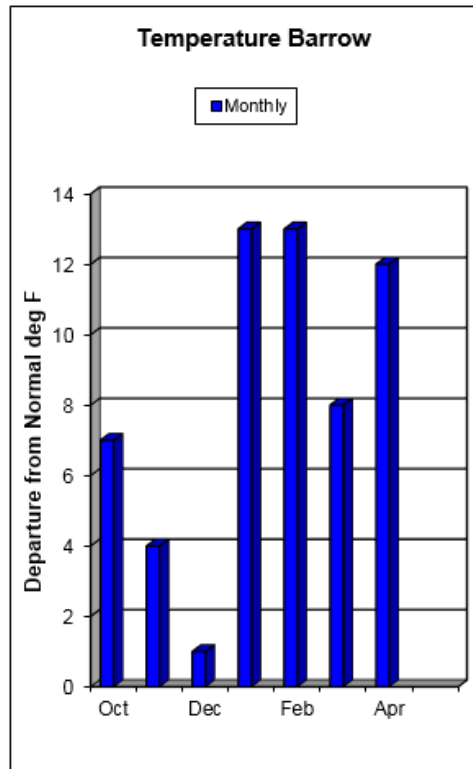
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek	---	---	---	---	---	---

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st					
Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Koyukuk					
Bettles Field	640	6.4	3.8	7.6	84%
Coldfoot	1040	5.2	4.3	7.3	71%
Gobblers Knob	2030	5.4	5.1	7.6	71%
Hozatka Lake	206	4.3	5.7	---	---
Kuskokwim					
Aniak	80	7.9	6.5	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	8.3	4.6	---	---
Lower Yukon					
Innoko Camp	83	7.2	5.4	---	---

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound



Snow pack

Arctic

The Arctic had near normal precipitation during April. The Umiat snow course, which is measured mid-month, gained 5" of depth and 0.5" of water content during the time. The snowpack in the Arctic is likely to be near, but slightly below normal.

Kotzebue

The Kotzebue Sound area received near normal precipitation during April. Kelly Station SNOTEL, on the Noatak River, peaked on April 3 and melted out on April 26th. The site also gained 0.3" of precipitation during the month.

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	<i>No Survey</i>	47	---	40	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	<i>No Survey</i>	22	---	32	---	---	---
Kelly Station	310	<i>No Survey</i>	0	0.0	23	6.8	---	---
Prudhoe Bay	30	<i>No Survey</i>	7	---	21	---	---	---
Sagwon	1000	<i>No Survey</i>	14	---	22	---	---	---
Umiat	267	4/18/2016	16	2.9	---	---	---	---

**Estimate*

Streamflow Forecasts

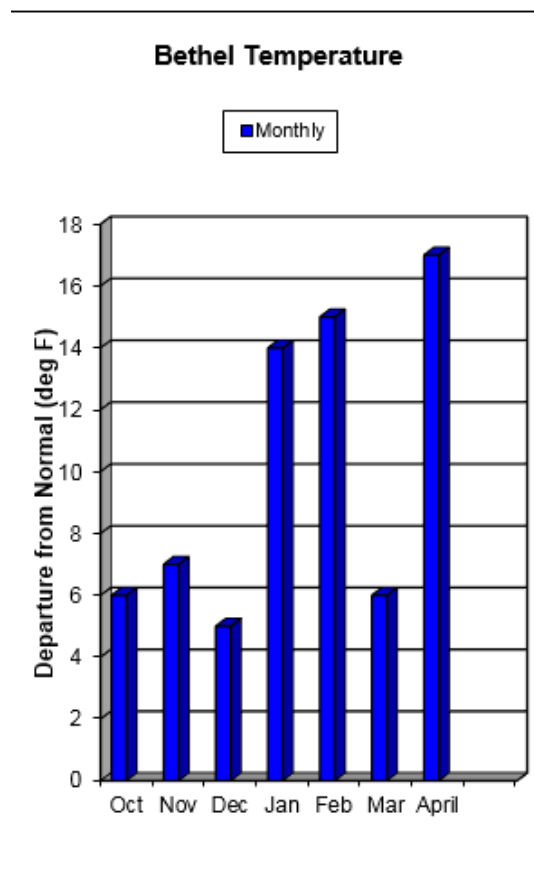
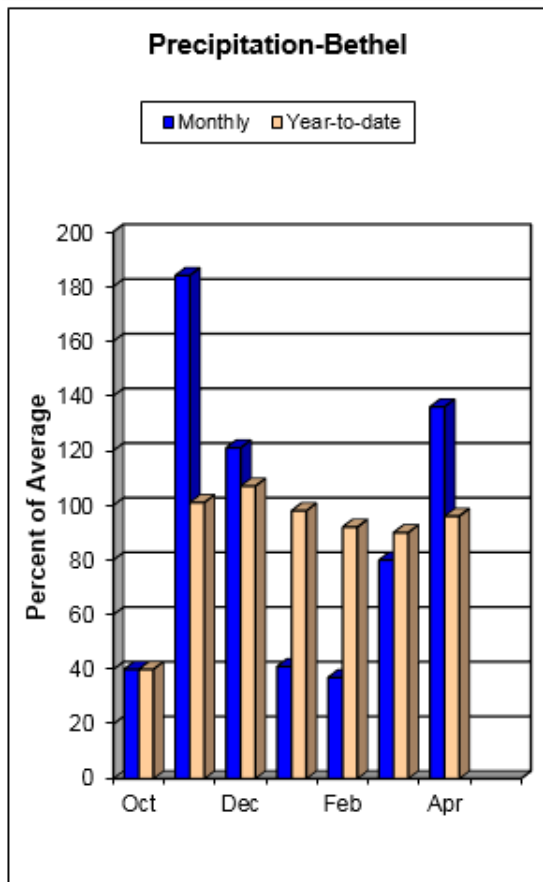
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse	May-Jul	89	127	62	705	795
Sagavanirktok River near Pump Station 3	May-Jul	89	131	60	610	683

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Arctic					
Atigun Camp	3400	2.4	<i>No Survey</i>	3.0	80%
Atigun Pass	4800	5.0	5.3	6.7	75%
Imnaviat Creek	3050	2.2	4.1	3.3	67%
Prudhoe Bay	30	2.8	3.6	4.1	68%
Sagwon	1000	2.9	3.7	3.4	85%
Kotzebue Sound					
Port Red Dog	50	4.3	<i>No Survey</i>	4.2	102%
Red Dog Mine	950	6.4	<i>No Survey</i>	5.3	121%
Kelly Station	310	3.9	5.8	---	---

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay



Snow pack

Norton Sound

The Seward Peninsula had near normal precipitation for the month of April and much above normal temperatures. Many areas near the coast have melted out, but snow persists inland and in the mountains. Checkers Creek SCAN, near the Kougarok airstrip, had nine inches of snow on May 1, but melted out on May 6th.

Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

Most of the Y-K Delta is snow free. The Kanaryagak Camp SCAN site melted out on April 25th. The site also received 0.4" of precipitation during the month, mainly as rain.

Bristol Bay

Most of the Bristol Bay region is snow free. Snow loiters in the higher elevation regions of the Tik-chiks and the Peninsula Range.

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay

Snowpack Data

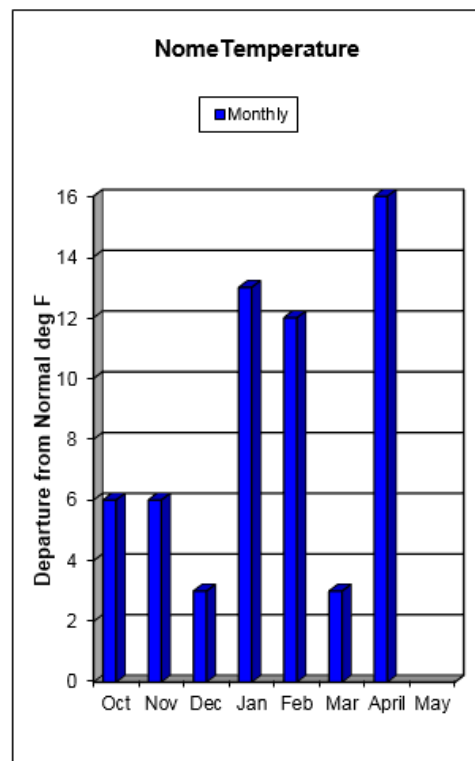
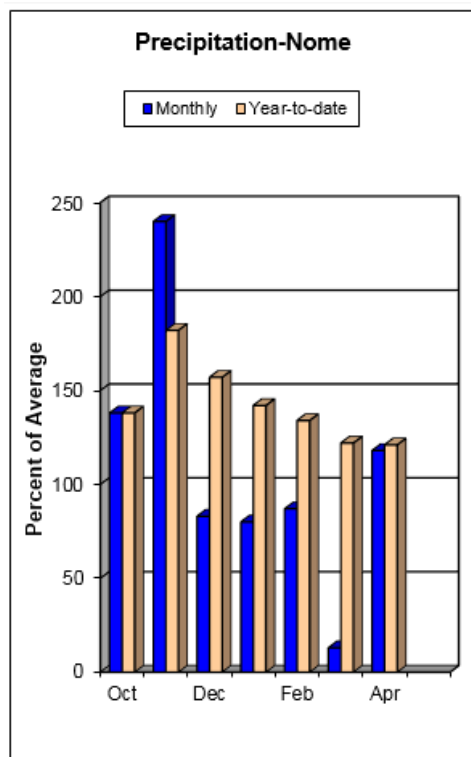
<u>Snowpack Data</u>			This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
Site Name	Elev.	Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Bristol Bay								
Brooks Camp	150	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Canyon Lake	550	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	---	---	---
Lower Mulchatna	320	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	---	---	---
Naknek River	100	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	---	---	---
Port Alsworth	270	5/1/2016	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Three Forks	1300	No Survey	---	---	0	0.0	---	---
Weary Lake	100	5/1/2016	0	0.0	2	---	---	---
Norton Sound								
Checkers Creek	326	5/1/2016	9	2.2*	1	---	---	---
Johnsons Camp	25	5/1/2016	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	5/1/2016	0	0.0	4	---	---	---
Rocky Point	250	5/1/2016	4	1.5*	13	---	---	---
Unalakleet	290	5/1/2016	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta								
Kanaryagak Camp	13	5/1/2016	0	0.0	2	---	---	6.8

*Estimate

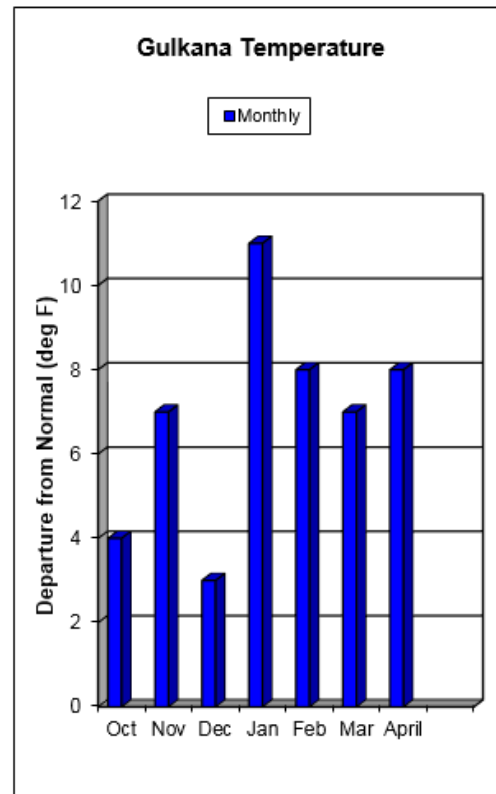
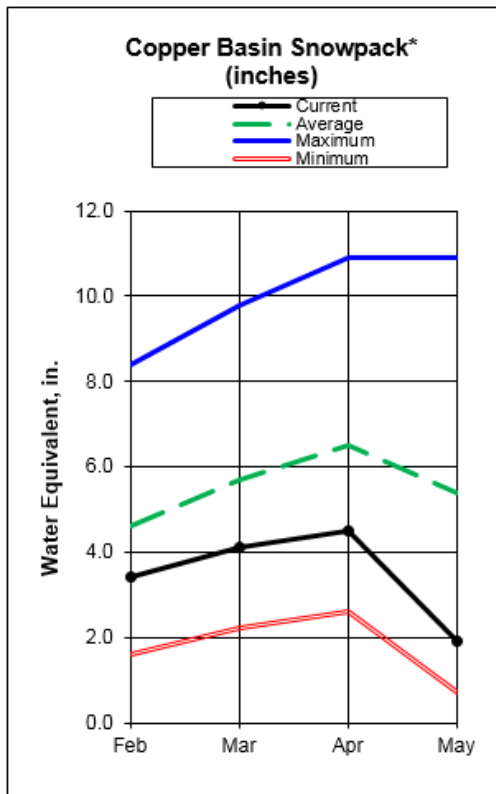
Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Bristol Bay					
Lower Mulchatna	320	12.5	9.4	---	---
Naknek River	100	12.8	8.7	---	---
Weary Lake	100	39.8	38.8	---	---
Norton Sound					
Checkers Creek	326	3.0	1.9	---	---
Pargon Creek	100	7.8	---	6.7	116%
Rocky Point	250	6.4	4.1	5.8	110%
Unalakleet	290	3.2	---	---	---
Yukon - Kuskokwim Delta					
Kanaryagak Camp	13	4.6	3.6	---	---



Copper Basin



Snow pack

Continued warm temperatures in the Copper Valley further reduced the remaining snowpack. Most of the snowpack on the basin floor has melted out and the snowline is creeping up the mountains.

The seven snow course located on the basin floor were all melted out. In the Wrangells, May Creek SNOTEL melted out April 19th.

The only snow measuring sites left with snow were higher in elevation. Paxson snow course only had 7 inches of snow left, while down in the Chugach Range, Worthington Glacier had 51 inches of snow.

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	4/28/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fielding Lake	3000	4/28/2016	25	9.6	32	9.4	34	10.2
Haggard Creek	2540	4/28/2016	0	0.0	18	4.4	14	4.3
Kenny Lake School	1300	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Little Nelchina	2650	4/29/2016	0	0.0	10	2.5	12	3.7
May Creek	1610	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	2.0
Mentasta Pass	2430	4/28/2016	0	0.0	12	3.1	14	3.9
Paxson	2650	4/28/2016	7	2.0	25	6.1	22	6.4
Tazlina	1250	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tolsona Creek	2000	4/29/2016	0	0.0	9	2.2	0	0.0
Tsaina River	1650	5/1/2016	0*	0.0*	22	8.0	42	14.0
Upper Tsaina River	1750	5/1/2016	37	15.9	41	15.0	---	19.2
Worthington Glacier	2100	5/1/2016	51*	23.5*	51	18.9	63	24.6

*Estimate

Streamflow Forecasts

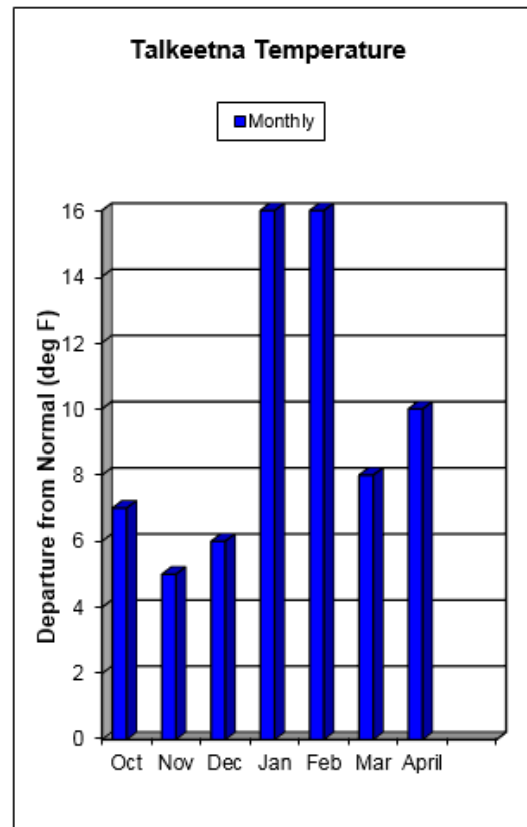
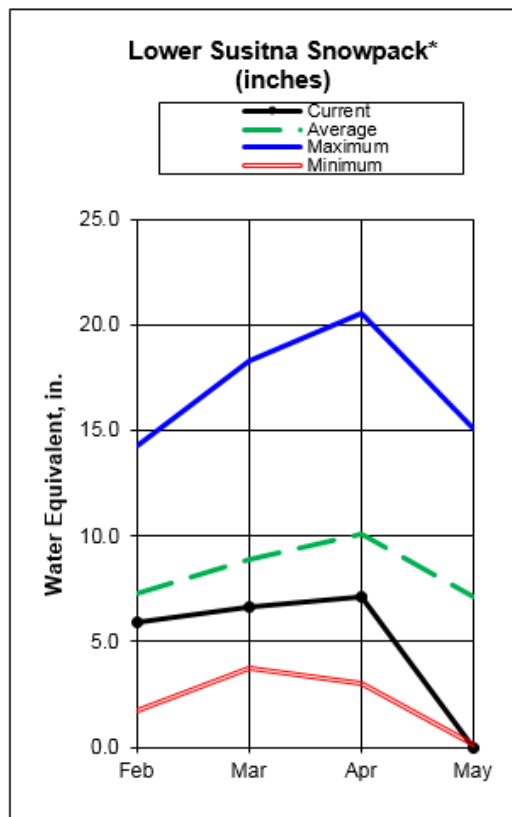
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Gulkana River at Sourdough	May-Jul	70	98	42	290	415

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
May Creek	1610	7.6	5.3	6.5	117%
Upper Tsaina River	1750	26.5	23.6	28.5	93%

Matanuska—Susitna Basin



Snow pack

The Matanuska Valleys have lost most of their lower elevation snowpacks. However, several higher elevation areas continue to have near or above normal snowpack.

The 5 measured sites in the lower Susitna Basin had no snow. Su Valley High SNOTEL, near Talkeetna, melted out on April 17th, three weeks before its average meltout date.

Broad Pass area continued to have snow as shown by the East Fork Chulitna snow course which still had 38 inches of snow with 14.2 inches of water content, which is considered 115% of normal. This band of above normal snow stretched east towards the Susitna headwaters in the Alaska Range. Monohan Flat SNOTEL still had 30 inches of snow on May 1.

In the Matanuska Basin, the snowpack in the top of the Talkeetna Mountains remains above normal. Independence Mine snow course retained 66 inches of snow with 27.1 inches of water content, 124% of normal. However, lower down in the basin melt out is well along. Little Su snow course only had 3 inches of snow left, with 1.2 inches of water content, which is considered 15% of normal.

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	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Archangel Road	2200	4/29/2016	21	8.7	23	8.5	35	11.7
Blueberry Hill	1200	4/28/2016	23	9.3	19	7.7	40	14.1
Chelatna Lake	1450	4/28/2016	0	0.0	19	6.9	30	9.6
Denali View	700	4/28/2016	0	0.0	2	0.7	27	9.1
Dunkle Hills	2700	4/28/2016	31	12.4*	27	9.2	---	---
Dutch Hills	3100	4/28/2016	67	27.5*	---	---	71	25.7
E. Fork Chulitna	1770	4/28/2016	38	14.2	32	10.1	42	12.4
Fishhook Basin	3300	4/29/2016	57	22.7	42	14.2	55	19.5
Fog Lakes	2120	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	15	3.8
Halfway Slough	350	4/28/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Horsepasture Pass	4300	5/1/2016	17	5.1*	16	---	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	4/29/2016	66	27.1	48	16.2	61	21.8
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	5/1/2016	46	16.9	32	11.1	---	14.6
Lake Louise	2400	4/29/2016	0	0.0	10	2.6	11	2.9
Little Susitna	1700	4/29/2016	3	1.2	10	2.8	21	8.2
Monahan Flat	2710	5/1/2016	30	---	21	---	---	---
Nugget Bench	2010	4/28/2016	8	3.1*	19	7.0	42	13.9
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	4/28/2016	40	16.8*	---	---	57	19.7
Sheep Mountain	2900	4/29/2016	0	0.0	4	1.0	11	3.1
Skwentna	160	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	30	9.5
Susitna Valley High	375	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	5.1
Talkeetna	350	4/28/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	4.0
Tokositna Valley	850	5/1/2016	18	7.4	25	10.7	---	11.8
Willow Airstrip	200	4/28/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	3.3

*Estimate

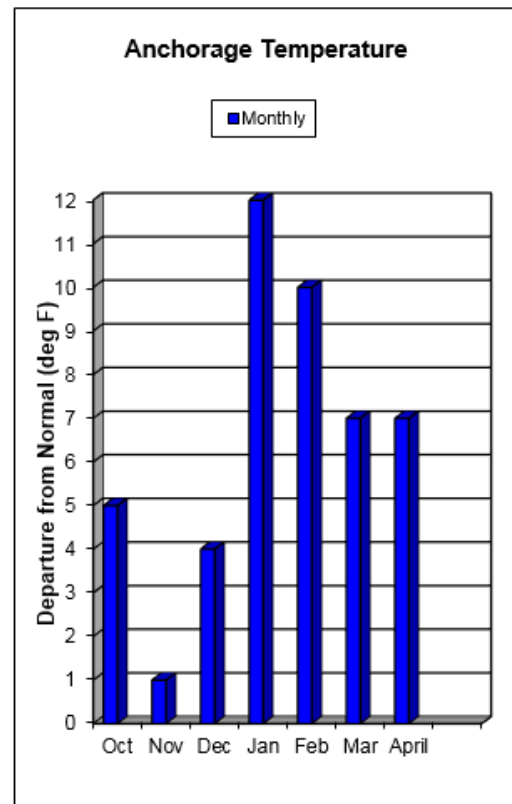
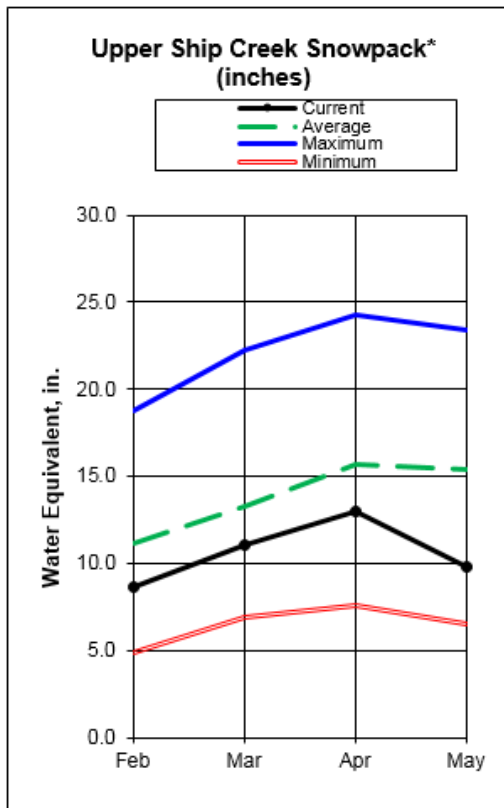
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Little Susitna River near Palmer	May-Jul	100	124	76	80	80
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna	May-Jul	99	115	82	1510	1530

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Alexander Lake	160	17.8	10.7	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	23.4	13.6	18.0	130%
Monahan Flat	2710	7.0	5.3	8.6	81%
Susitna Valley High	375	13.9	10.1	13.4	104%
Tokositna Valley	850	23.6	16.3	21.4	110%

Northern Cook Inlet



Snow pack

Snowpack in northern Cook Inlet continues to retreat higher into the mountains. Anchorage Hillside SNOTEL melted out on April 18th, a solid month earlier than average. Moraine SNOTEL melted out on April 24th, three weeks ahead of average melt out.

Indian Pass SNOTEL still had 42 inches of snow on May 1st, but had a dry April measuring only 10% of its normal 3" of April precipitation.

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	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	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	5/1/2016	42	19.5	51	16.3	---	24.3
Kincaid Park	250	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Moraine	2100	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	6.5
Mt. Alyeska	1540	5/1/2016	36	12.6*	17	6.1	---	35.2
Portage Valley	50	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	6.2
South Campbell Creek	1200	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	3.4
*Estimate								

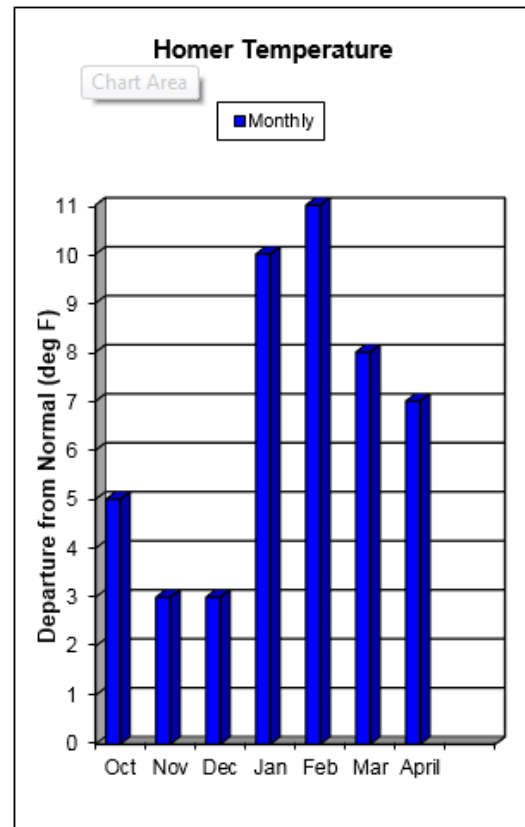
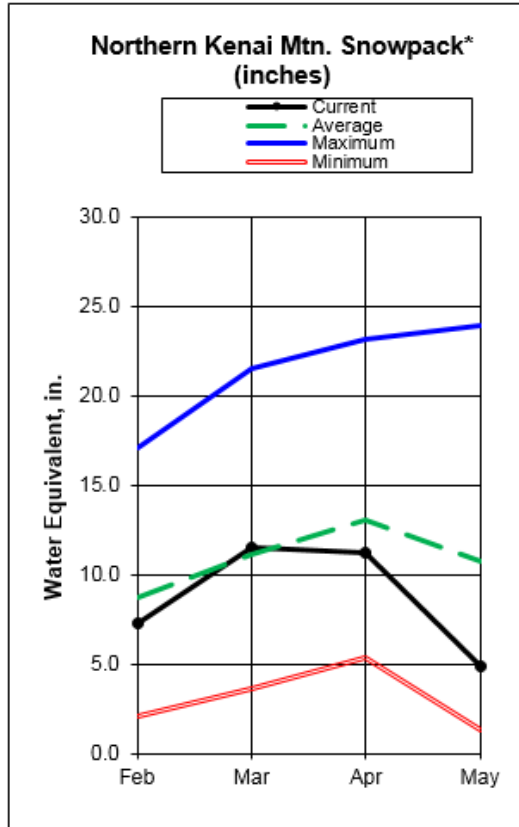
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Ship Creek near Anchorage	May-Jul	71	93	48	40	56

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			% of Normal
			Last Year	1981-2010 Normal		
Anchorage Hillside	2080	11.1	9.1	15.5		72%
Indian Pass	2350	25.6	21.7	28.4		90%
Moraine	2100	10.8	8.2	12.7		85%
Mt. Alyeska	1540	61.4	42.8	52.9		116%

Kenai Peninsula



Snow pack

The Kenai Peninsula experienced mixed precipitation during April. Storms dropped above normal amounts of precipitation along the Gulf coast and areas near Cook Inlet received below normal amounts.

The 19 snow monitoring sites on the Kenai average 57% of normal snowpack, down from 98% last month. Most lower sites have melted out and higher measurement sites are losing snowpack,

Turnagain Pass SNOTEL snowpack reached peak water content on April 1st, over a month earlier than average. As of May 1st, it still had 137% of normal snowpack with 106 inches of snow and 54.5 inches of water content.

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	5/1/2016	20	7.3	14	5.5	---	10.0
Bertha Creek	950	5/3/2016	17	6.4	8	2.7	50	17.7
Bridge Creek	1300	5/2/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	10.6
Cooper Lake	1200	5/1/2016	10	2.3	1	0.7	---	12.0
Demonstration Forest	780	5/2/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	4.6
Eagle Lake	1400	5/2/2016	9	3.2	5	2.0	24	9.0
Exit Glacier	400	5/2/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	10.8
Exit Glacier	400	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	11.0
Grandview	1100	5/1/2016	54	29.5	26	8.4	---	34.6
Grouse Creek Divide	700	5/1/2016	12	3.2	6	1.6	---	16.0
Jean Lake	620	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Kenai Moose Pens	300	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	0.0
Kenai Summit	1390	5/3/2016	23	8.4	7	2.8	30	11.3
Mcneil Canyon	1320	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	8.0
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	No Survey	75	---	26	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	5/3/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mt. Alyeska	1540	5/1/2016	36	12.6*	17	6.1	---	35.2
Nuka Glacier	1250	No Survey	---	---	---	---	93	42.8
Port Graham	300	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	4.0
Portage Valley	50	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	6.2
Snug Harbor Road	500	4/29/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Summit Creek	1400	5/1/2016	10	3.4	7	3.1	---	6.7
Turnagain Pass	1880	5/1/2016	106	54.5	62	20.2	---	39.8

*Estimate

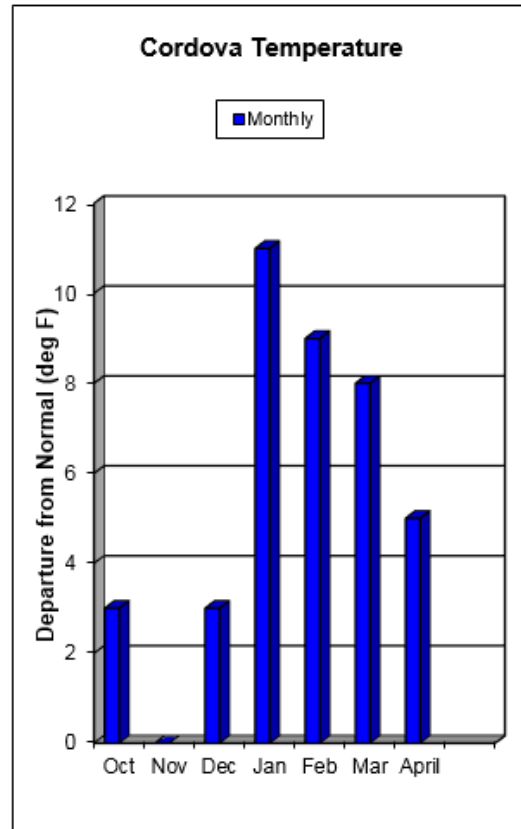
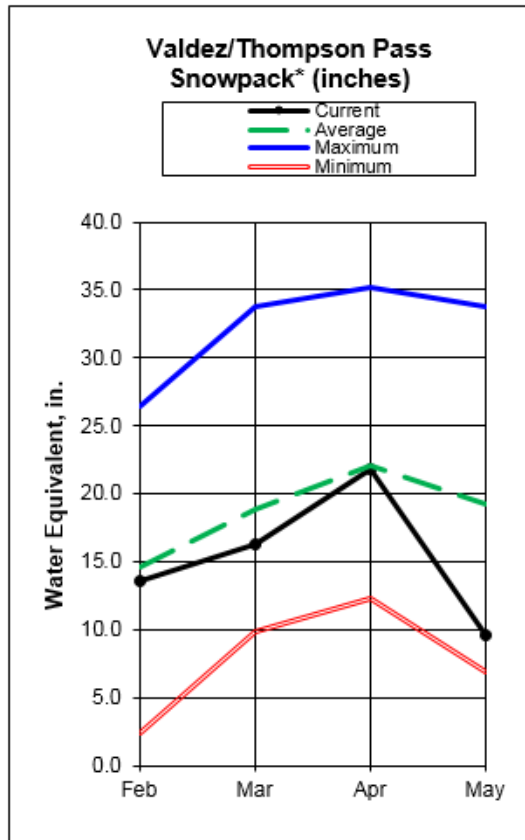
Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Kenai River at Cooper Landing	May-Jul	102	115	89	940	920

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Anchor River Divide	1653	24.1	16.7	18.5	130%
Cooper Lake	1200	29.9	23.3	27.1	110%
Grandview	1100	71.8	50.5	46.9	153%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	65.6	44.3	41.9	157%
Kachemak Creek	1660	74.7	61.5	41.7	179%
Kenai Moose Pens	300	8.1	3.8	8.9	91%
Mcneil Canyon	1320	22.1	13.6	17.9	123%
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	47.6	43.2	35.6	134%
Nuka Glacier	1250	83.7	73.7	60.8	138%
Port Graham	300	67.3	51.5	52.8	127%
Summit Creek	1400	21.9	15.1	17.1	128%
Turnagain Pass	1880	66.9	41.3	47.2	142%

Western Gulf



Snow pack

The measured snowpack in the Western Gulf of Alaska region has become below normal due to advanced melting. Prince William Sound experienced variable but generally above normal precipitation during the month and above normal temperatures. Western sites received up to twice normal April precipitation while eastern sites received below normal precipitation.

Worthington Glacier snow course at 2100' of elevation is still at 96% of normal with 51 inches of snow and 23.5 inches of water content. Mt. Eyak SNOTEL melted out May 2 after reaching peak snowpack on March 28th with 46 inches of snowdepth and 14.2 inches of water content.

Western Gulf

Snowpack Data

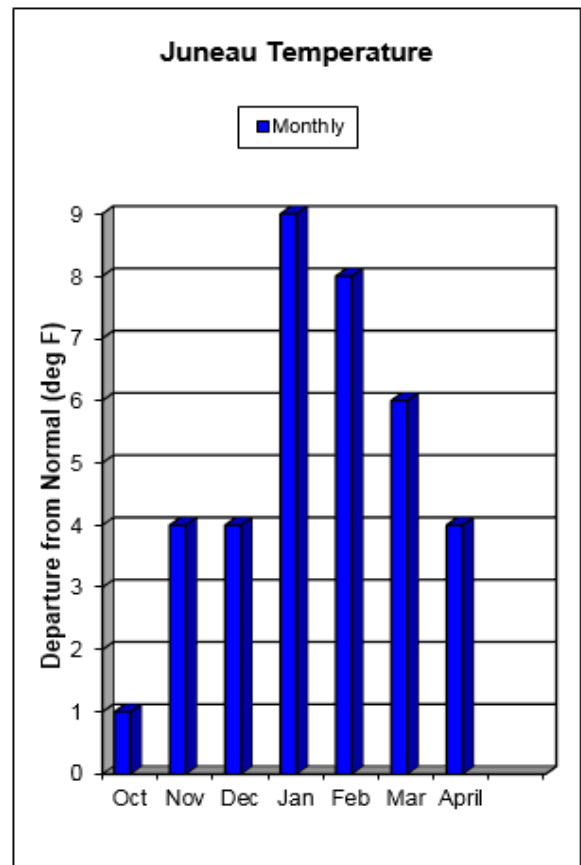
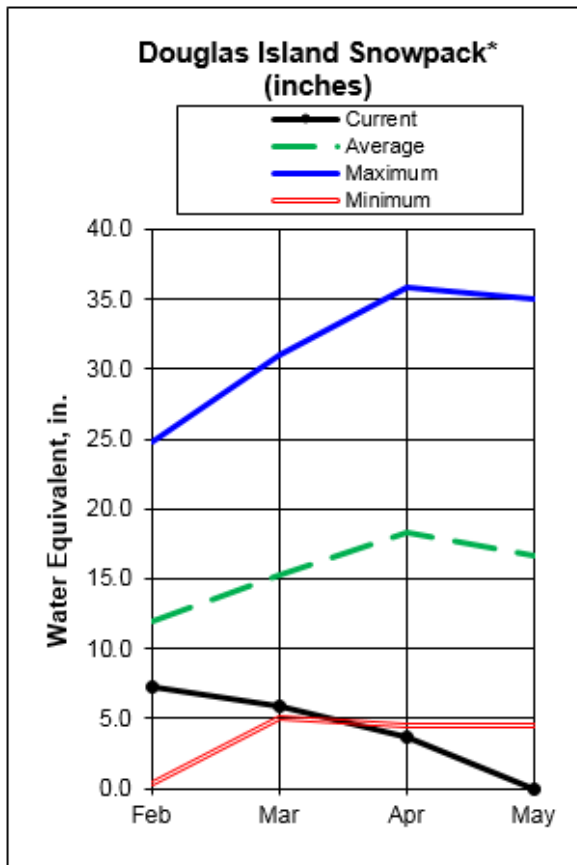
Site Name	Elev.	Date	This Year		Last Year		1981-2010 Normal	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Exit Glacier	400	5/2/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	10.8
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	11.0
Grouse Creek Divide	700	5/1/2016	12	3.2	6	1.6	---	16.0
Lowe River	600	5/1/2016	0*	0.0*	16	5.7	32	11.8
Mt. Eyak	1405	5/1/2016	3	1.2	15	6.9	---	28.1
Nuka Glacier	1250	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	---	---	93	42.8
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	<i>No Survey</i>	---	---	47	16.5	61	23.9
Tsaina River	1650	5/1/2016	27*	10.8*	22	8.0	42	14.0
Upper Tsaina River	1750	5/1/2016	37	15.9	41	15.0	---	19.2
Valdez	50	5/1/2016	0*	0.0*	6	2.1	28	10.4
Worthington Glacier	2100	5/1/2016	51	23.5	51	18.9	63	24.6

*Estimate

Precipitation

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Esther Island	50	142.1	103.1	89.0	160%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	65.6	44.3	41.9	157%
Mt. Eyak	1405	91.2	79.2	---	---
Nuchek	50	125.4	92.6	---	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	83.7	73.7	60.8	138%
Port San Juan	50	114.0	---	85.4	133%
Seal Island	20	60.4	46.1	---	---
Strawberry Reef	30	72.2	55.5	---	---
Sugarloaf Mtn	550	52.4	40.7	44.4	118%
Tatitlek	50	58.0	48.7	44.1	132%

Southeast



Snow pack

The snowpack in Southeast Alaska keeps shrinking. After April, only two of the eleven monitoring sites still had snow.

Long Lake SNOTEL experienced peak snowpack on March 16, a full month early. It will likely melt out by mid-May, a full month early as well. Hèen Latinee SNOTEL peaked March 18.

Southeast experienced above normal amounts of precipitation during the month.

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	5/1/2016	0	0.0	17	6.2	70	29.6
Eagle Crest	1200	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	34	12.2
Fish Creek	500	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Institute Creek	1350	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Long Lake	850	5/1/2016	25	11.1	33	14.3	---	35.8
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	5/3/2016	9	3.6*	44	17.5	51	20.7
Petersburg Reservoir	550	4/27/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	4/27/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	52	22.4
Rainbow Falls	500	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Speel River	280	5/1/2016	0	0.0	0	0.0	50	22.0
West Creek	475	5/3/2016	0	0.0	---	---	---	---

*Estimate

Streamflow Forecasts

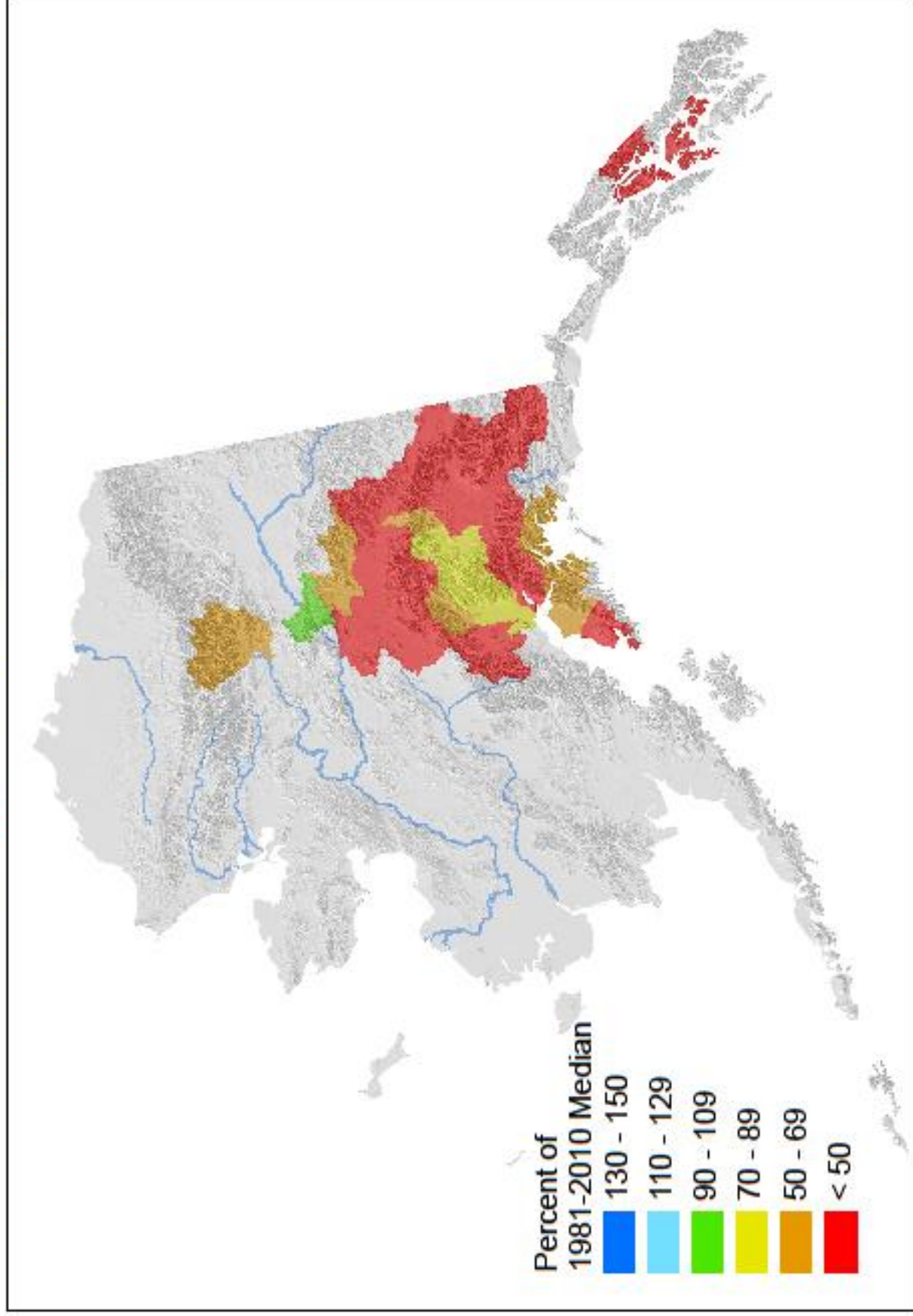
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	% of Average	Maximum(%)	Minimum(%)	50% Exceedance (KAF)	30yr Average (KAF)
Gold Creek near Juneau	May-Jul	69	91	44	22	32

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1981-2010 Normal	% of Normal
Long Lake	850	107.1	119.0	104.6	102%
Heen Latinee	2065	40.5	---	---	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	31.0	33.2	29.6	105%

Alaska Snowpack as of May 1, 2016

Based on Snow Course and SNOTEL site 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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