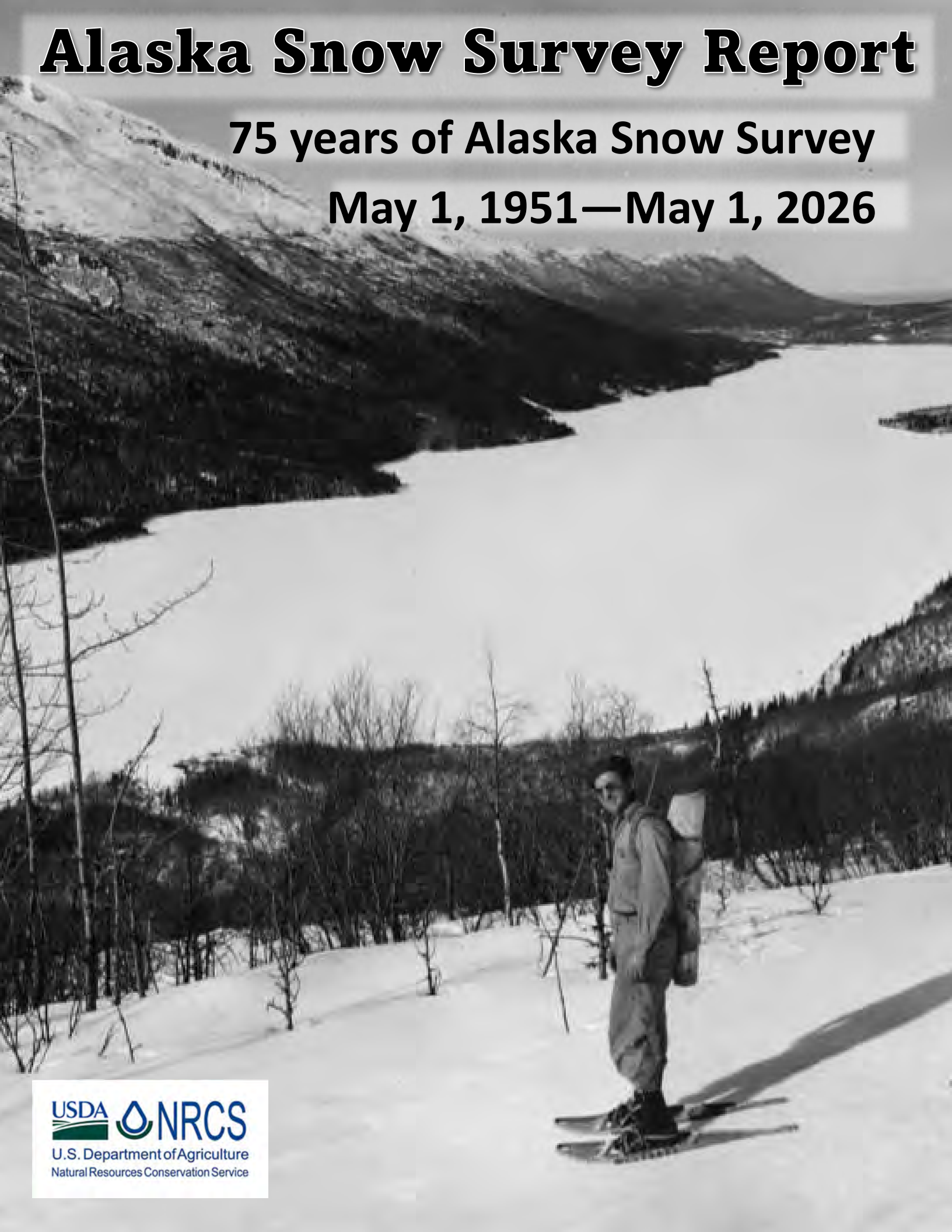
Alaska Snow Survey Report

75 years of Alaska Snow Survey

May 1, 1951—May 1, 2026



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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- Tongass National Forest

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- NOAA, Alaska Pacific RFC

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- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Geological Survey
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- Department of the Environment
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Cover Photo: Snow Surveyor "Woodruff" on trail to perform snow survey near Eklutna Lake in 1954. The oldest snow measurement in the Alaska Snow Survey Database was taken at the Moraine snow course on May 1, 1951 with 11 inches of snow and 3.5 inches of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE). Seventy-Five years later and Moraine SNOTEL is reporting 11 inches of snow depth, and 4.5 inches of SWE.

Table of Contents

General Overview

On May 1, 2026, Alaska Snow Survey is celebrating 75 years of snow measurements. The first measurements in Alaska were made at the request of the Bureau of Reclamation near Eklutna Lake. Of those first measurements, Snow Surveyor R.A. "Arch" Work had this to say :

> By that time of year, Alaska days were becoming quite long. Daylight came to Palmer about 3 a.m., so we got off to an early start across the frozen lake, on snowshoes. We were accompanied by a local USBR employee. A snow course we named "Ptarmagin" was established and measured in the headwa-ters and another at a lower elevation on a glacial moraine. Those were the first snow surveys ever made in Alaska, although now it is a widespread, well-recognized activity.
>
> I still retain a pretty distinct recollection of that Eklutna trip, since a government regulation required us to pack along a .300 Magnum rifle, by reason of Ursus Horribilis. That gun weighed close to a ton by sundown (figuratively speaking). Had it been fired, the barrel might have blown up, as it most likely was full of packed snow, as I had used it for a climbing staff. (p.55-56)*

A lot has happened in the 75 years since those first surveyors snowshoed across the frozen Eklutna Lake with their .300 Mag walking stick. The measurement made "at a lower elevation on a glacial moraine" is the site of the modern-day Moraine SNOTEL. On May 1, 1951, the 11 inches of snow depth, and 3.5 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) they measured is the earliest record in the Alaska Snow Survey database. 75 years later, on May 1, 2026, the Moraine SNOTEL was again reporting 11 inches of snow depth.

The winter of 2025-2026 in Alaska was a doozy. Unrelenting cold. Extraordinary wind in the ordinary gap locations. And snowfall distribution that seemed unfair. I mean really what does a great snow year in Tok do for anyone? These are the winters that weed out the people that are on the fence about a life in Alaska. But for every winter, a spring is sure to follow. In the case of 2026, it has been a cold and wet spring.

For much of Alaska, April is typically the driest month of the year. And for much of Alaska, April of 2026 was wetter than normal. It doesn't take much precipitation for the month to be wetter than normal. At Granite Creek the 1.2 inches of precipitation logged over the month is six times the monthly normal of 0.2 inches. Outside of the low total, but high percentage of normal stations in the Interior, the sites with the most outstanding precipitation were proximal to the Bering Sea, and the Cook Inlet side of South Central. Aniak logged a monthly record high total of 2.8 inches. The Anchorage airport saw an April total that was more than four times its usual third of an inch. At both of these locations, precipitation fluctuated between rain and snow, before settling on soaking rain that became the coup de grâce of the winter's snowpack. But in higher elevations considerable snowfall was noted.

On April 1, the Alaska Snow Survey's homefield snow course, Fishhook Basin in Hatcher Pass, was measured with a period-of-record minimum SWE. Over the month the station gained 8.9 inches of SWE, which is the highest April gain in its robust period of record, and doubled the snowpack for the May 1 measurement. The May 1 measurement was near-normal, the first time this location has been anywhere close to normal all winter.

*Natural Resources Conservation Service. (2008). *History of snow survey and water supply forecasting*. U.S. Department of Agriculture. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/History-of-Snow-Survey-and-Water-Supply-Forecasting.pdf

General Overview, Continued

Elsewhere on May 1, considerably above normal snowpack is being reported from the Interior, particularly on the eastern portion of the state, extending into Yukon Territory. The snowfall winners for the state this year were in the Central Yukon, the Tanana and the Wrangell Mountains. The 2026 snowfall losers were the Koyukuk, the lower Susitna, most of the Kenai Peninsula and Western Gulf. Somewhere in between are the stations around Anchorage, Kelly station in Northwest Alaska and Southeast Alaska.

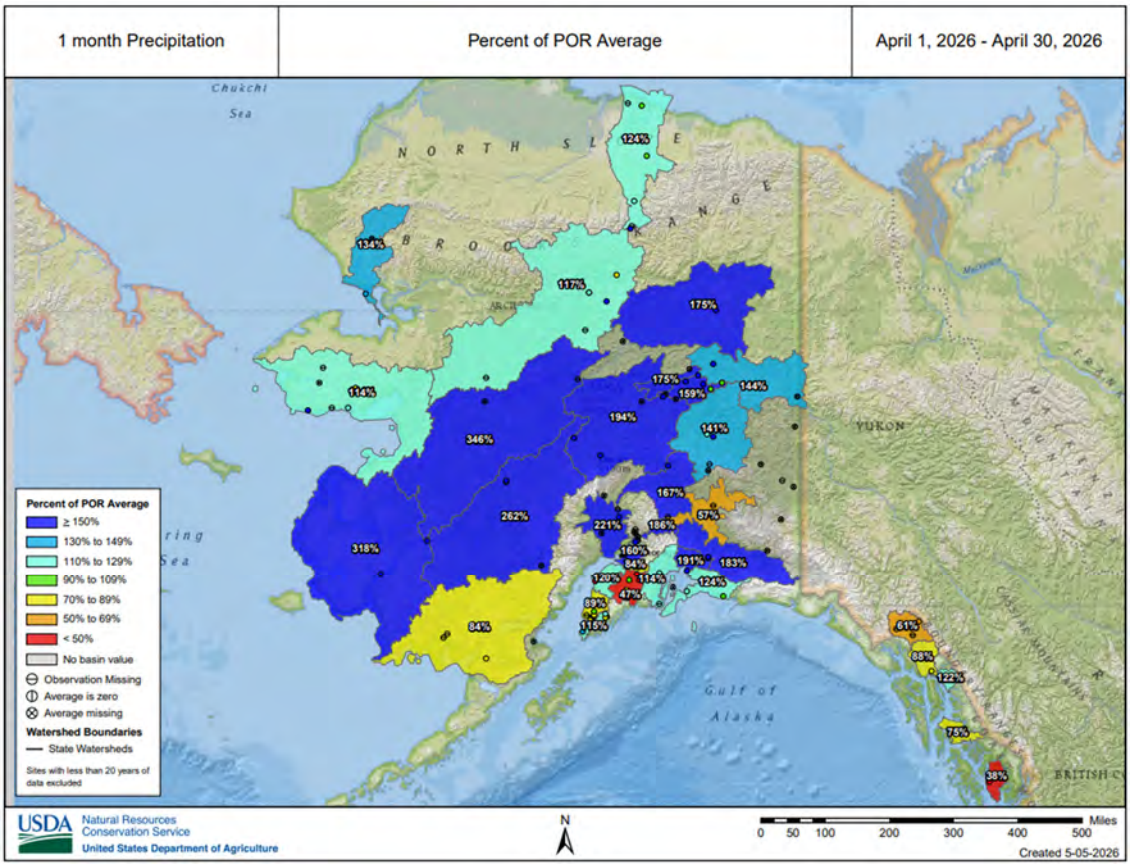
It has been an interesting year for snowfall in Southeast Alaska. Cold temperatures in play meant snow to sea level in the region, with monthly snowfall records noted at coastal locations in December and March. But the monitoring network for Alaska Snow Survey is not at sea level, and this cold air does not have the water holding capacity the region is accustomed to, so the snow statistics from the NRCS monitoring network are fairly unremarkable. Especially in May when the lower elevations have mostly melted out and what is left is near to slightly above normal measurements for the region.

Across Alaska the 2026 snow season is winding down. Most of the monitoring network is in the process of taking a winters worth of solid precipitation and sending it to the ocean. In a few places the peak and subsequent melt started a few days early, but for most of the network the process is late. And there are a handful of higher elevation, and/or northern latitude sites that have yet to begin melting out. But Spring has sprung, the bears are waking up and they're hungry. Hopefully they don't have a taste for the rubber snow pillows that are the lifeblood of SNOTEL.

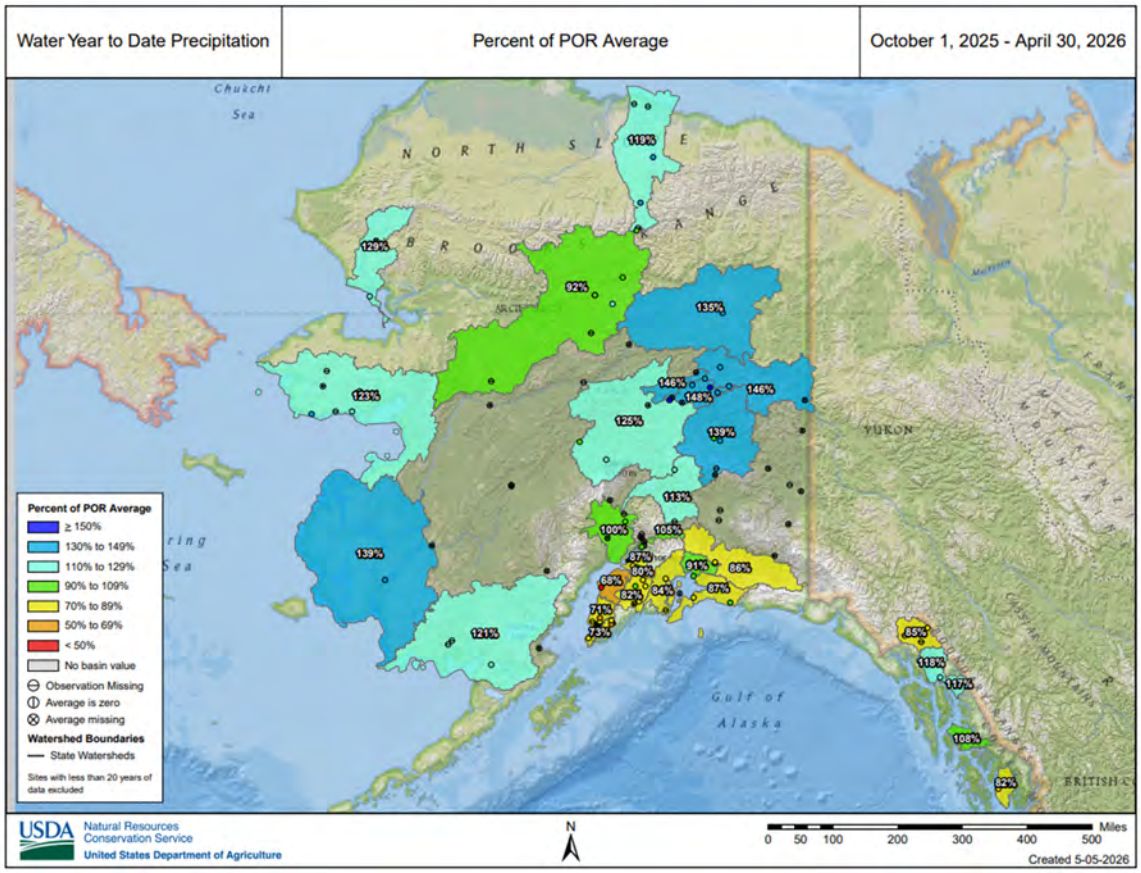
		Basin Index	
Alaska Statewide Snowpack	**# of Sites**	**Current Percent of Median**	**Last Year Percent of Median**
Upper Yukon Basin	35	167	93
Central Yukon Basin	17	186	168
Tanana Basin	27	236	198
Koyukuk Basin	6	69	156
Copper Basin	16	105	104
Matanuska-Susitna Basin	14	84	88
Northern Cook Inlet	9	97	104
Kenai Peninsula	21	52	68
Western Gulf of Alaska	10	79	91
Southeast Alaska	9	105	35

Alaska Statewide Precipitation Maps

Monthly Precipitation for April 2026

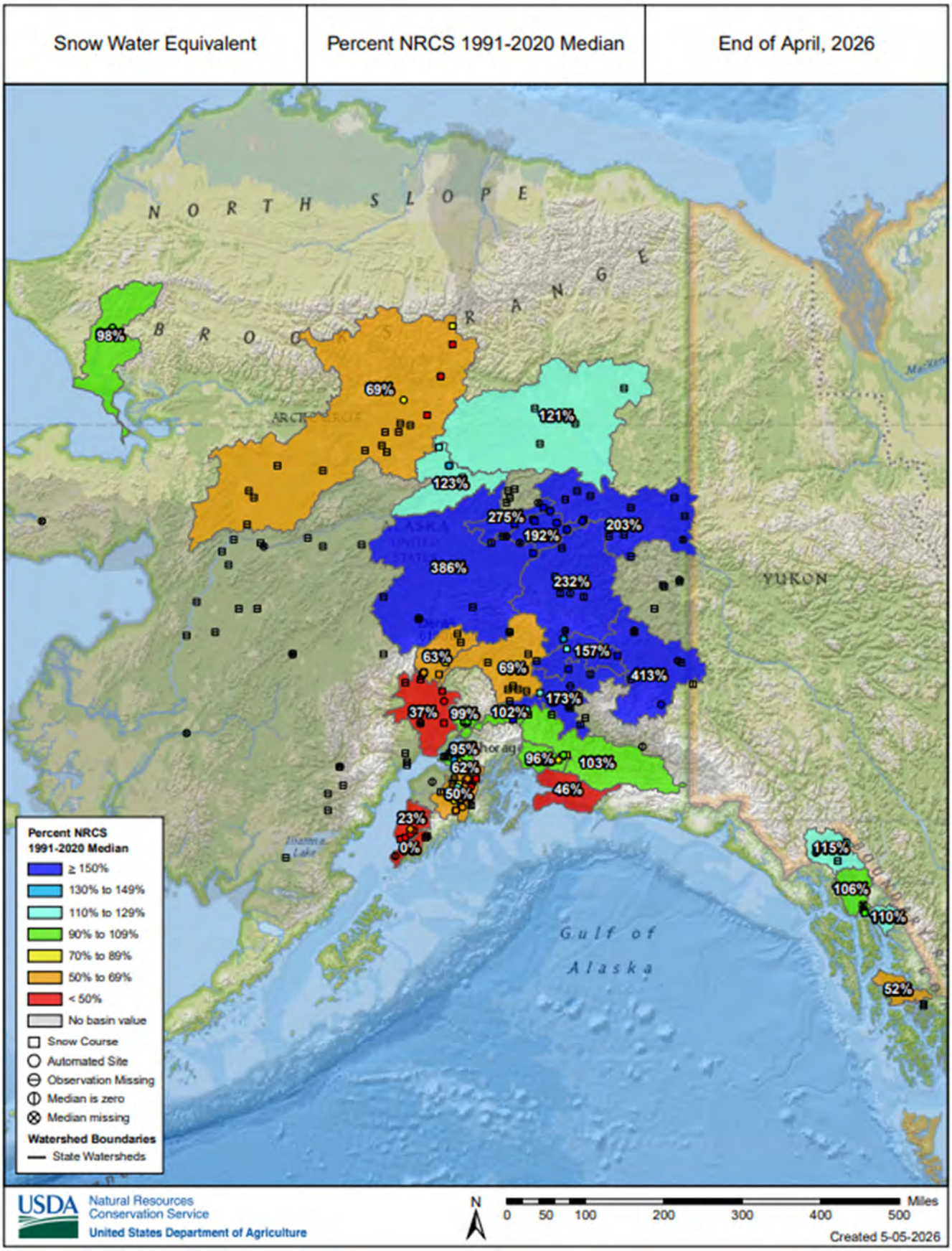


Water Year-to-date Precipitation



Alaska Statewide Snowpack Map

Based on May 1st, 2026 Snow Water Equivalent



Streamflow Forecasts

FORECAST POINT*	Percent of Ave. Flow	Period
Yukon River at Eagle	127	May - July
Porcupine River nr Int'l Boundary	130	May - July
Yukon River near Stevens Village	125	May - July
Tanana River at Fairbanks	126	May - July
Tanana River at Nenana	118	May - July
Little Chena River near Fairbanks	151	May - July
Chena River near Two Rivers	144	May - July
Salcha near Salchaket	143	May - July
Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek	101	May - July
Sagvanirktok River near Pump Station 3	100	May - July
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse	105	May - July
Gulkana River at Sourdough	131	May - July
Little Susitna River near Palmer	100	May - July
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna	85	May - July
Ship Creek near Anchorage	91	May - July
Kenai River at Cooper Landing	86	May - July
Bradley Lake Inflow	94 93	May - July May - September
Taiya River nr Skagway	109	May - July

HOW FORECASTS ARE MADE

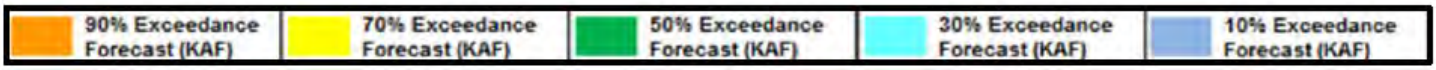
Most of the annual streamflow in the western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual 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.

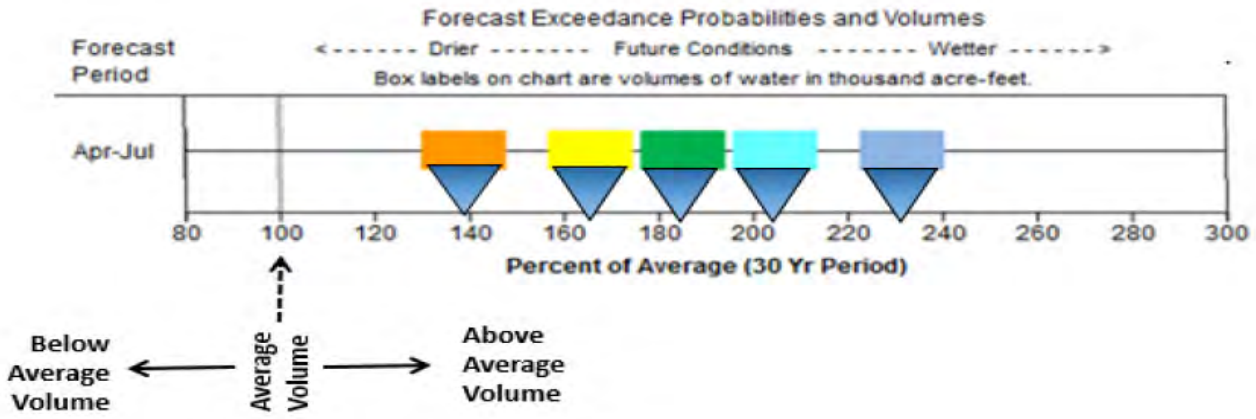
The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertain the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known; this is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. 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.

How to Interpret the Streamflow Forecast Graphic:

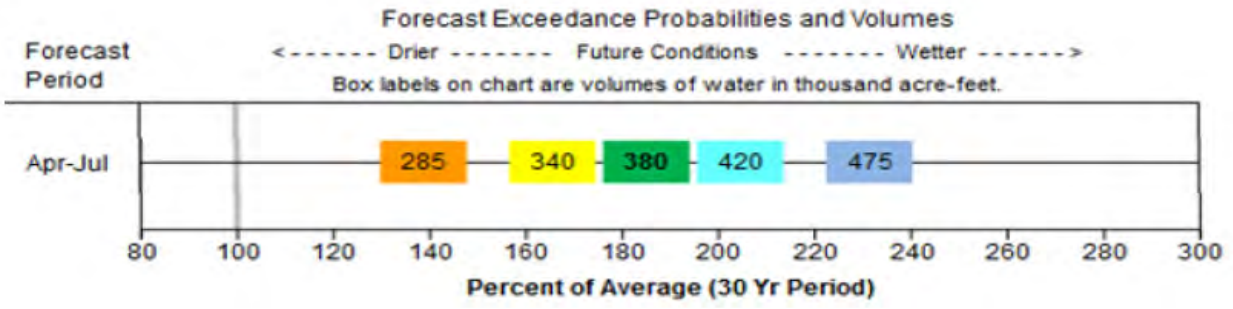
This graphic provides a visual alternative to the forecast tables the NRCS has presented for years. It gives both the volume and percent of average of each of the five forecast exceedances.



The five colored boxes represent each forecast's five exceedances.
The center of each forecast exceedance box corresponds to that exceedance's percent of average on the horizontal axis. In this case the green 50% exceedance forecast box is centered over 185% of average streamflow. If drier future conditions occur the orange box (90% exceedance) is 139% of average. If wetter future conditions occur the darker blue box (10% exceedance) is 232% of average. In some cases when exceedance volumes are similar, the width of the colored boxes gets squeezed. Still use the center of the box to determine its percent of average. The width of the box is irrelevant.



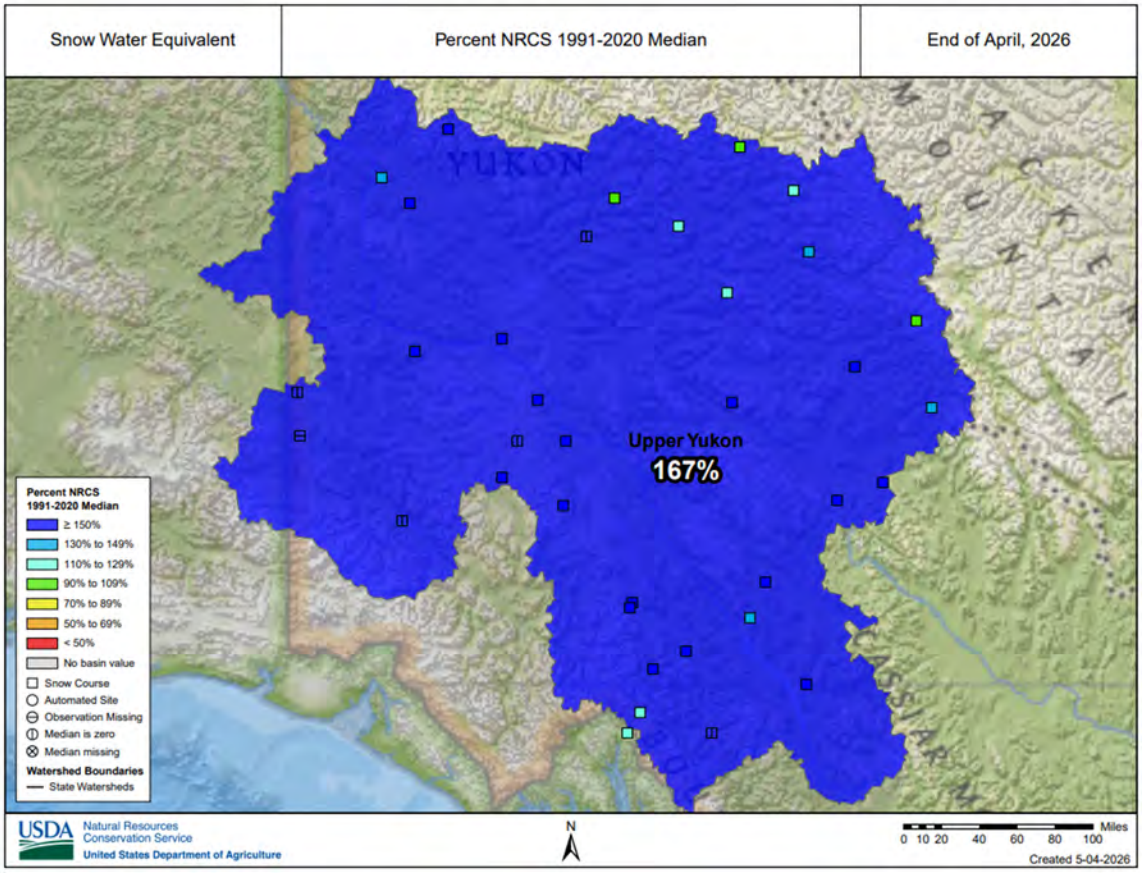
Boxes to the right of the gray 100% of average line represent above average volumes. Conversely, any boxes to the left of the gray 100% line represent below average volumes. In this case all forecast exceedances are for above average April-July volumes. Averages are based on the 1981-2010 period. The number inside or above each colored box represents the volume of that exceedance forecast in thousand acre-feet (KAF). In this case the green 50% exceedance forecast volume is 380 KAF which is



centered above 185% of average. Volumes decrease with drier future conditions (left of green box) and increase with wetter conditions (right of green box).
Forecast graphics for other basins are available at: https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/Fcst_Chart/

Upper Yukon Basin

Snowpack Map

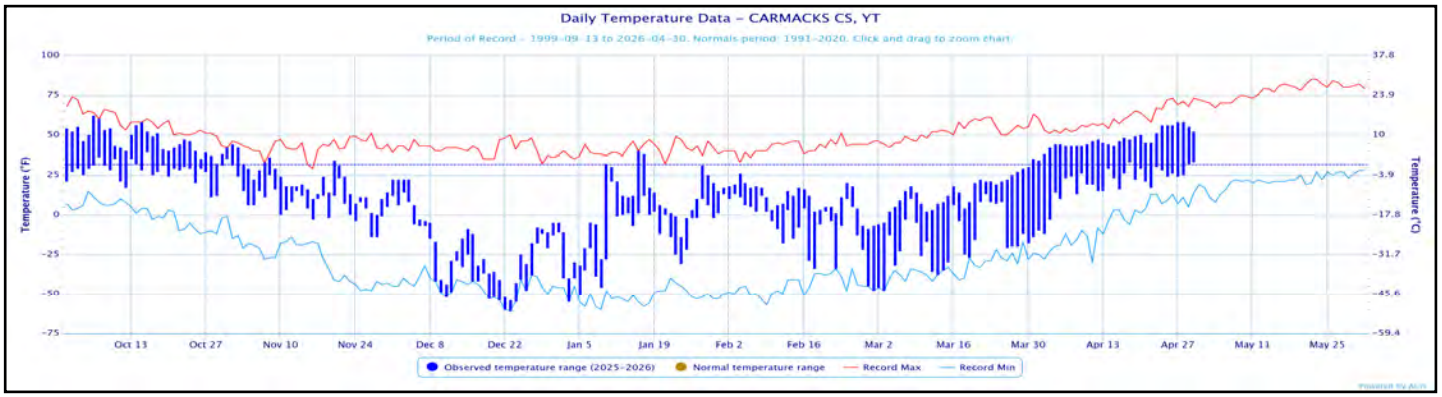


Snowpack

Snowpack in the Upper Yukon is well above the 30-year May 1 median, with many measurements noted as the second highest in their period of record. April Yukon temperatures were mostly below normal and as a result melt-out has been slower than usual across the region. The most substantially above normal measurements were noted along the Alcan Highway corridor. Measurements moderate toward normal in the northeastern portion of the territory in and around the Stewart River Basin.

Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



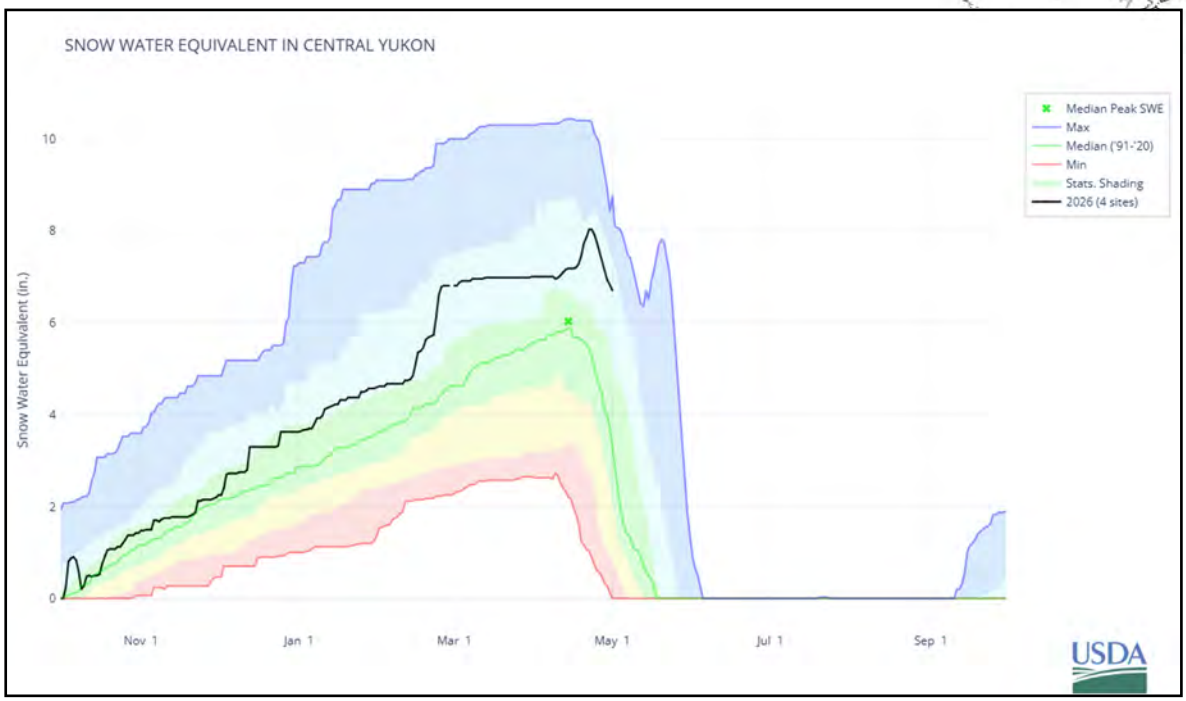
Upper Yukon Basin

Snowpack Data

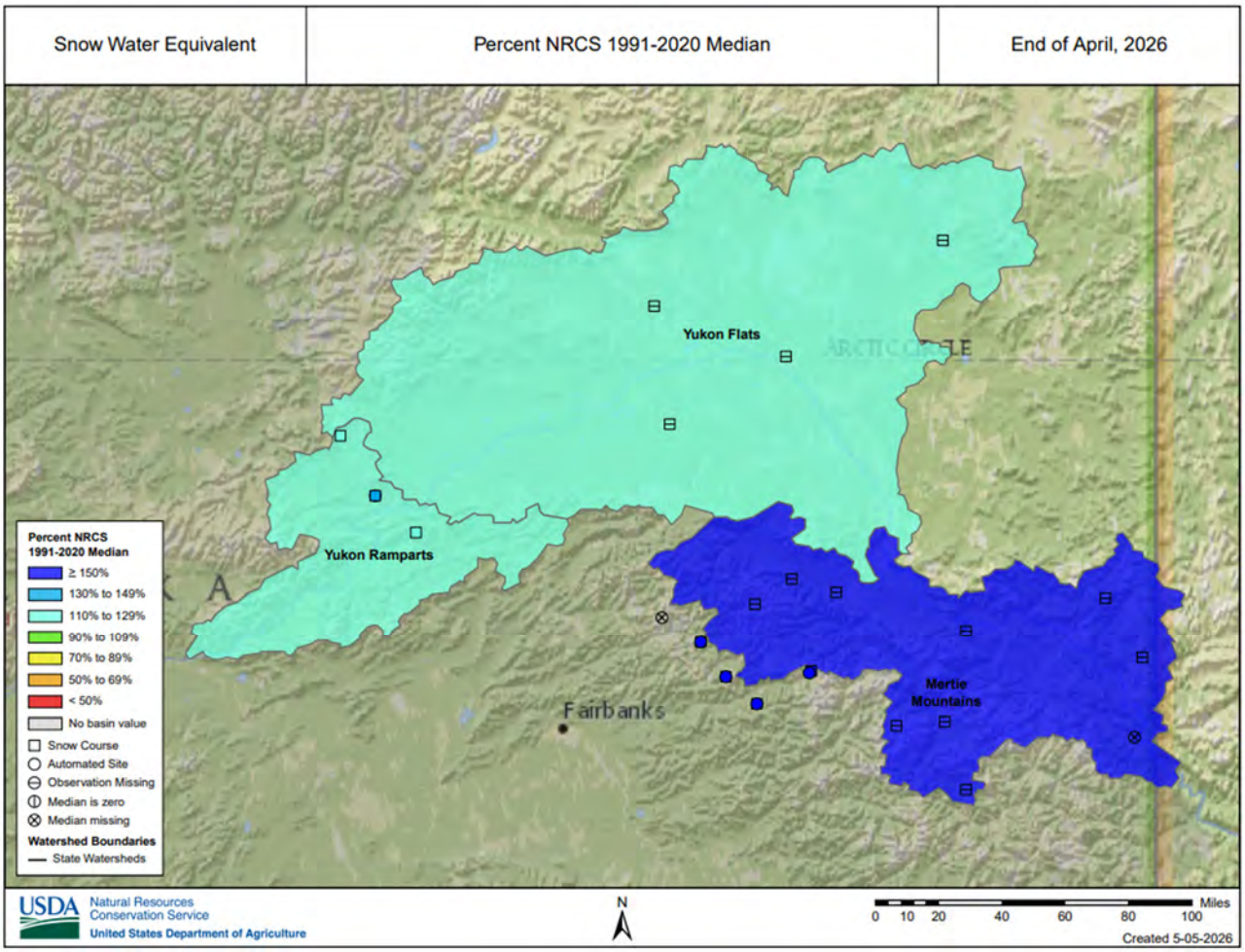
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Atlin Lake	2395	19	0	5.4	0.0	---
Beaver Creek	2150	24	0	7.1*	0.0	---
Blackstone River	1020	24	12	6.3	3.2	---
Burns Lake	3380	39	27	12.6	8.5	143%
Burwash Airstrip	2660	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Casino Creek	3890	30	21	8.5	4.5	177%
Chisana SNOTEL	3320	16	0	5.4	0.0	245%
Finlayson Airstrip	3110	18	3	4.6	0.4	177%
Francis River	730	23	0	7.2	0.0	---
Fuller Lake	3690	33	26	8.9	6.3	106%
Hoole River	3440	31	1	9.0	0.2	237%
Hyland	855	29	16	10.1	5.1	---
Jordan Lake	3050	23	8	6.3	1.5	166%
Log Cabin B.C.	2950	50	31	18.7	10.8	125%
Macintosh	3805	22	4	6.2	0.6	3100%
Meadow Creek	4030	51	39	16.4	10.0	145%
Midnight Dome	2790	26	31	8.0	8.0	138%
Montana Mtn.	3350	32	14	8.1	3.1	172%
Morley Lake	2730	24	10	9.4	4.3	285%
Mt. Berdoe	3300	22	12	6.1	2.6	210%
Mt. Mcintyre B	3600	30	22	9.5	6.1	156%
Mt. Nansen	3260	14	2	3.8	0.6	---
Ogilvie River	550	29	15	7.2	3.2	---
Pelly Farm	1530	6	5	1.7	1.8	567%
Pine Lake Airstrip	995	40	24	13.2	7.8	---
Rose Creek Faro	3540	23	9	7.3	2.0	292%
Russell Lake	3480	39	---	10.4	---	121%
Satasha Lake	3630	22	8	5.7	1.8	814%
Summit	985	37	31	11.3	9.3	188%
Tagish	3540	33	22	8.6	5.4	176%
Twin Creeks	2910	28	17	8.9	5.8	153%
Watson Lake Airport	685	20	0	6.3	0.0	---
Whitehorse Airport	2440	22	---	6.7	---	1117%
Williams Creek	2900	20	7	5.6	2.0	467%

**Estimate*

Central Yukon Basin



Snowpack Map



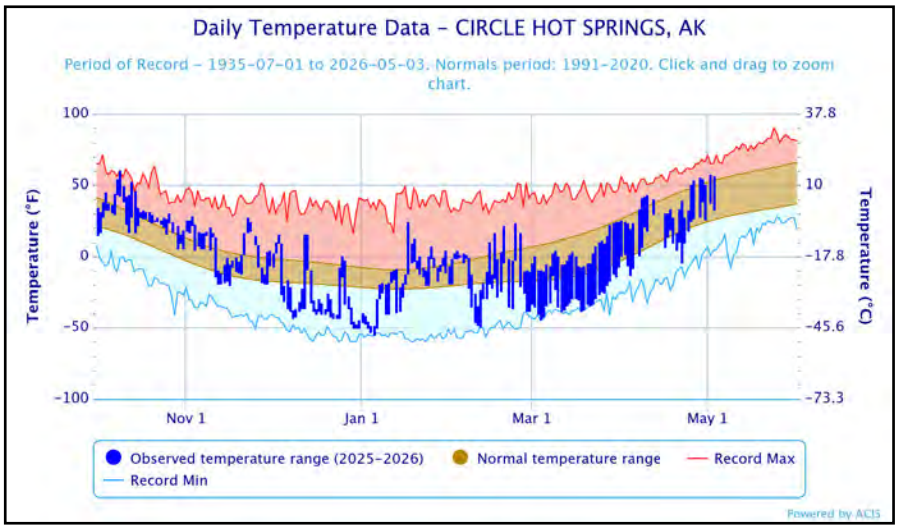
Central Yukon Basin

Snowpack

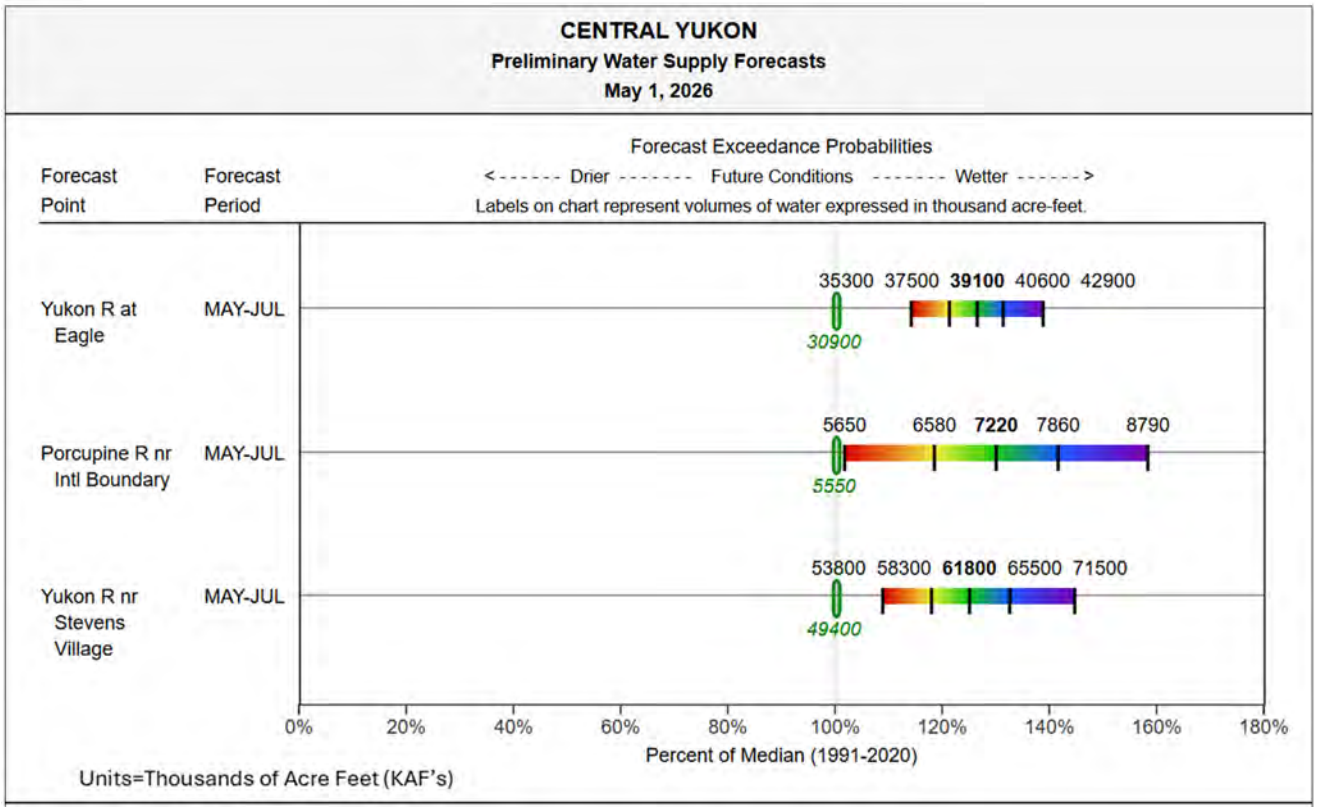
The combination of a cold winter and ample snowfall leads to May 1 snowpack measurements well above the 30-year median value for the date. As has been the case all winter, substantially above normal winter values are being reported near Chena. Delayed melt means the near normal measurements along the Dalton Highway corridor last month are above normal on May 1. A similar pattern holds for the Porcupine measurements, where delayed melt has led to a near-record May 1 measurement at the Eagle Plains snow course.

Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Central Yukon Basin

Snowpack Data

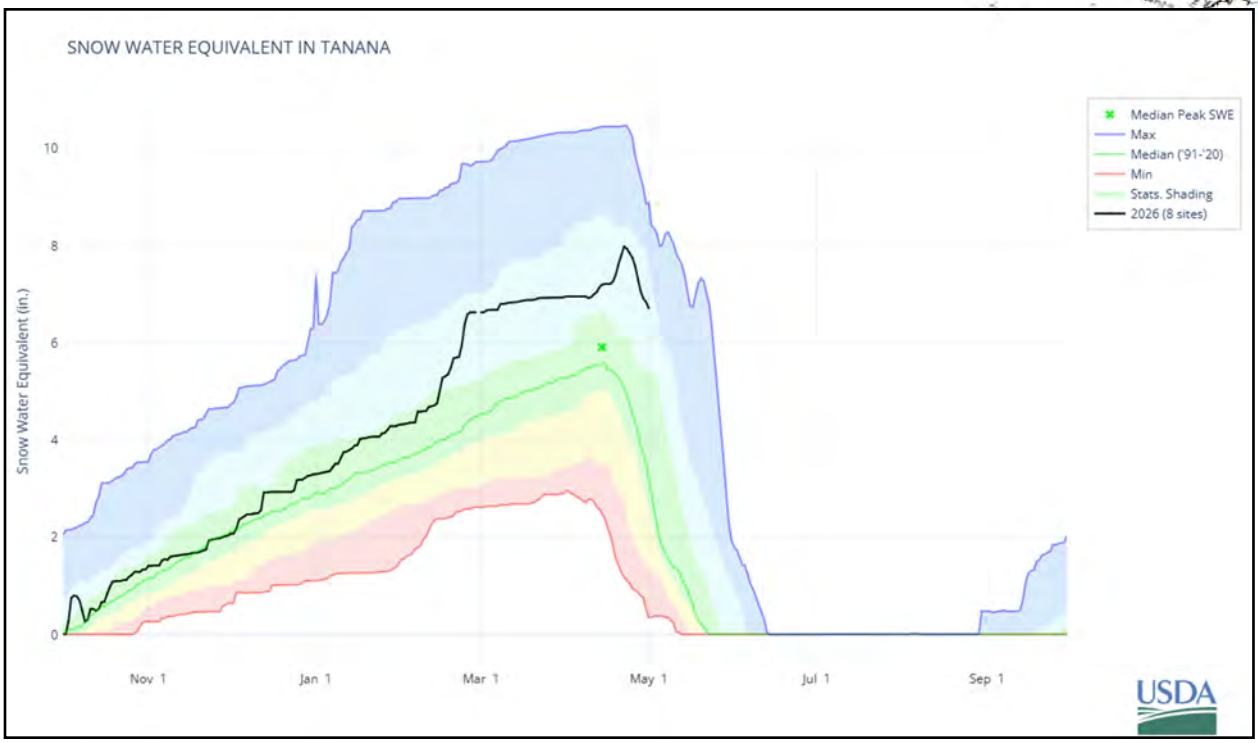
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
American Creek SNOTEL	1020	13	4	4.9	0.9	---
Atigun Pass SNOTEL	4780	40	50	---	---	---
Eagle Plains	2330	32	24	9.0	7.3	155%
Eagle River	1100	29	17	7.0	3.7	167%
Eagle Summit SNOTEL	3630	32	41	---	---	---
Fort Yukon SNOTEL	440	7	16	---	---	---
Hess Creek	1020	18	30	5.1	7.0	128%
Jack Wade Jct SNOTEL	3660	24	25	6.2	6.1	---
Monument Creek	1840	16	16	5.1	6.0	268%
Monument Creek SNOTEL	1840	12	9	5.2	4.0	217%
Mt. Ryan	2750	35	41	9.3	11.2	202%
Mt. Ryan SNOTEL	2750	31	38	8.2	10.6	171%
Old Crow	890	17	26	5.6*	5.6	140%
Riffs Ridge	2020	28	15	7.9	3.8	152%
Seven Mile	570	15	20	4.6	5.0	135%
Seven Mile SNOTEL	660	12	20	---	5.7	---
Thirty Mile	1390	22	38	6.5	6.8	112%
Upper Chena	3020	37	41	10.8	11.2	164%
Upper Chena SNOTEL	2790	35	40	10.1	11.5	187%
Upper Nome Creek SNOTEL	2500	17	39	4.6*	11.6	---

**Estimate*

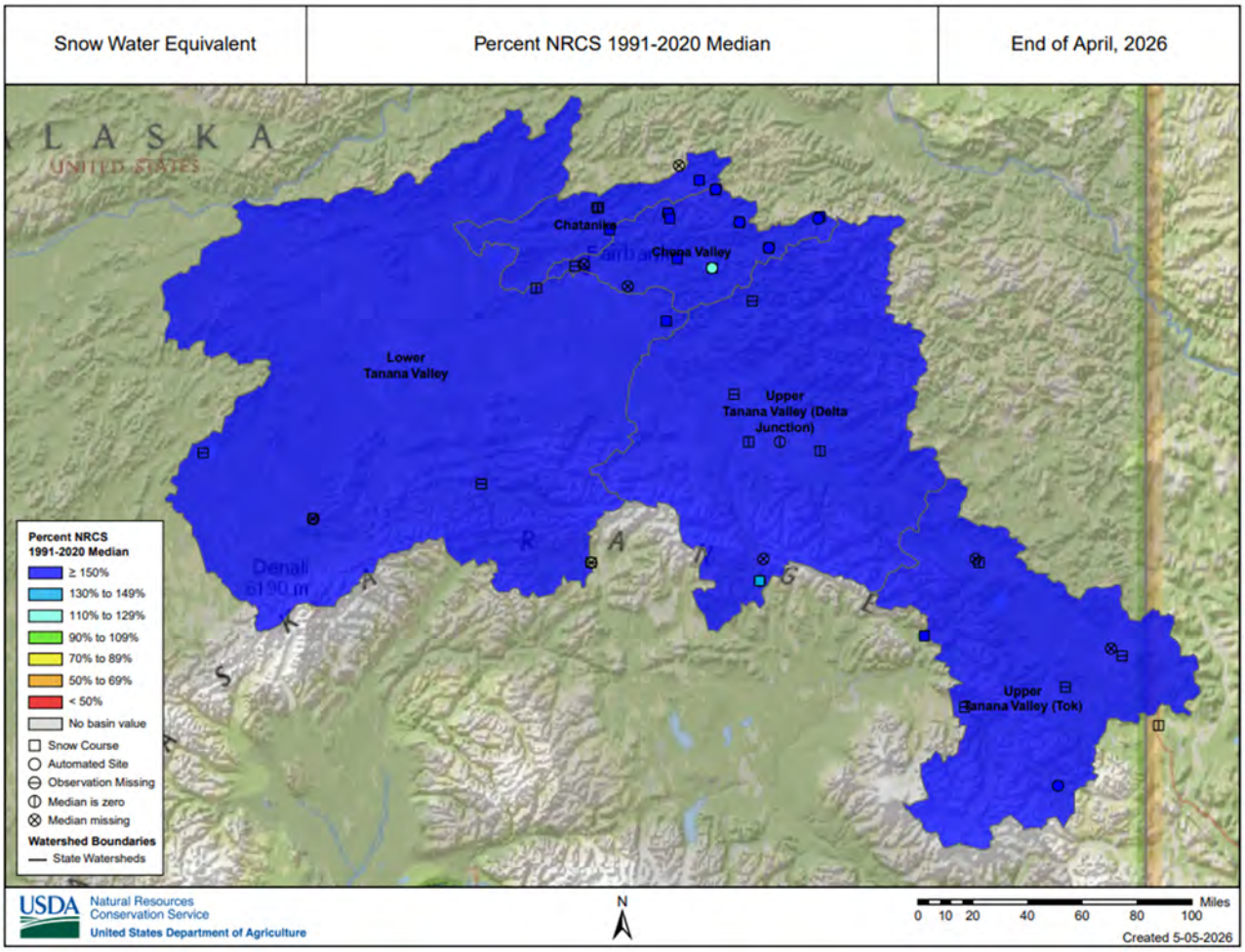
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
American Creek	1020	7.0	4.3	---	---
Atigun Pass	4780	6.6	9.1	6.6	100%
Eagle Summit	3630	8.0	6.0	5.8	138%
Fort Yukon	440	5.4	6.4	3.8	142%
Jack Wade Jct	3660	6.6	6.2	---	---
Monument Creek	1840	10.5	9.0	6.4	164%
Mt. Ryan	2750	10.0	10.0	6.2	161%
Seven Mile	660	6.6	6.7	---	---
Upper Chena	2790	12.1	---	7.8	155%
Upper Nome Creek	2500	11.8	15.1	7.0	169%

Tanana Basin



Snowpack Map



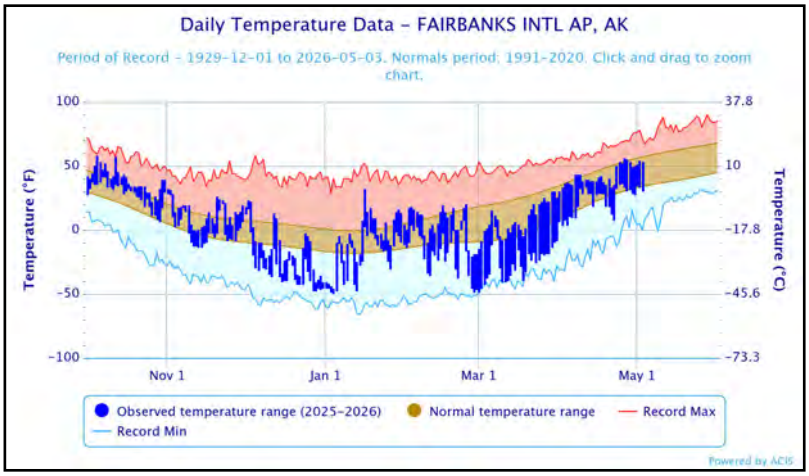
Tanana Basin

Snowpack

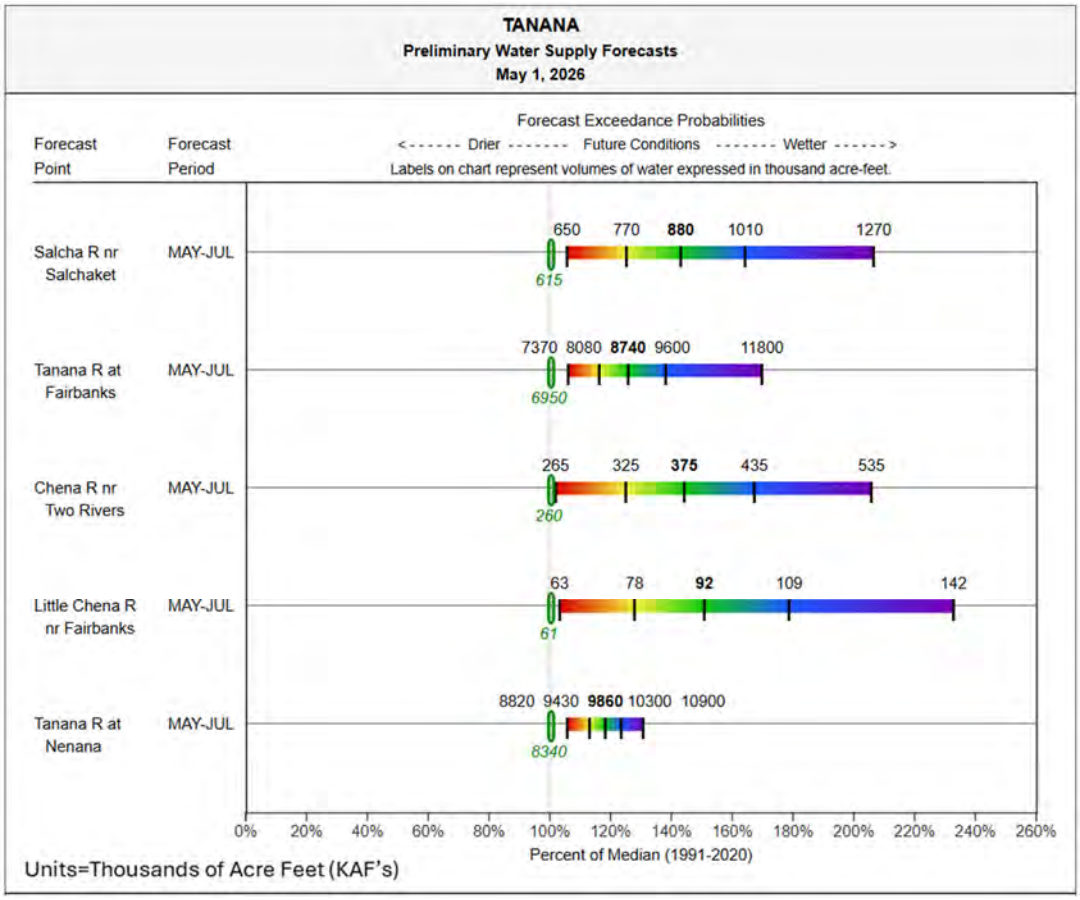
The Tanana remains the standout basin for snowpack in Alaska on May 1, 2026. Above-normal snowfall and below-normal temperatures all winter mean every May 1 SWE measurement in the basin is higher than its 30-year median. Near Chena, measurements are more than double normal for the date. Along the Alaska Highway, between Fairbanks and the border with Canada, snowpack was measured where normally there is none. The 4.4 inches of SWE at the Tok Junction snow course is the fifth-highest measurement in 66 years of observation.

Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Tanana Basin

Snowpack Data

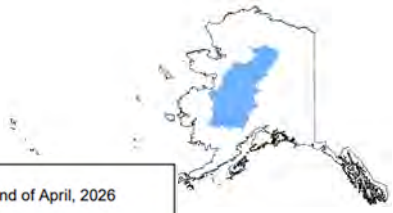
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Bonanza Creek	1120	24	15	6.9	4.3	---
Caribou Creek	1230	15	6	4.2	1.9	---
Caribou Snow Pillow	940	21	15	6.0	4.8	---
Chena Lakes SNOTEL	500	0	0	0.0*	0.0	---
Chisana SNOTEL	3320	16	0	5.4	0.0	245%
Cleary Summit	2250	37	34	9.8	11.0	188%
Colorado Creek	650	16	2	5.0	0.6	500%
Creamers Field SNOTEL	440	2	0	1.0	0.0	---
Faith Creek	1710	23	16	6.5	4.6	210%
Fielding Lake SNOTEL	3000	29	31	8.6*	10.6	---
Fielding Lake	3010	45	37	13.6	12.7	139%
Fort Greely	1470	11	3	3.4	0.2	---
French Creek	1940	25	29	7.0	8.0	194%
Gerstle River	1180	7	0	2.9	0.0	---
Granite Crk SNOTEL	1250	8	0	3.8	0.0	---
Kantishna SNOTEL	1590	20	15	6.6*	4.2	---
Little Chena Bottom	1080	14	5	4.3	2.0	195%
Little Chena Ridge	2150	20	34	6.2	11.8	258%
Little Chena Ridge SNOTEL	2150	14	22	---	7.1	---
Look Eyrie SNOTEL	5040	117	120	38.4	46.2	---
Mentasta Pass	2470	21	7	5.4	2.0	169%
Monahan Flat SNOTEL	2690	19	21	5.6	7.4	---
Monument Creek	1840	16	16	5.1	6.0	268%
Monument Creek SNOTEL	1840	12	9	5.2	4.0	217%
Mt. Ryan	2750	35	41	9.3	11.2	202%
Mt. Ryan SNOTEL	2750	31	38	8.2	10.6	171%
Munson Ridge SNOTEL	3020	42	49	11.2*	14.0	129%
Munson Ridge	3020	47	51	12.4	14.7	159%
Nenana SNOTEL	370	9	0	---	---	---
Paradise Hill SNOTEL	2010	4	0	1.2	0.0	---
Teuchet Creek SNOTEL	1560	5	1	3.3	0.2	471%
Teuchet Creek	1530	12	1	3.9	0.4	325%
Tok SNOTEL	1640	4	0	1.3	0.0	---
Tok Junction	1680	17	0	4.4	0.0	---
Upper Chena SNOTEL	2790	35	40	10.1	11.5	187%
Upper Chena	3020	37	41	10.8	11.2	164%
Upper Nome Creek SNOTEL	2500	17	39	4.6*	11.6	---

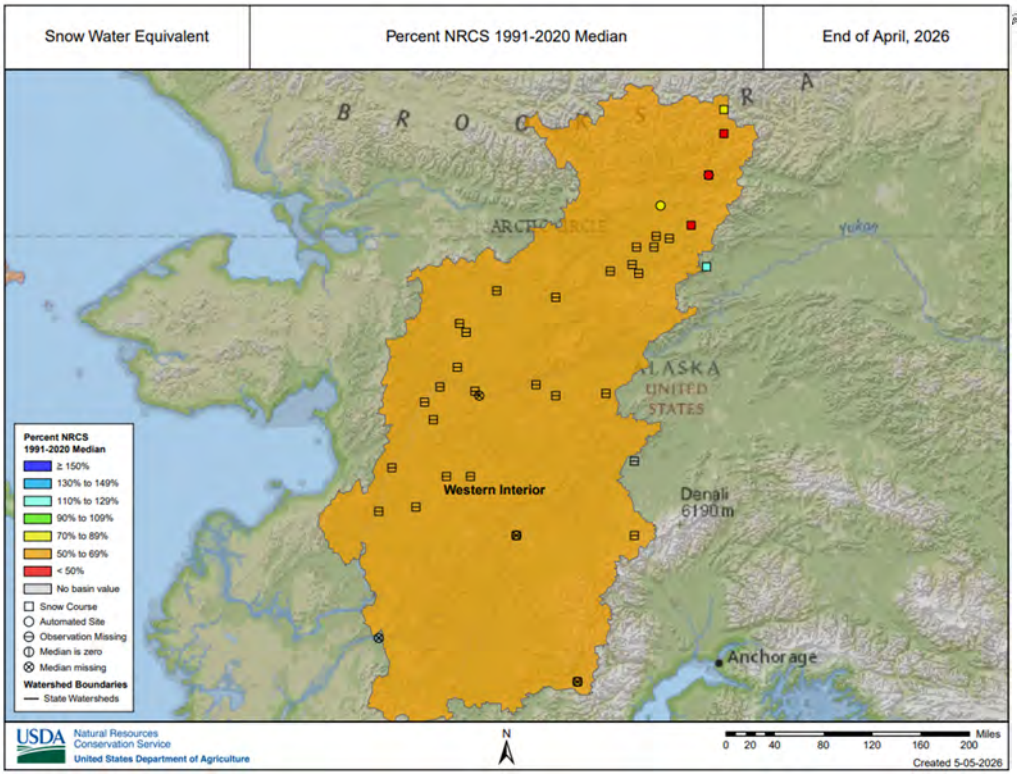
**Estimate*

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Chena Lakes	500	7.4	6.5	---	---
Chisana	3320	6.3	3.2	3.8	166%
Creamers Field	440	7.6	6.6	---	---
Fielding Lake	3000	14.2	11.2	---	---
Granite Crk	1250	6.2	3.7	4.2	148%
Kantishna	1590	9.1	8.2	5.8	157%
Little Chena Ridge	2150	9.5	9.6	6.1	156%
Monahan Flat	2690	9.6	9.0	7.8	123%
Monument Creek	1840	10.5	9.0	6.4	164%
Mt. Ryan	2750	10.0	10.0	6.2	161%
Munson Ridge	3020	13.5	12.3	8.8	153%
Nenana	370	8.9	8.2	3.9	228%
Paradise Hill	2010	6.1	3.4	---	---
Teuchet Creek	1560	7.8	5.7	5.2	150%
Tok	1640	6.3	3.6	---	---
Upper Chena	2790	12.1	---	7.8	155%
Upper Nome Creek	2500	11.8	15.1	7.0	169%

Western Interior Basins





Snowpack

Koyukuk

Snowpack in the Koyukuk continues to be low on May 1, 2026. The aerial markers from the lower Koyukuk were not surveyed this month, but every measurement along the Dalton Highway and at Bettles is reporting SWE below the 30-year May 1 median value. This is a trend that has been noted all winter at these stations. The peak SWE of 3.5 inches recorded at Coldfoot in late April is the second lowest peak in its 30-year history.

Kuskokwim

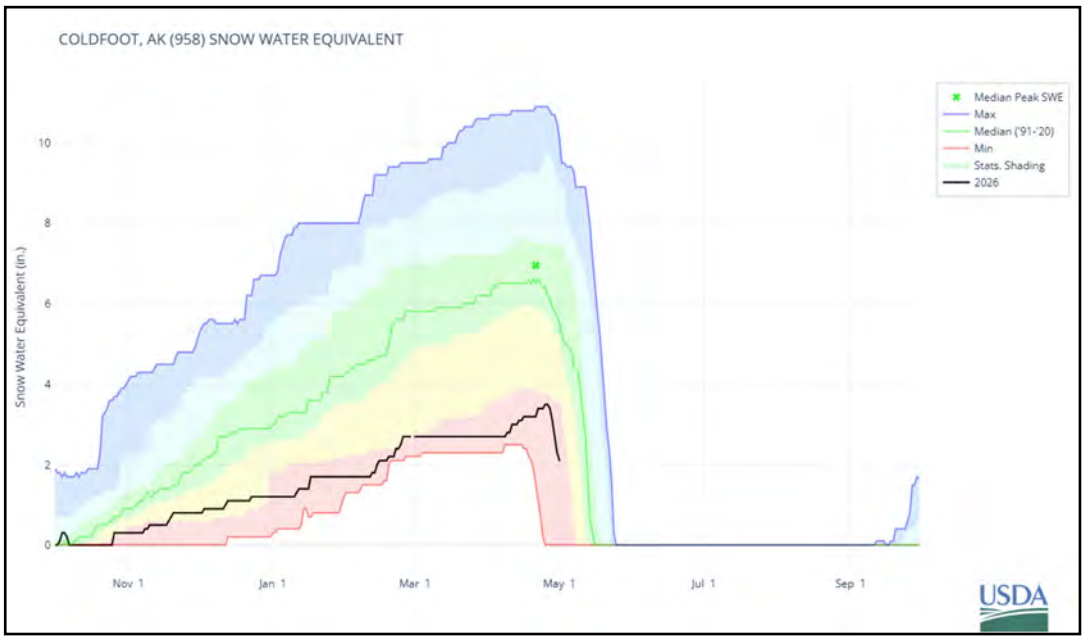
Making a statement regarding snowpack in the Kuskokwim on May 1 is difficult. The majority of the monitoring network in the basin is normally snow-free on the date. That is the case again this year for Aniak and Bethel. April precipitation was exceptionally high and both of these stations reported their period-of-record high April values, including substantial rainfall. The 2.8 inches of precipitation recorded at Aniak is more than five times the normal monthly total. At Telaquana Lake, the period-of-record average melt-out date is in mid April and is approximately two weeks later than normal this year. At McGrath, measurable May 1 snowpack is normal and the 3.8 inches of SWE reported at the station is above the 30-year median for the historic snow course.

Lower Yukon

None of the aerial markers in the Lower Yukon were flown on May 1, 2026. Without these data points, the only station to make a statement about snowpack in the Lower Yukon is Galena, with eight years of record. The 6.0 inches of SWE at the station is the third highest in its limited period of record. This station received 1.4 inches of precipitation, its second-highest April total.

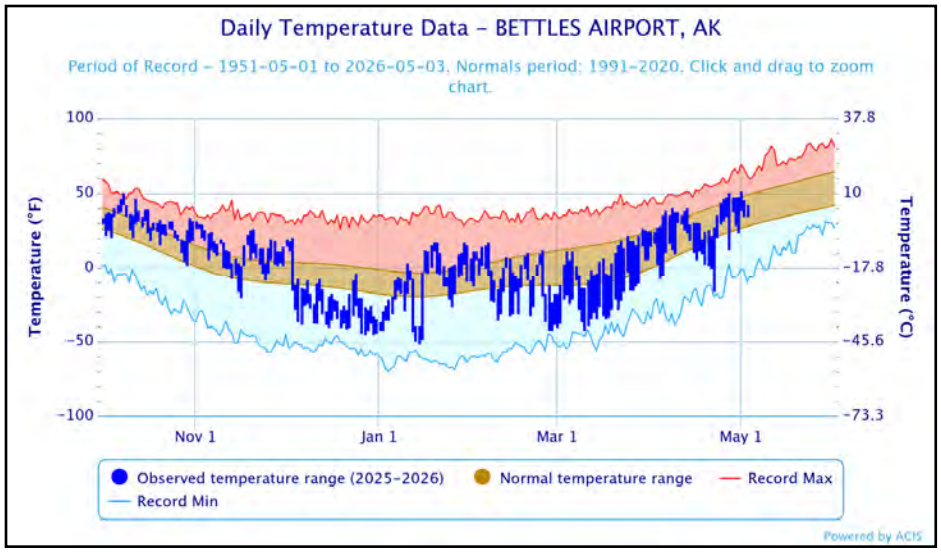
Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Chart

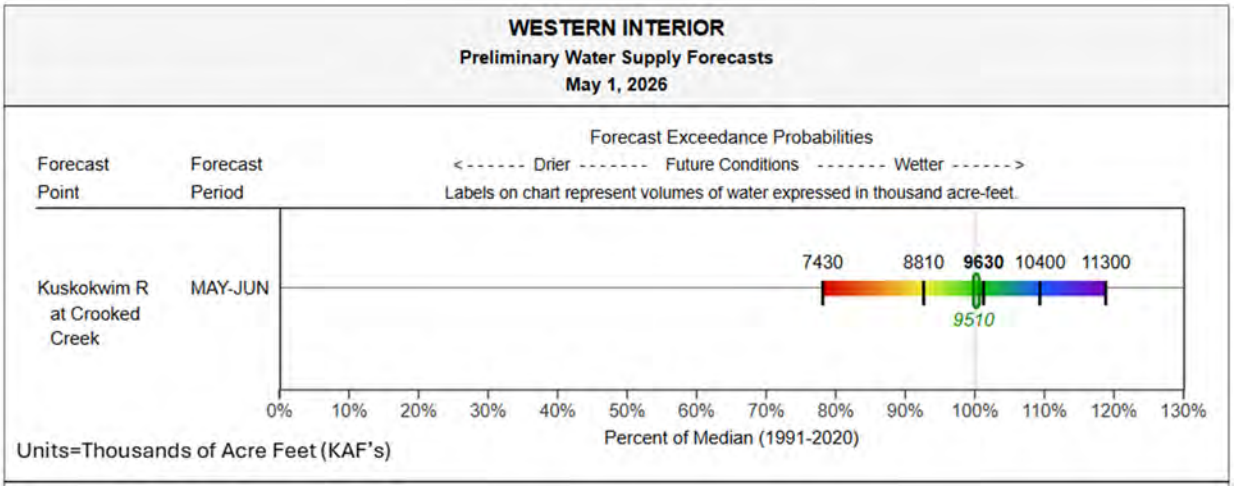


Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Western Interior Basins

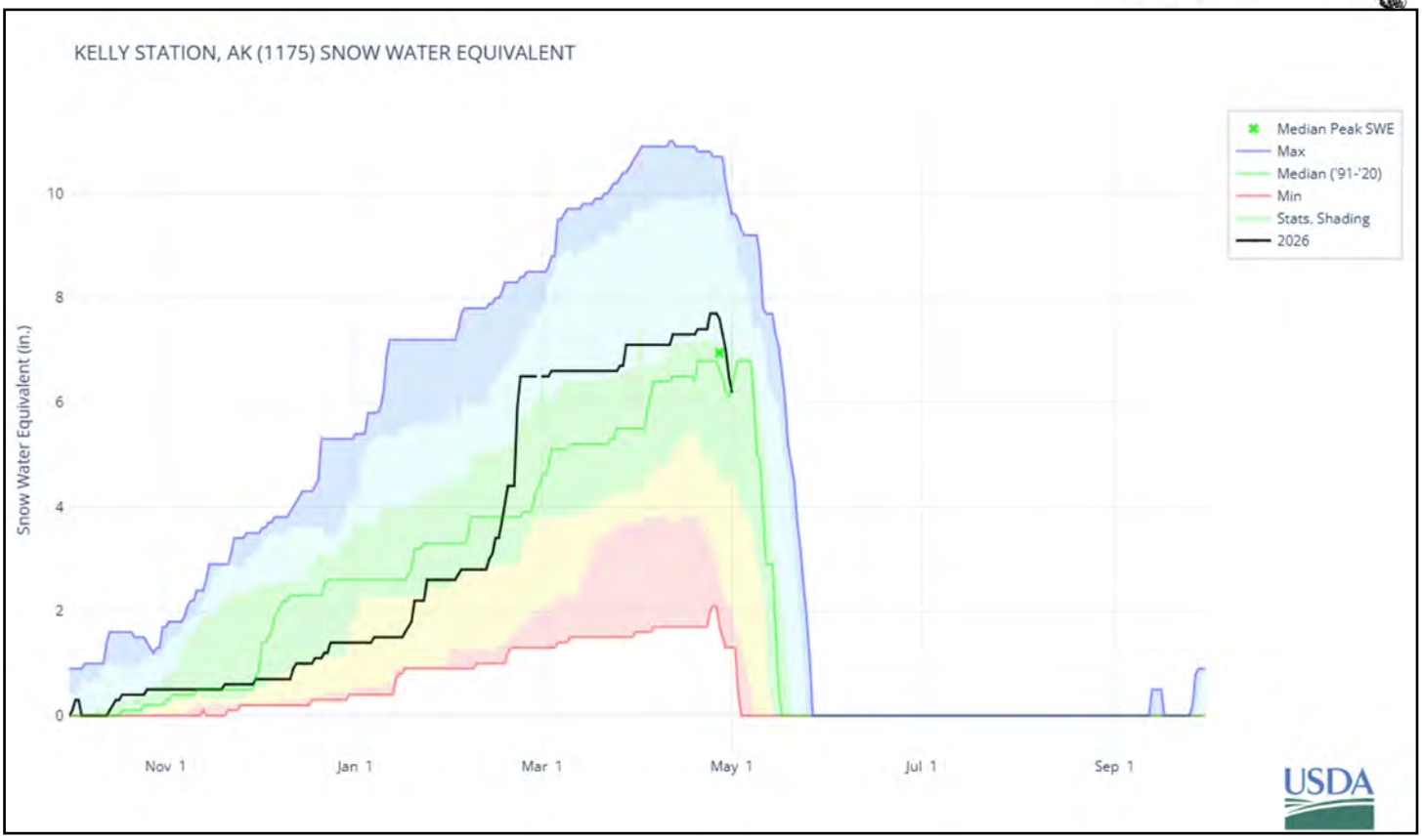
Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Koyukuk						
Bettles Field SNOTEL	640	11	32	4.5	9.6	76%
Bonanza Forks	1050	6	22	1.8	5.8	46%
Coldfoot SNOTEL	1070	6	33	2.1	9.0	38%
Disaster Creek	1560	3	25	0.8	6.2	27%
Gobblers Knob SNOTEL	2040	1	6	---	---	---
Table Mountain	2210	14	31	4.1	7.9	89%
Thirty Mile	1390	22	38	6.5	6.8	112%
Kuskokwim						
Aniak SNOTEL	90	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
McGrath SNOTEL	340	9	0	3.8	0.3	---
Telaquana Lake SNOTEL	1250	2*	0	0.3	0.0	---
Lower Yukon						
Galena AK SNOTEL	340	18	11	6.0	4.5	---
Hozatka Lake SNOTEL	220	11	7	---	---	---
**Estimate*						

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Koyukuk					
Bettles Field	640	7.1	9.3	7.5	95%
Coldfoot	1070	6.2	9.3	6.2	100%
Gobblers Knob	2040	8.9	9.6	6.4	139%
Kuskokwim					
Aniak	90	15	9.6	5.9	254%
McGrath	340	9.2	10.2	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1250	9.6	6	---	---
Lower Yukon					
Galena AK	340	8.4	6.8	---	---

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound



Snowpack

April in the Arctic was mostly dry and cold, meaning the robust snowpack noted earlier in the winter is mostly intact on May 1. At Imnaviat Creek, normal April precipitation is 0.2 inches. The 0.6 inches the station recorded is three times normal, unremarkable in absolute terms, but the most substantial monthly precipitation total of any station in the Arctic. The station also reported a minimum daily temperature of -25 degrees Fahrenheit, which is the lowest temperature in the snow survey network in April 2026.

At Kelly Station the peak SWE of 7.7 inches is above its normal of 7.0 and occurred slightly later than normal. At Dahl Creek, the peak SWE of 6.2 inches is less than half of its limited period of record median. This reflects how exceptionally deep the snowpack has been over the last three years more than how it compares to a regional normal.

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Arctic						
Atigun Pass SNOTEL	4780	40	50	---	---	---
Imnaviat Creek SNOTEL	3060	36	30	---	---	---
Prudhoe Bay SNOTEL	50	30	13	---	---	---
Sagwon SNOTEL	1000	22	15	---	---	---
Kotzebue Sound						
Dahl Creek SNOTEL	250	12	36	4.3	13.0	---
Kelly Station SNOTEL	300	19	19	6.2	4.3	98%
**Estimate*						

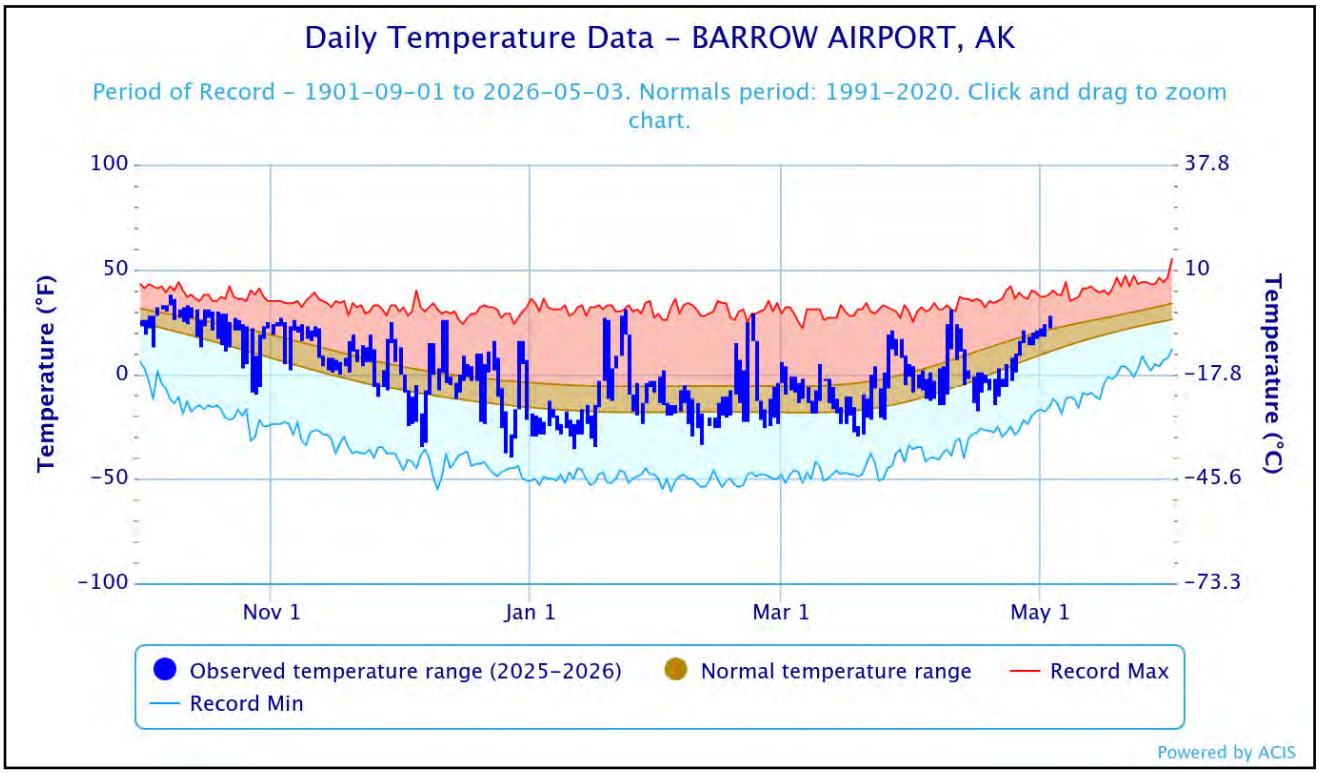
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Arctic					
Atigun Pass	4780	6.6	9.1	6.6	100%
Imnaviat Creek	3060	4.7	3.9	3.3	142%
Prudhoe Bay	50	4.3	4.7	3.7	116%
Sagwon	1000	4.8	3.3	3.2	150%
Kotzebue Sound					
Dahl Creek	250	10.0	13.0	---	---
Kelly Station	300	9.6	5.2	7.9	122%

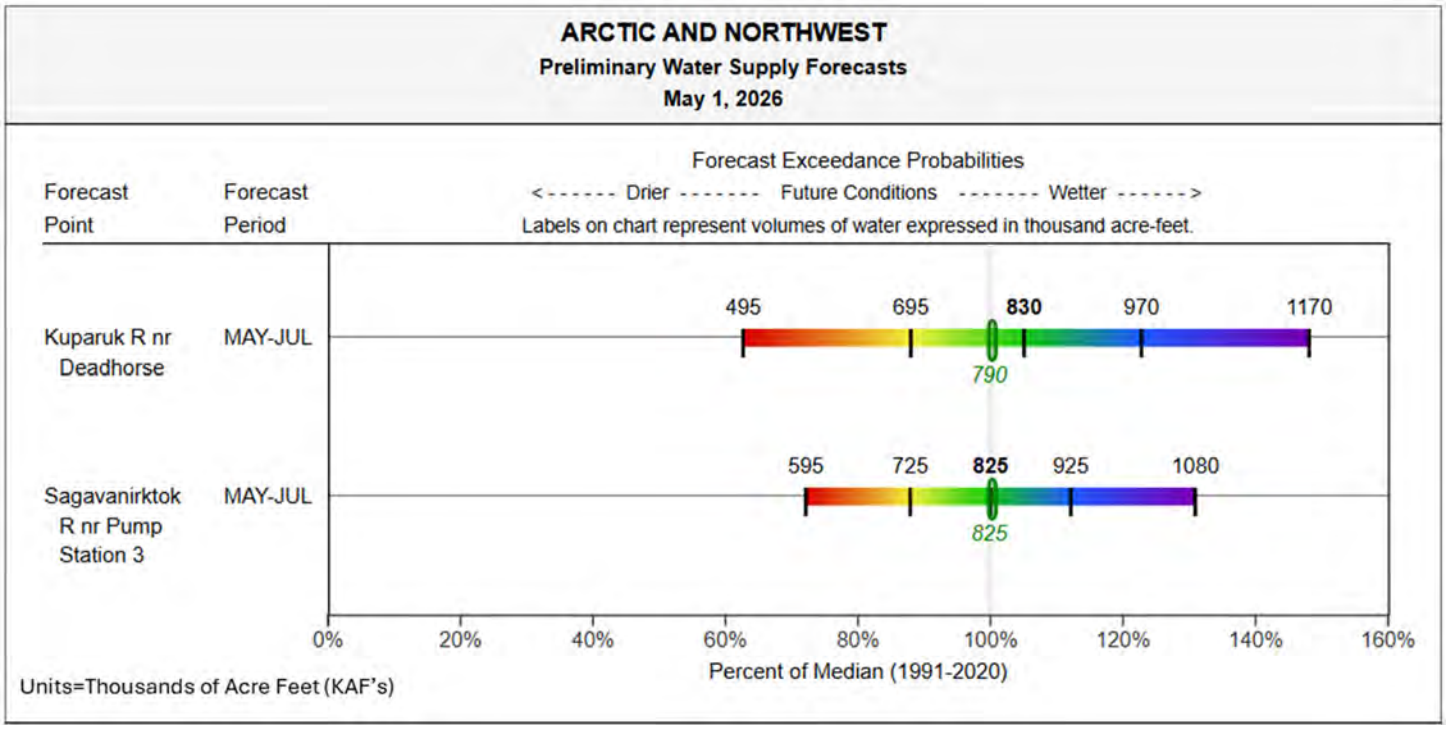
Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

Temperature Data

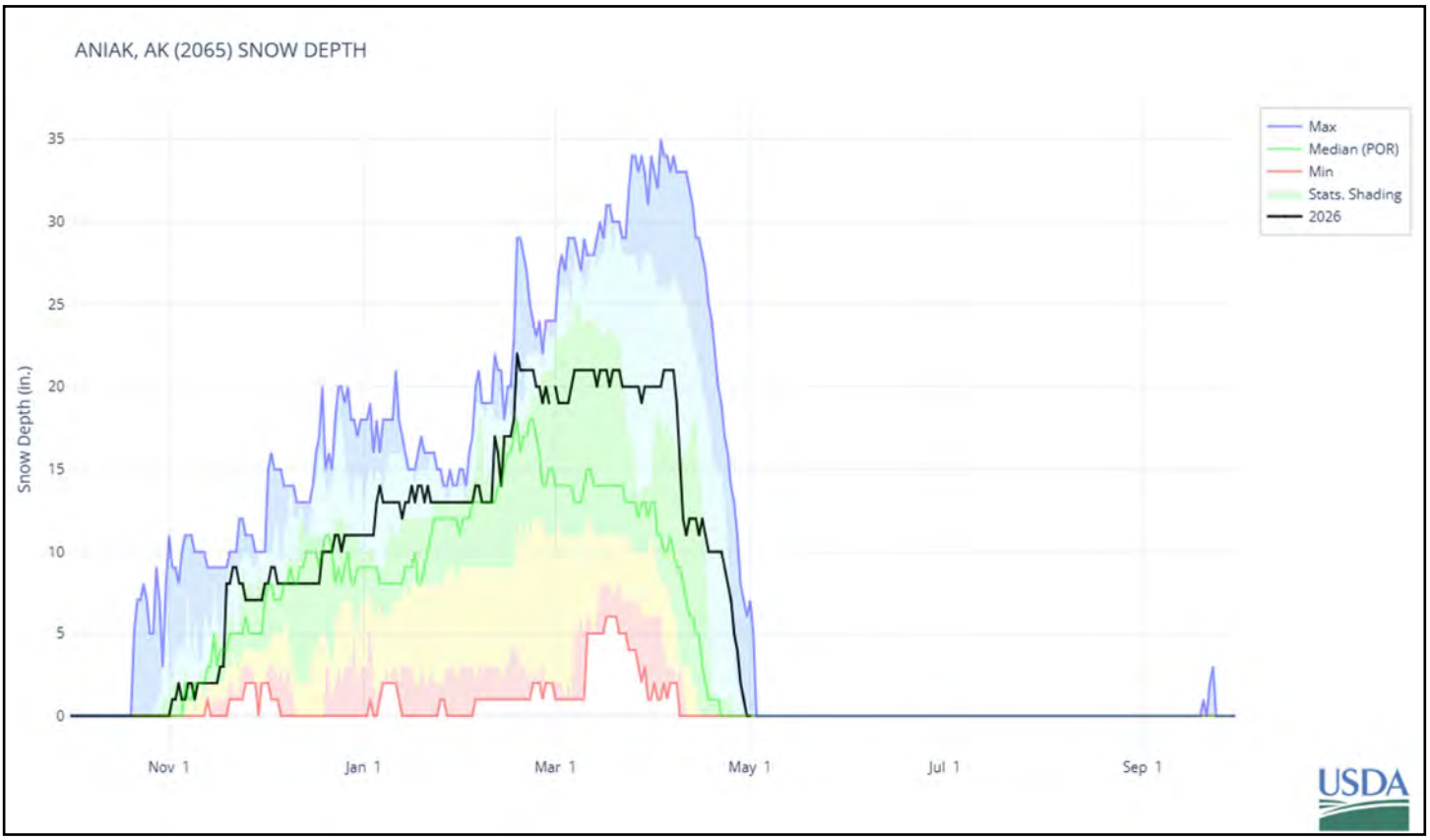
Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay



Snowpack

Making a statement about snowpack in the western portion of coastal Alaska on May 1 continues to be challenging. April precipitation was considerably above normal at Nome and Bethel. Near Dillingham, the recently installed stations at Snake Lake and Aleknagik recorded modest snowfall at the beginning of the month and considerable rain toward the end of April. As data from these stations continues to be collected, they will enhance our understanding of snowpack dynamics in the area moving forward.

Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay

Precipitation Data

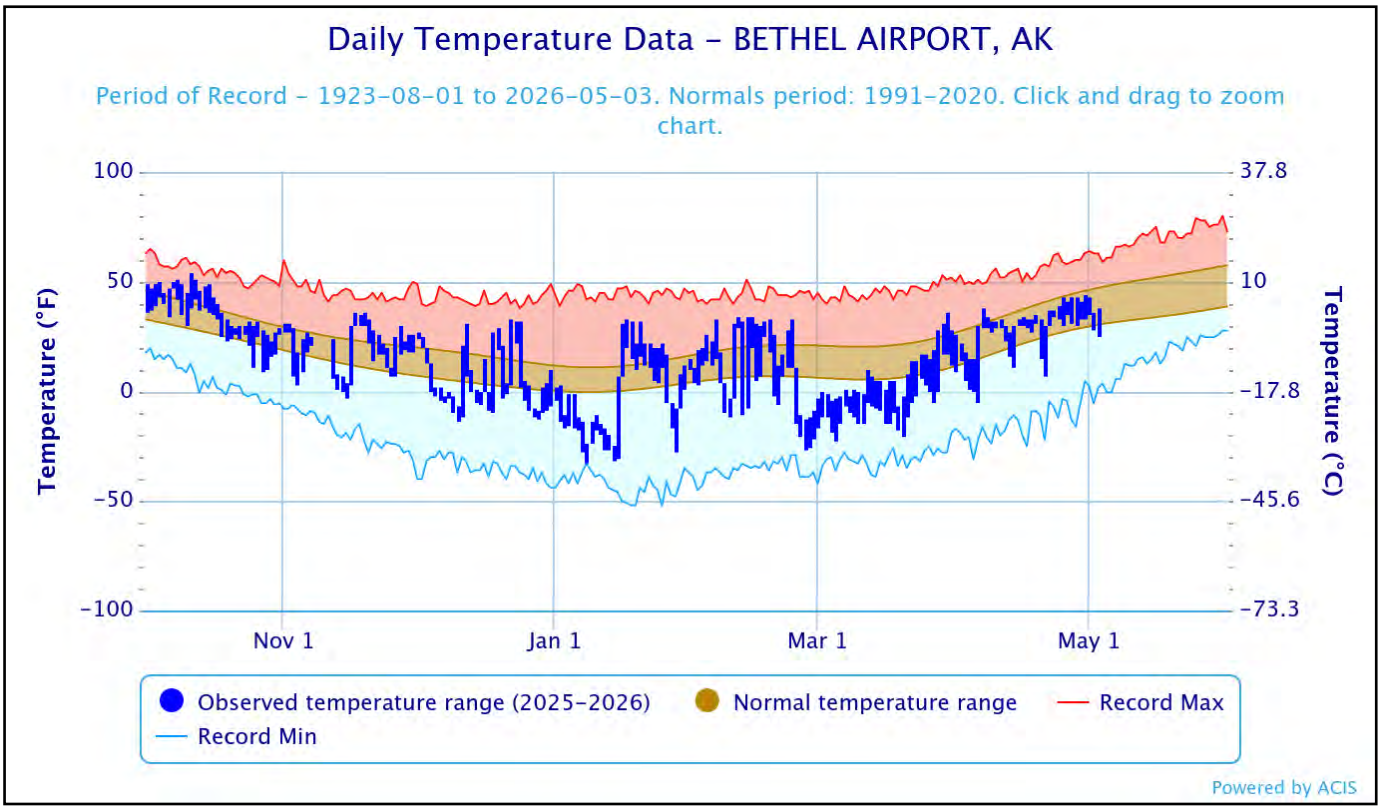
Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Aniak	90	15.0	9.6	5.9	254%
Pargon Creek	90	8.2	---	6.4	128%
Pilgrim Hot Springs	20	8.9	8.0	---	---
Rocky Point	180	6.5	5.6	6.1	107%

Snowpack Data

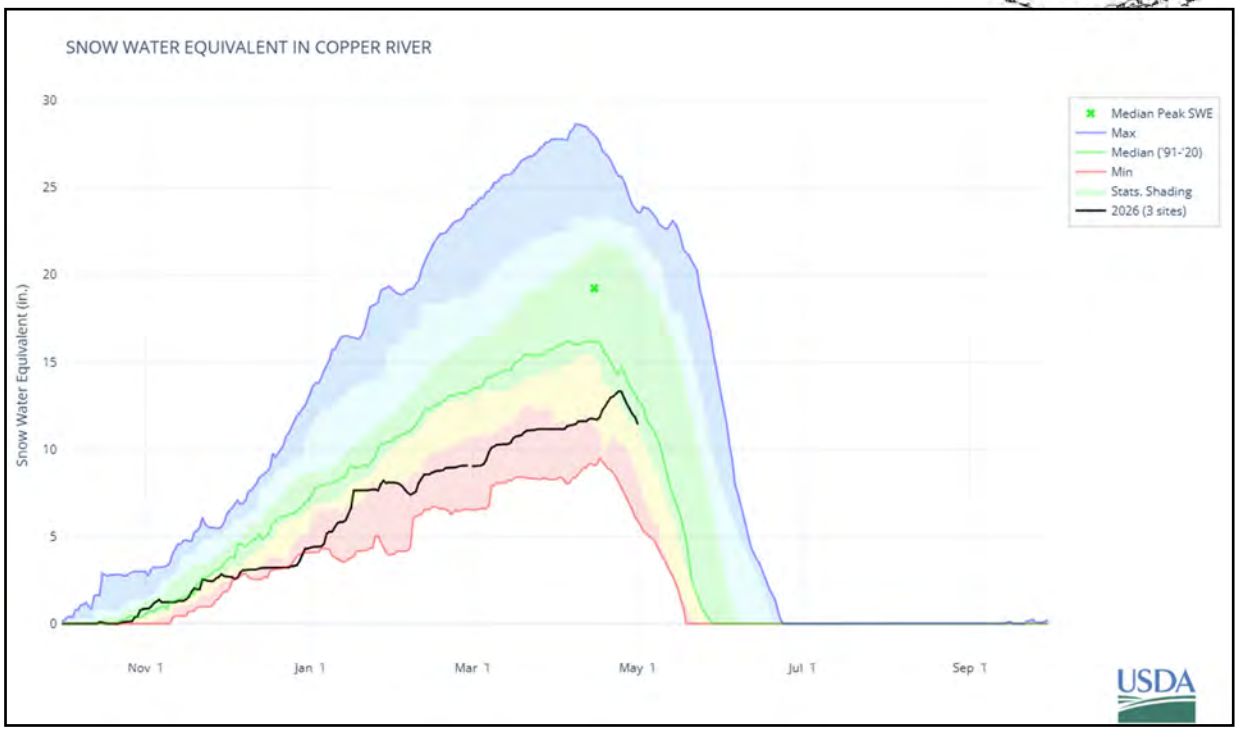
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Aleknagik SNOTEL	190	11	---	---	---	---
Aniak SNOTEL	90	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Johnsons Camp SNOTEL	10	0*	---	---	---	---
Pargon Creek SNOTEL	90	4	4	---	---	---
Pilgrim Hot Springs SNOTEL	20	1*	10	0.6	3.6	---
Rocky Point SNOTEL	180	31	5	---	---	---
Snake Lake SNOTEL	230	16	---	---	---	---
*Estimate						

Temperature Data

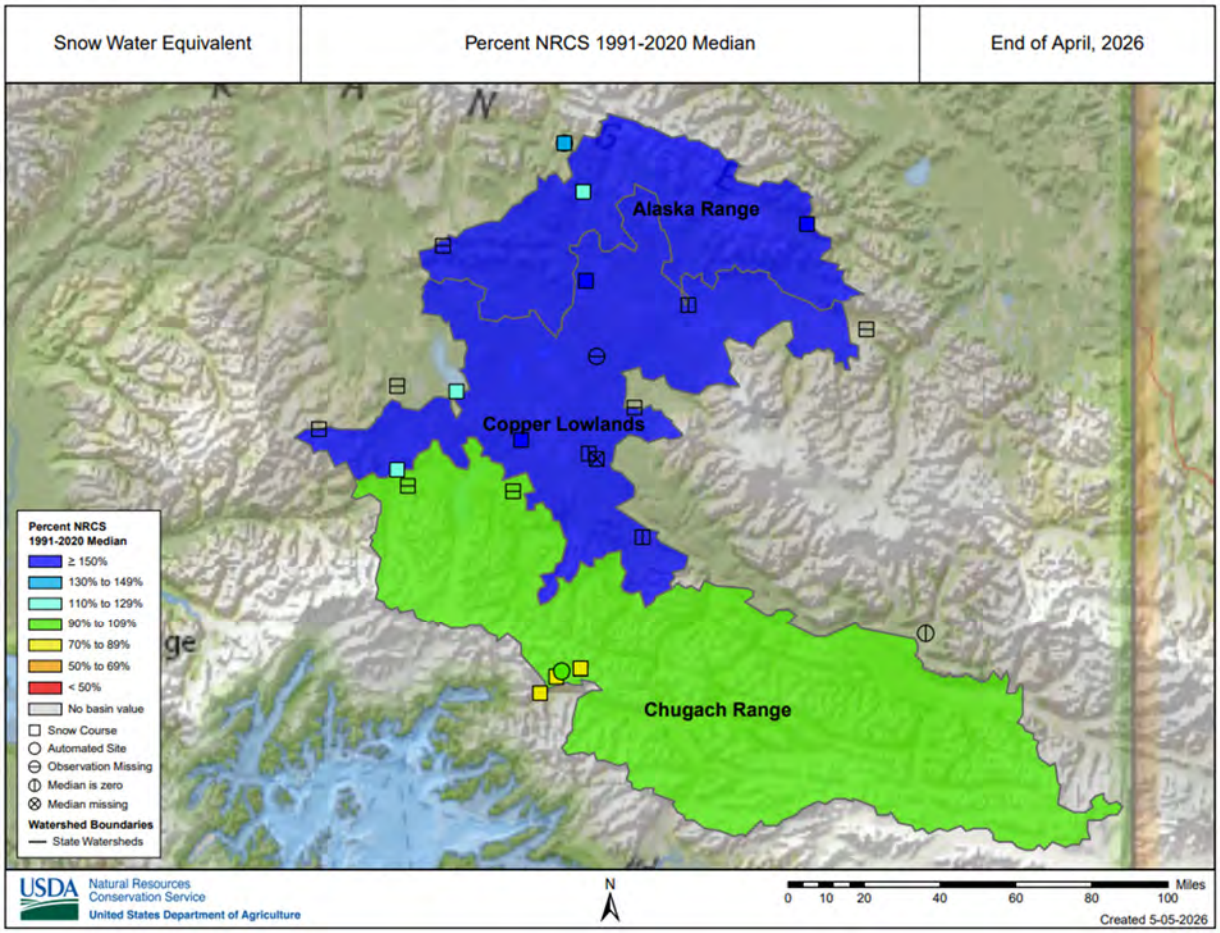
Source: NOAA ACIS



Copper Basin



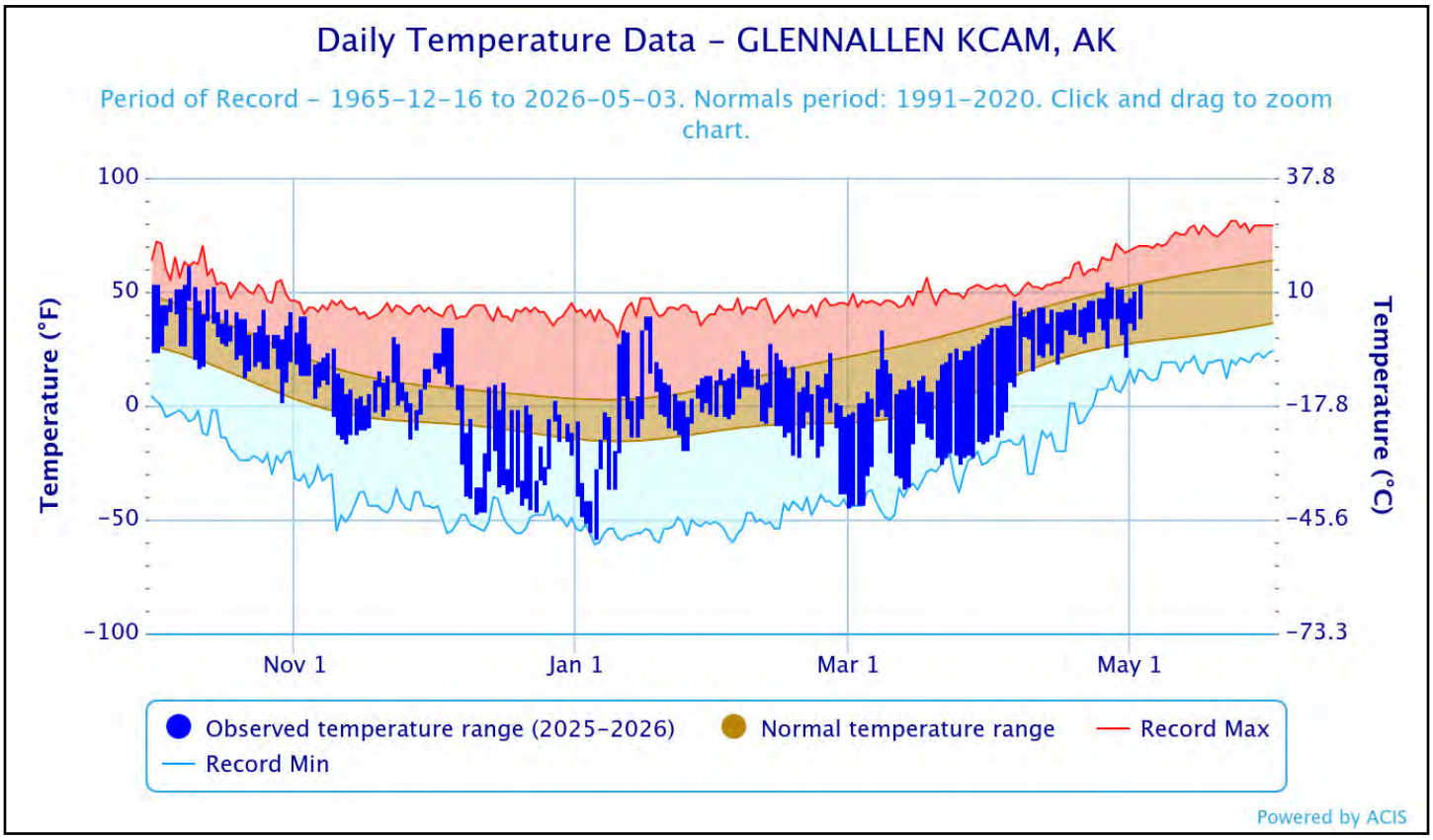
Snowpack Map



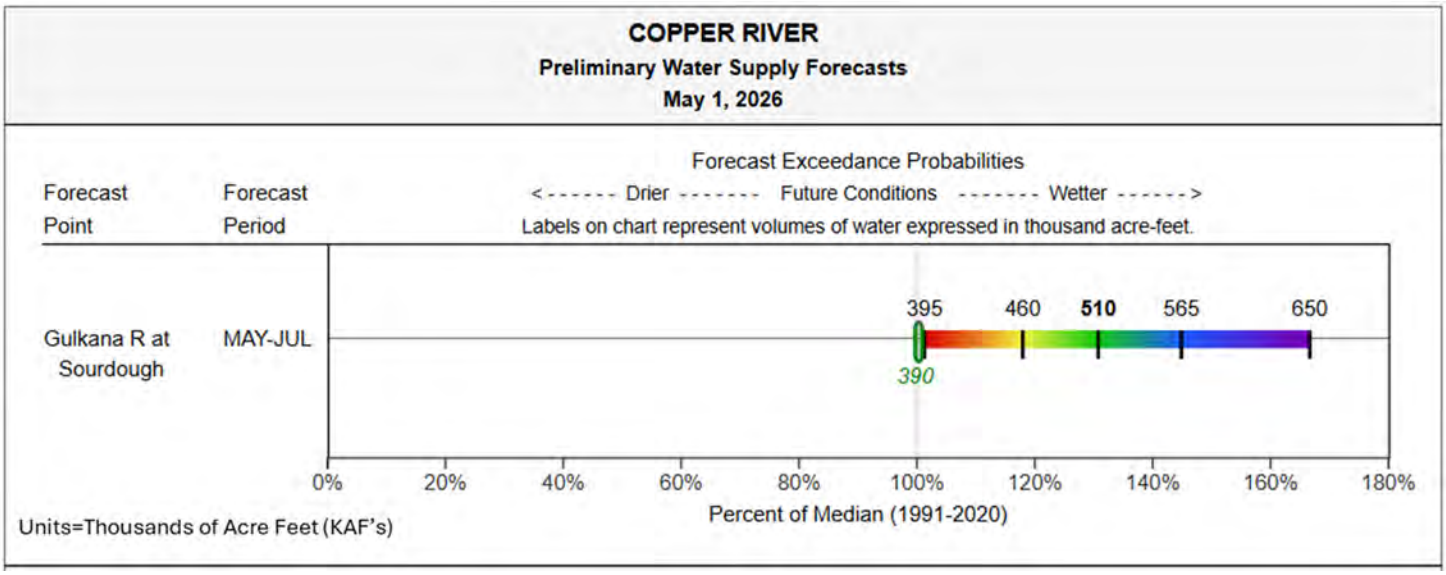
Copper Basin

Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Copper Basin

Snowpack

Snowpack in the Copper River Basin ranges from considerably above normal in the Wrangell Mountains to slightly below the 30-year median in the Chugach Range. The stations in the lowland near the Richardson Highway are normally melted out on May 1. In the case of Kenny Lake School this is true in 2026, but all other roadside courses had snowpack to measure. At May Creek, 6.5 inches of SWE on May 1 is five times its period -of-record median, and its third highest May 1 value.

Snowpack Data

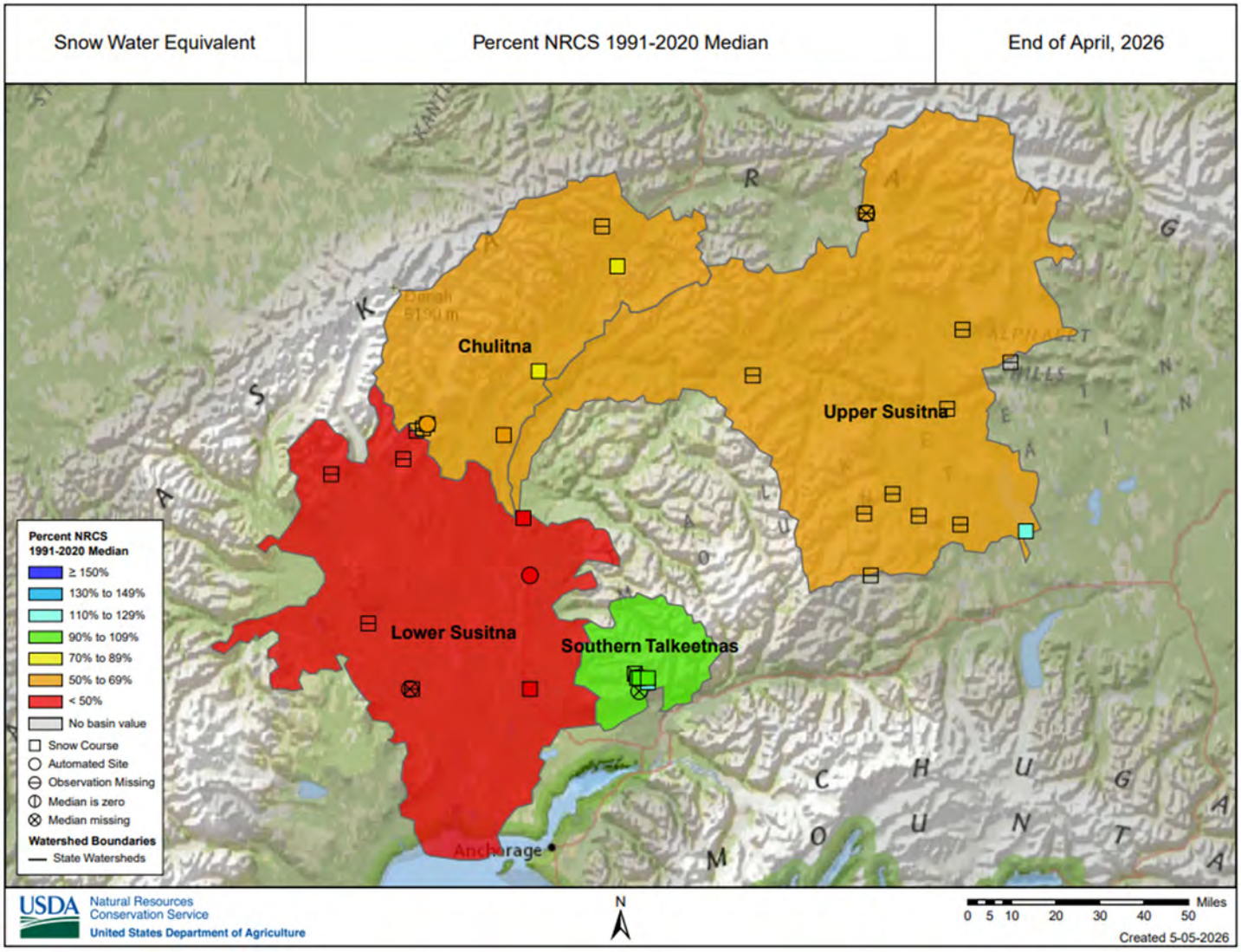
		Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
Site Name	Elev.	Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Chistochina	1940	12	0	3.6	0.0	---
Copper Center	1300	2	0	0.7	0.0	---
Fielding Lake	3010	45	37	13.6	12.7	139%
Fielding Lake SNOTEL	3000	29	31	8.6*	10.6	---
Gulkana River SNOTEL	1830	5	1	---	---	---
Haggard Creek	2450	20	10	5.7	2.7	150%
Horsepasture Pass SNOTEL	4220	22	26	---	---	---
Kenny Lake School	1270	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Lake Louise	2410	9	6	3.4	1.9	117%
Little Nelchina	2660	13	14	4.1	4.1	128%
Lowe River	560	20	26	7.5	9.9	87%
May Creek SNOTEL	1550	19	0	6.5	0.0	---
Mentasta Pass	2470	21	7	5.4	2.0	169%
Mt. Eyak SNOTEL	1450	22	29	9.2	12.5	46%
Nicks Valley SNOTEL	4230	104	159	---	---	---
Paxson	2620	30	23	7.6	7.0	125%
Tazlina	1240	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Tolsona Creek	2060	8	0	2.9	0.0	193%
Tsaina River	1590	31	42	11.0	15.0	88%
Upper Tsaina River SNOTEL	1730	50	54	18.7	20.1	101%
Worthington Glacier	2080	57	68	20.4	30.6	87%
**Estimate*						

Precipitation Data

		Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
Site Name	Elev.	This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Fielding Lake	3000	14.2	11.2	---	---
Gulkana River	1830	6.6	3.8	---	---
May Creek	1550	11.4	4.2	6.2	184%
Mt. Eyak	1450	67.3	84.5	79.2	85%
Upper Tsaina River	1730	22.8	26.2	26.7	85%

Matanuska—Susitna Basin

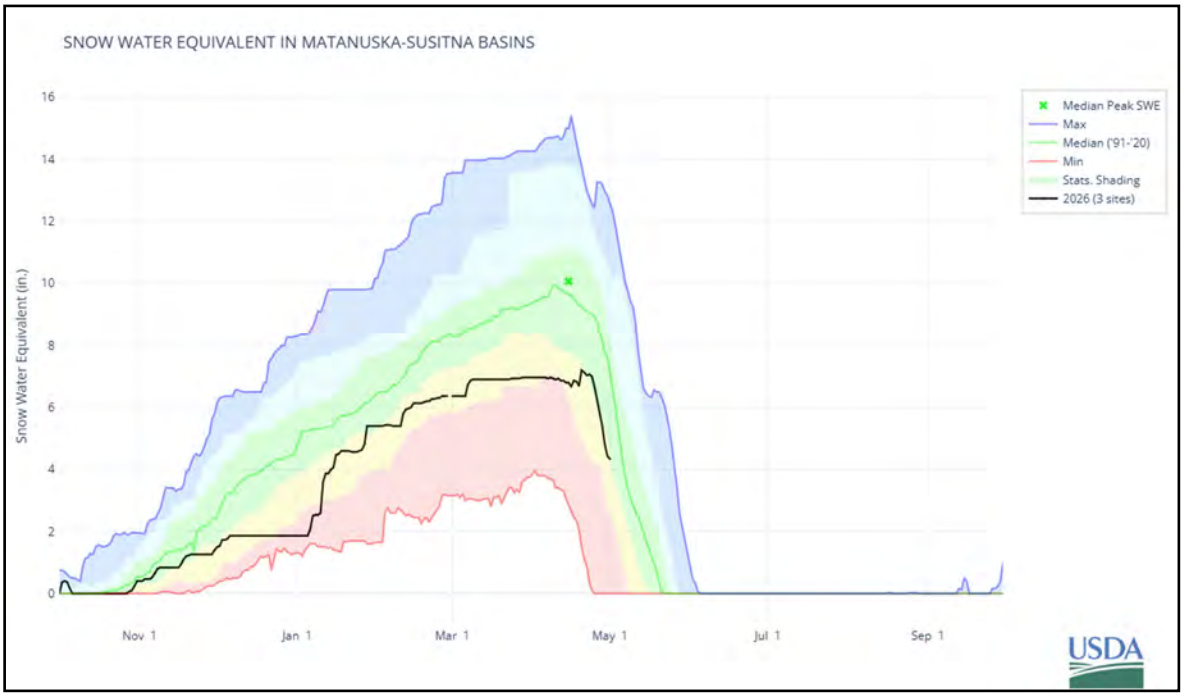
Snowpack Map



Snowpack

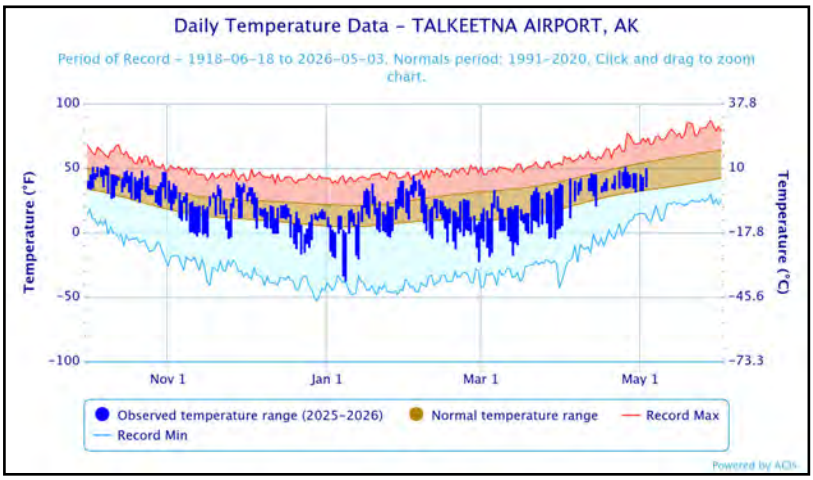
Snowpack in the Matanuska and Susitna regions is variable and elevation driven on May 1, 2026. Along the Parks Highway Susitna Valley High, Talkeetna, and Willow Airstrip have melted out, unusual for the date, though not without precedent. The higher elevations of the Parks Highway show a snowpack that is below the 30-year median but trending closer to normal the higher one travels. April precipitation was outstanding for the region with substantial gains made in the Hatcher Pass snow courses. These measurements had been reading exceptionally low all winter and are now reporting near-normal May 1 snowpack. Sheep Mountain, the sole measurement in the Matanuska, normally loses SWE over April but made a small gain this year and is reporting considerably above normal for the date.

Matanuska—Susitna Basin

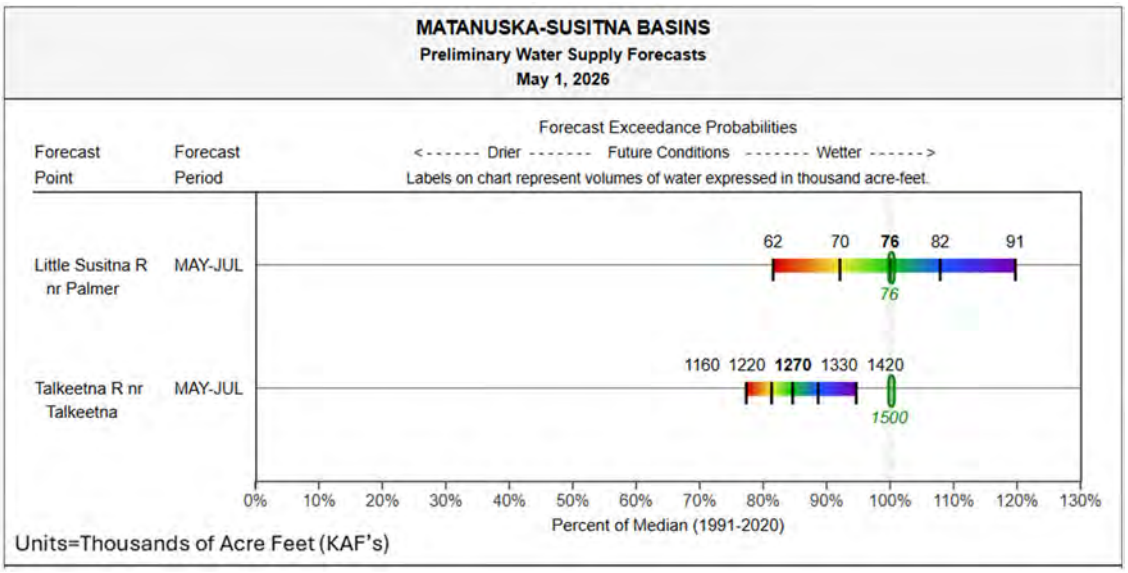


Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Matanuska—Susitna Basin

Snowpack Data

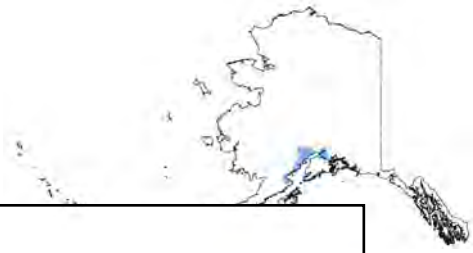
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Alexander Lake SNOTEL	170	5	0	1.3	0.0	---
Archangel Road	2280	34	31	11.4	11.9	98%
Birthday Pass	4010	86	80	25.0	33.6	---
Blueberry Hill	1220	30*	34	11.3*	13.2	88%
Denali View	750	11*	12	4.5*	4.0	52%
E. Fork Chulitna	1750	31*	35	10.5*	13.5	83%
Fishhook Basin	3400	61	56	18.3	21.7	96%
Frostbite Bottom SNOTEL	2690	37	41	12.0	16.3	---
Horsepasture Pass SNOTEL	4220	22	26	---	---	---
Independence Mine	3450	72	65	21.5	25.6	95%
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3450	64	57	18.5*	24.1	---
Lake Louise	2410	9	6	3.4	1.9	117%
Little Susitna	1730	21	11	7.4	3.0	121%
Monahan Flat SNOTEL	2690	19	21	5.6	7.4	---
Moraine SNOTEL	2010	11	2	4.5	0.5	132%
Sheep Mountain	2870	9	8	3.0	2.1	250%
Spring Creek SNOTEL	590	0*	0	---	---	---
Susitna Valley High SNOTEL	360	0	0	0.0*	0.0	0%
Talkeetna	360	0*	0	0.0*	0.0	0%
Tokositna Valley SNOTEL	840	23	35	8.7*	12.6	64%
Willow Airstrip	210	0*	0	0.0*	0.0	0%

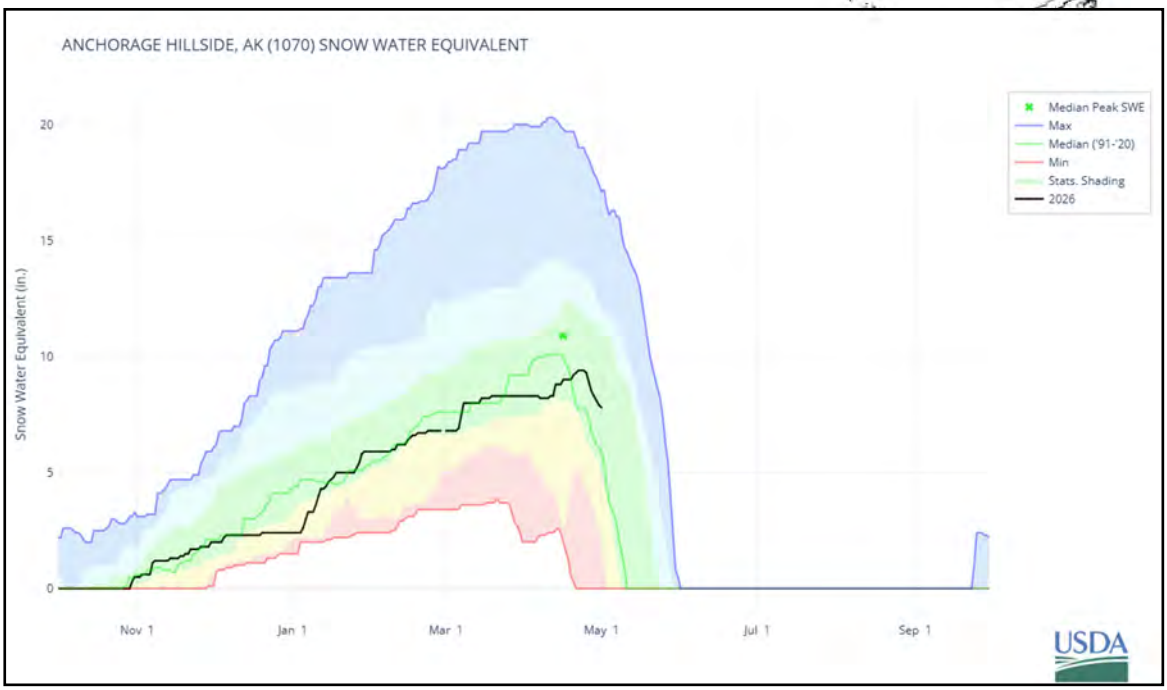
**Estimate*

Precipitation Data

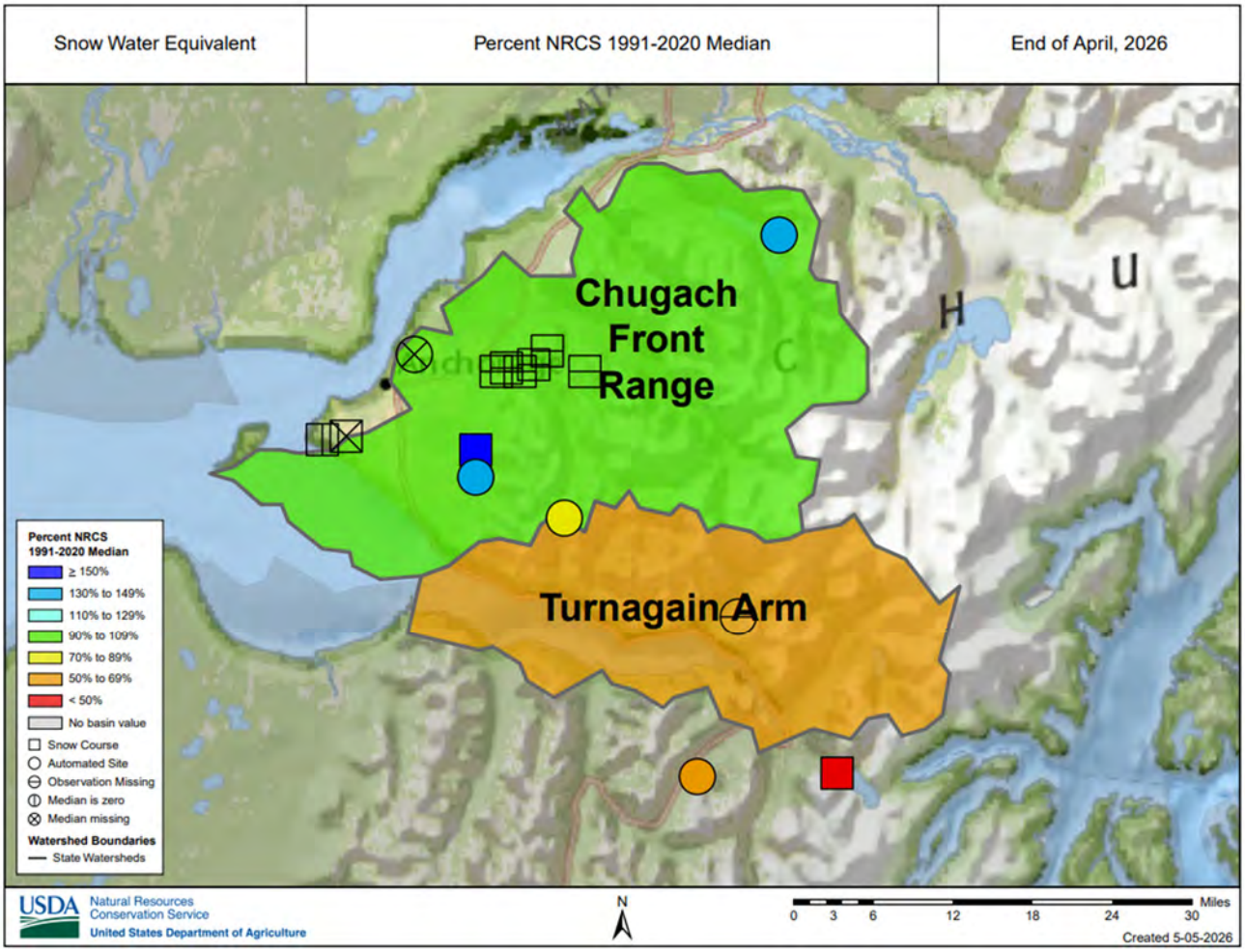
Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Alexander Lake	170	16.8	15.3	---	---
Frostbite Bottom	2690	17.7	18.0	---	---
Independence Mine	3450	22.3	18.5	19.4	115%
Monahan Flat	2690	9.6	9.0	7.8	123%
Moraine	2010	9.4	10.0	11.2	84%
Spring Creek	590	7.2	5.9	---	---
Susitna Valley High	360	13.8	13.8	12.8	108%
Tokositna Valley	840	12.0	26.9	22.5	53%

Northern Cook Inlet





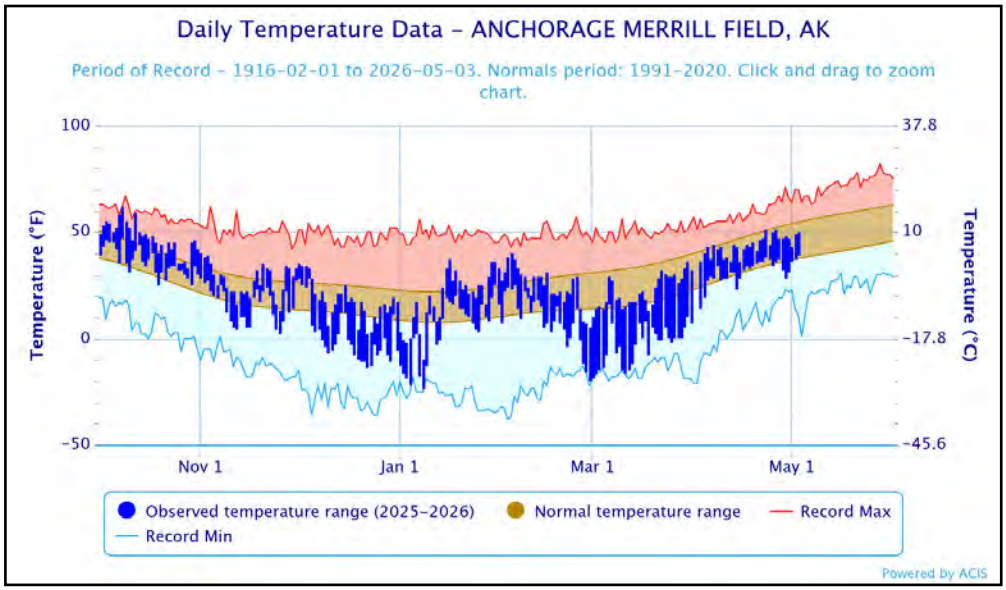
Snowpack Map



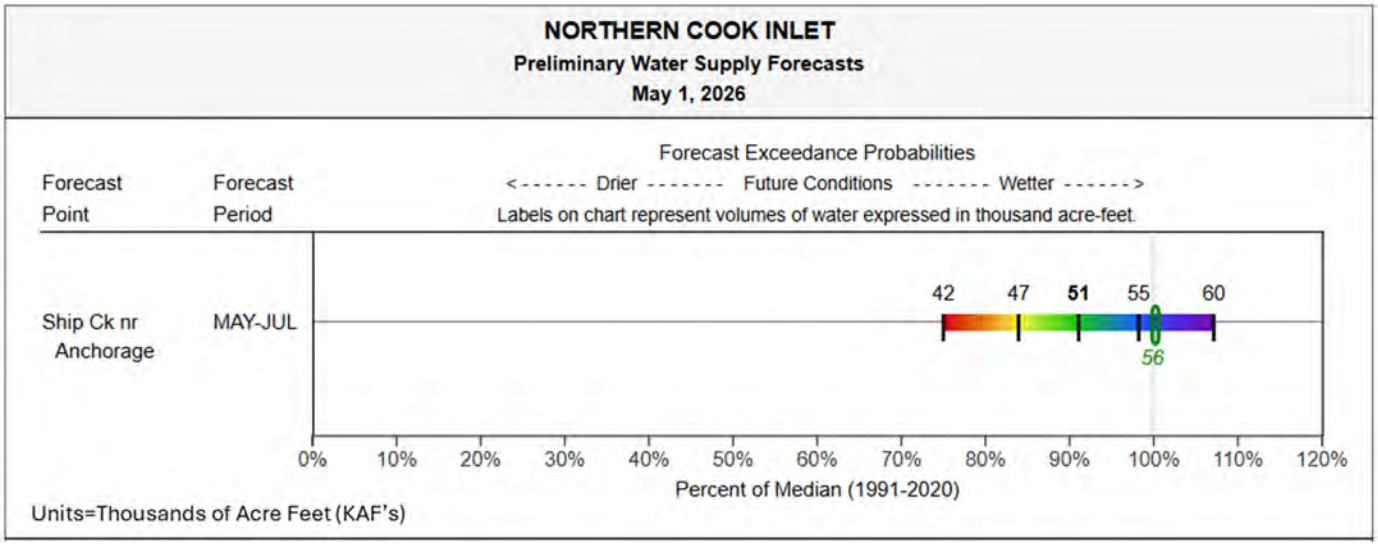
Northern Cook Inlet

Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Anchorage Hillside	1910	13.6	14.6	16.1	84%
Elmendorf Field	170	9.9	5.9	---	---
Frostbite Bottom	2690	17.7	18.0	---	---
Indian Pass	2400	25.6	29.6	28.2	91%
Mcneil River SGS	110	38.4	69.1	---	---
Moraine	2010	9.4	10.0	11.2	84%
Mt. Alyeska	1500	38.1	59.5	47.7	80%
Spring Creek	590	7.2	5.9	---	---

Northern Cook Inlet

Snowpack

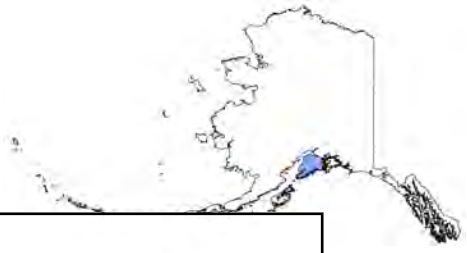
On May 1, 2026, snow measurements around Cook Inlet range from above normal at Anchorage Hillside and Moraine to below normal at Indian Pass and Mt. Alyeska. Kincaid Park is melted out which is normal for the date. April precipitation in the region was high. The 5.5 inches of April precipitation recorded at Indian Pass is more than double its normal monthly total and the 2nd highest April total in 46 years of observation.

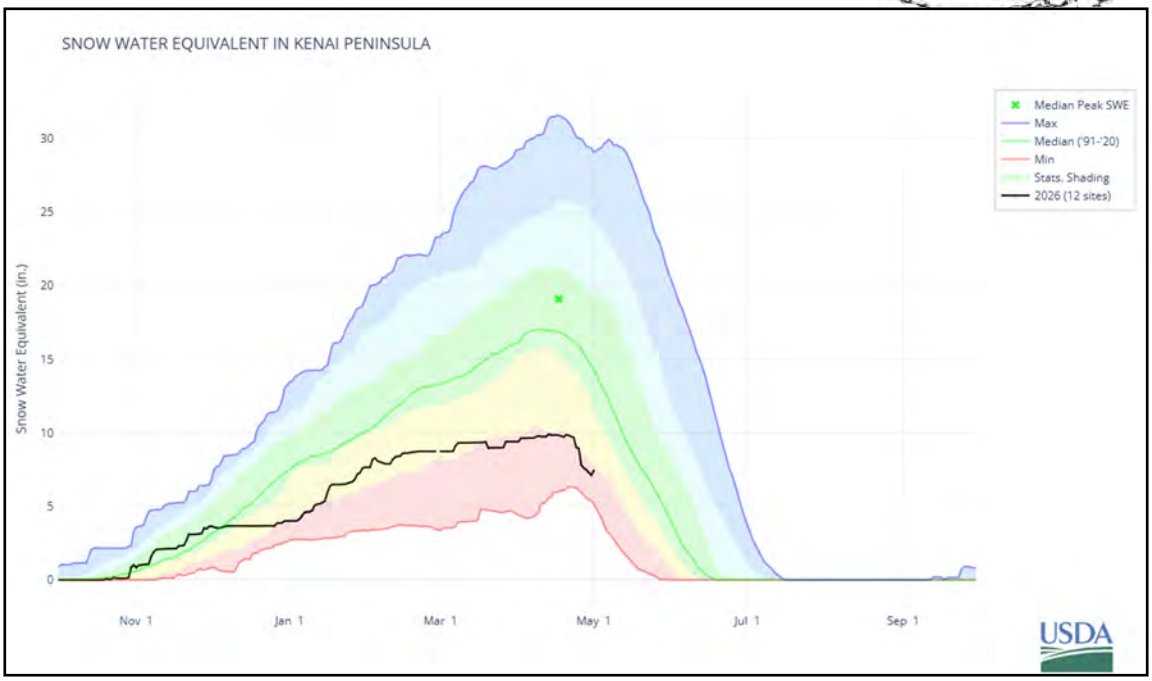
Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Anchorage Hillside SNOTEL	1910	20	14	7.8	5.7	132%
Anchorage WFO	140	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Elmendorf Field SNOTEL	170	0	0	0.0*	0.0	---
Frostbite Bottom SNOTEL	2690	37	41	12.0	16.3	---
Indian Pass SNOTEL	2400	68	64	18.2*	27.9	77%
Kincaid Park	280	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Little Susitna	1730	21	11	7.4	3.0	121%
Mcneil River SGS SNOTEL	110	5	0	---	---	---
Moraine SNOTEL	2010	11	2	4.5	0.5	132%
Mt. Alyeska SNOTEL	1500	46	54	---	17.6	---
Portage Valley	90	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%
South Campbell Creek	1240	4	0	1.2	0.0	300%
Spring Creek SNOTEL	590	0*	0	---	---	---

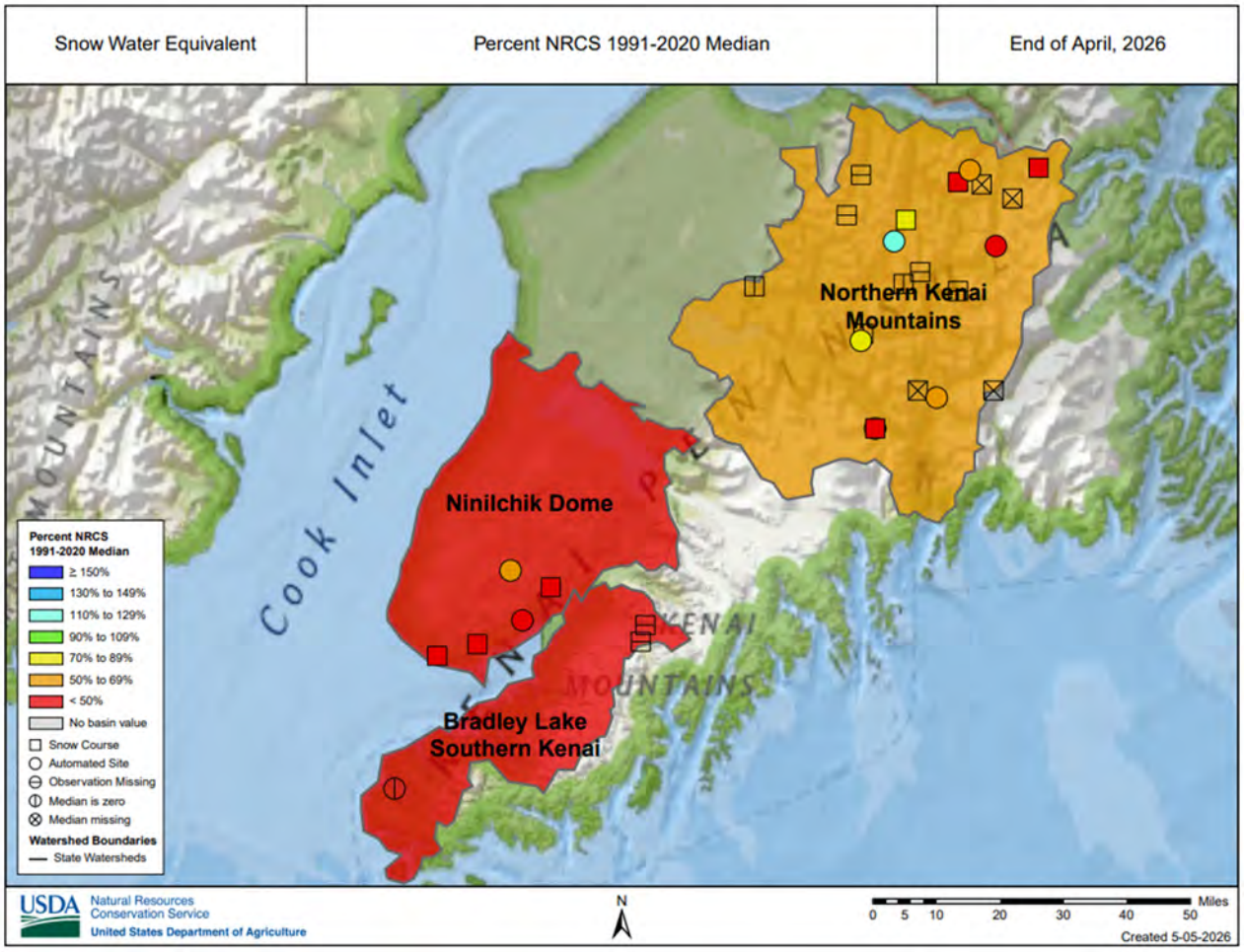
**Estimate*

Kenai Peninsula





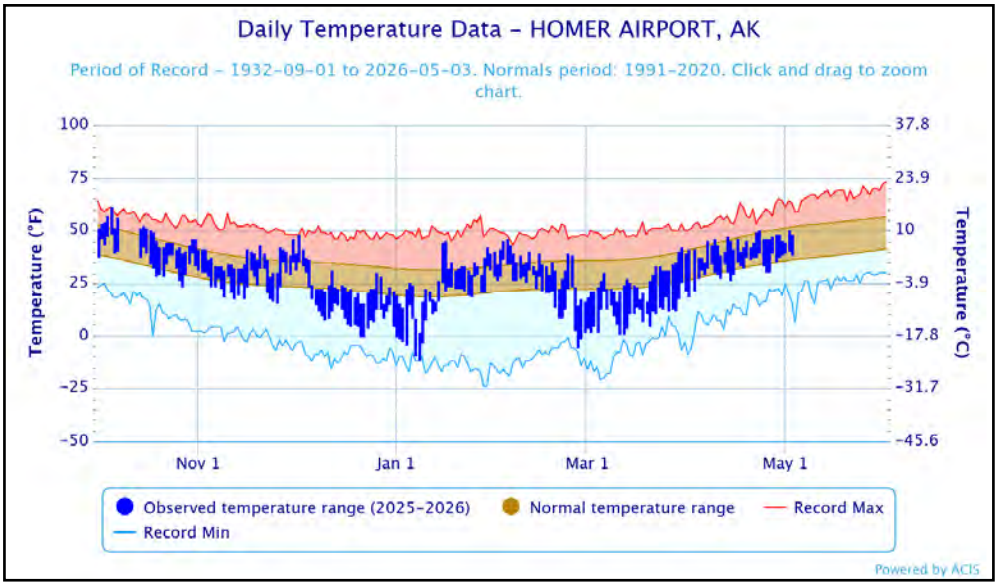
Snowpack Map



Kenai Peninsula

Temperature Chart

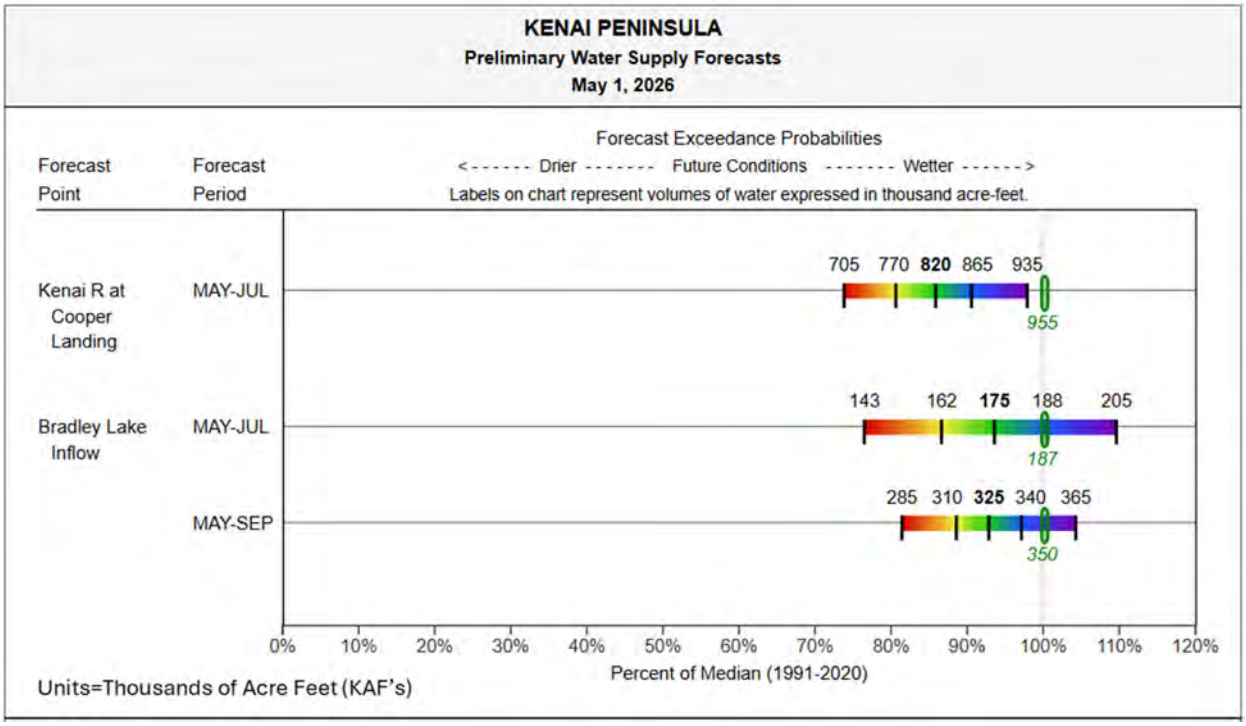
Source: NOAA ACIS



Snowpack

With the exception of Summit Creek in the Central Kenai Mountains, every station on the Kenai Peninsula is reporting below normal snowpack on May 1. Summit Creek is reporting above normal snowpack because melting has been delayed by the cold spring, though the station, like nearly every other on the Kenai Peninsula, reported below normal snowpack all winter. The stations around Homer have had a particularly poor snow season. At Anchor River Divide, the peak of 7.8 inches of SWE is the second lowest peak the station has ever recorded.

Streamflow Forecasts



Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack Data

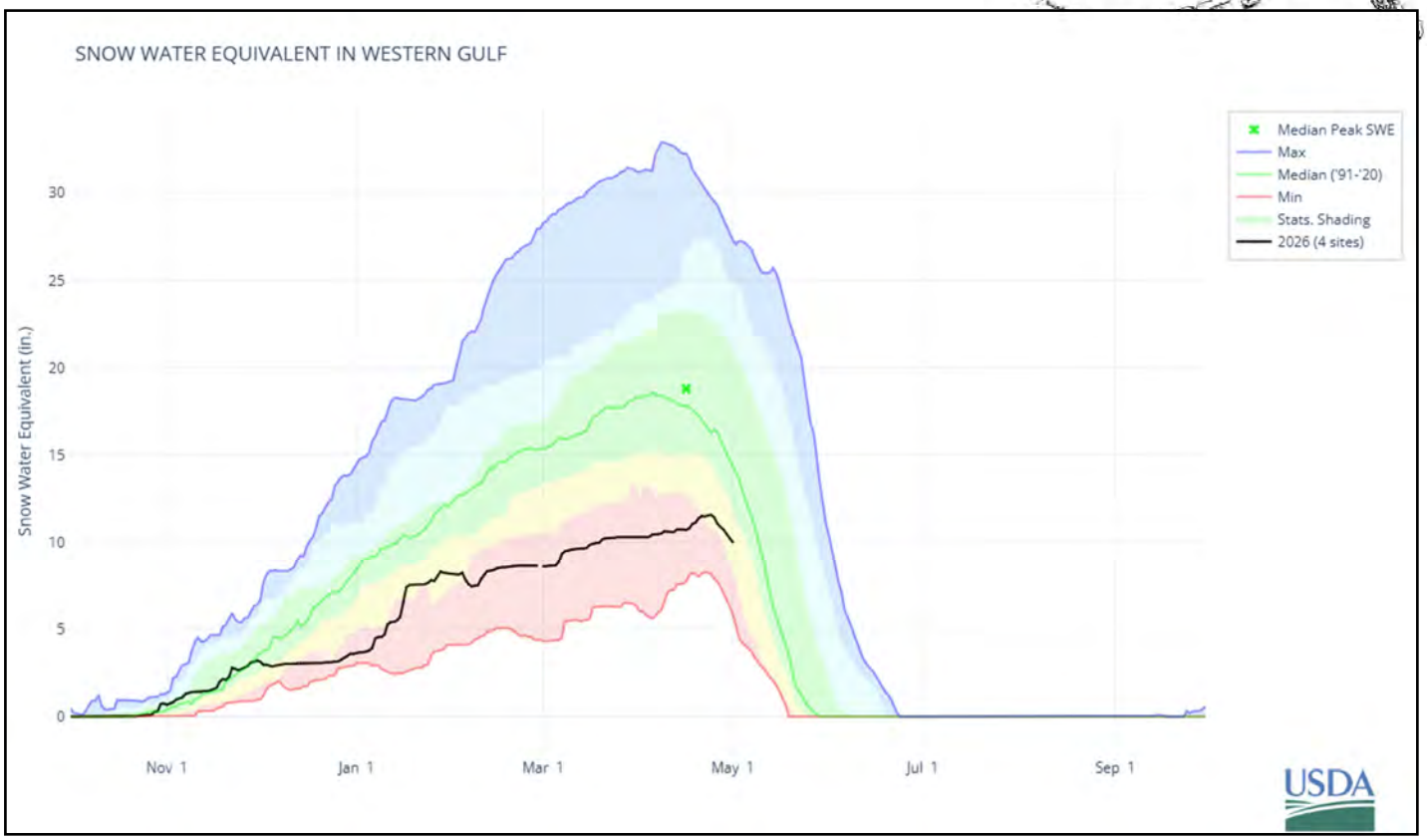
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Anchor River Divide SNOTEL	1650	16	21	5.1	8.7	55%
Bertha Creek	880	24	22	6.4	8.0	38%
Bridge Creek	1330	6	9	2.0	2.8	22%
Cooper Lake SNOTEL	1150	16	8	5.8	2.2	71%
Demonstration Forest	670	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%
Eagle Lake	1410	0	9	0.0	3.0	0%
Exit Glacier	360	12	3	4.5	1.6	52%
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	360	9	3	2.6	1.4	---
Grandview SNOTEL	1070	32	44	11.1	17.6	33%
Grouse Creek Divide SNOTEL	720	13	9	6.3	---	58%
Indian Pass SNOTEL	2400	68	64	18.2*	27.9	77%
Jean Lake	680	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Kenai Moose Pens SNOTEL	290	0	0	0.0*	0.0	---
Kenai Summit	1280	27	26	7.8	9.6	85%
Lower Kachemak Creek SNOTEL	1960	34	49	---	---	---
Mcneil Canyon SNOTEL	1350	0*	0	0.0	0.0	0%
Middle Fork Bradley SNOTEL	2330	34	42	---	---	---
Moose Pass	680	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Mt. Alyeska SNOTEL	1500	46	54	---	17.6	---
Nuka Glacier SNOTEL	1230	12	35	---	---	---
Port Graham SNOTEL	270	0*	0	0.0*	0.0	---
Portage Valley	90	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%
Primrose	2110	73	---	25.9	---	---
Primrose SNOTEL	2030	82	104	---	---	---
Snug Harbor Road	410	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Spencer Bench	2450	87	---	34.4	---	---
Summit Creek SNOTEL	1340	20	20	7.3	8.1	114%
Tincan	3370	80	---	32.7	---	---
Tincan SNOTEL	3370	95	119	---	---	---
Turnagain Pass SNOTEL	1860	64	88	20.4	36.1	53%

**Estimate*

Precipitation Data

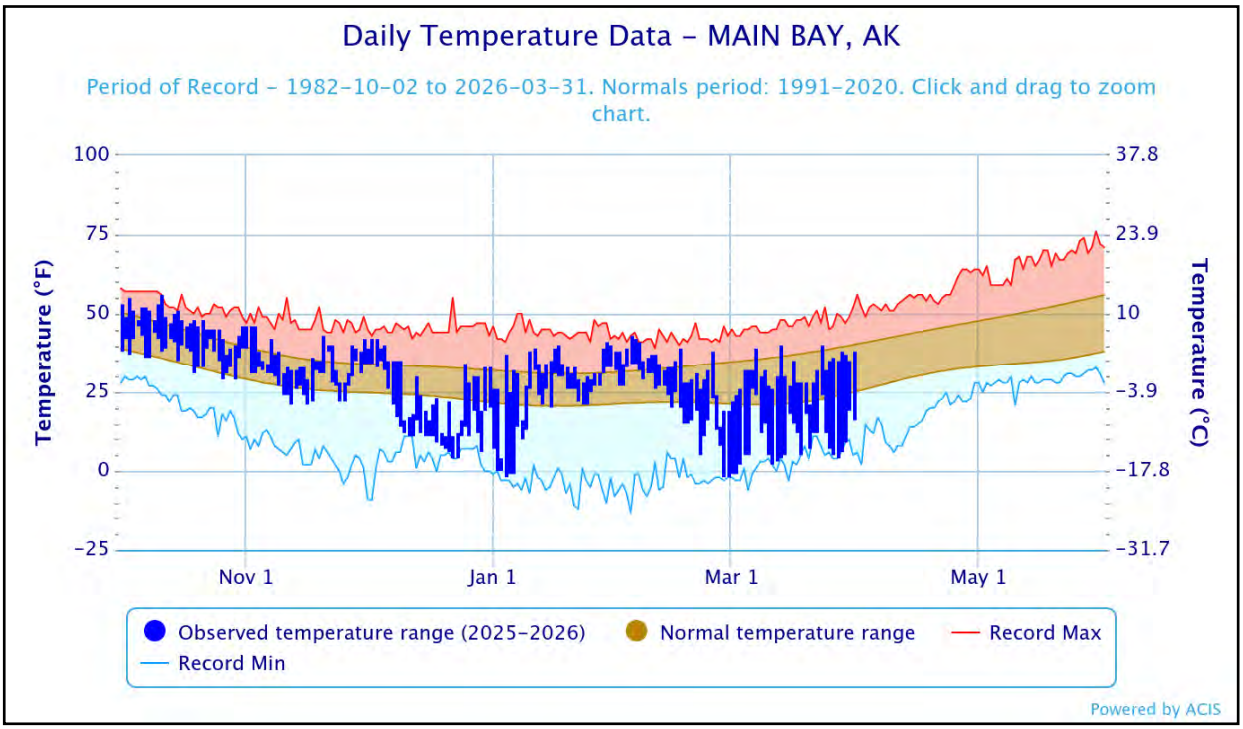
Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Anchor River Divide	1650	13.3	22.6	19.0	70%
Cooper Lake	1150	20.7	27.5	25.8	80%
Exit Glacier	360	39.0	66.6	---	---
Grandview	1070	41.1	60.4	44.9	92%
Grouse Creek Divide	720	32.2	49.4	41.6	77%
Indian Pass	2400	25.6	29.6	28.2	91%
Kenai Moose Pens	290	9.3	9.1	8.8	106%
Lower Kachemak Creek	1960	26.2	52.0	---	---
Mcneil Canyon	1350	12.7	20.8	17.6	72%
Middle Fork Bradley	2330	25.1	46.0	35.3	71%
Moose Inc	110	14.0	26.1	---	---
Mt. Alyeska	1500	38.1	59.5	47.7	80%
Nuka Glacier	1230	38.3	72.6	55.9	69%
Port Graham	270	41.5	60.4	51.0	81%
Schor Garden	380	13.4	22.4	---	---
Summit Creek	1340	16.1	21.9	17.4	93%
Turnagain Pass	1860	35.2	52.0	43.3	81%

Western Gulf – Prince William Sound



Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS

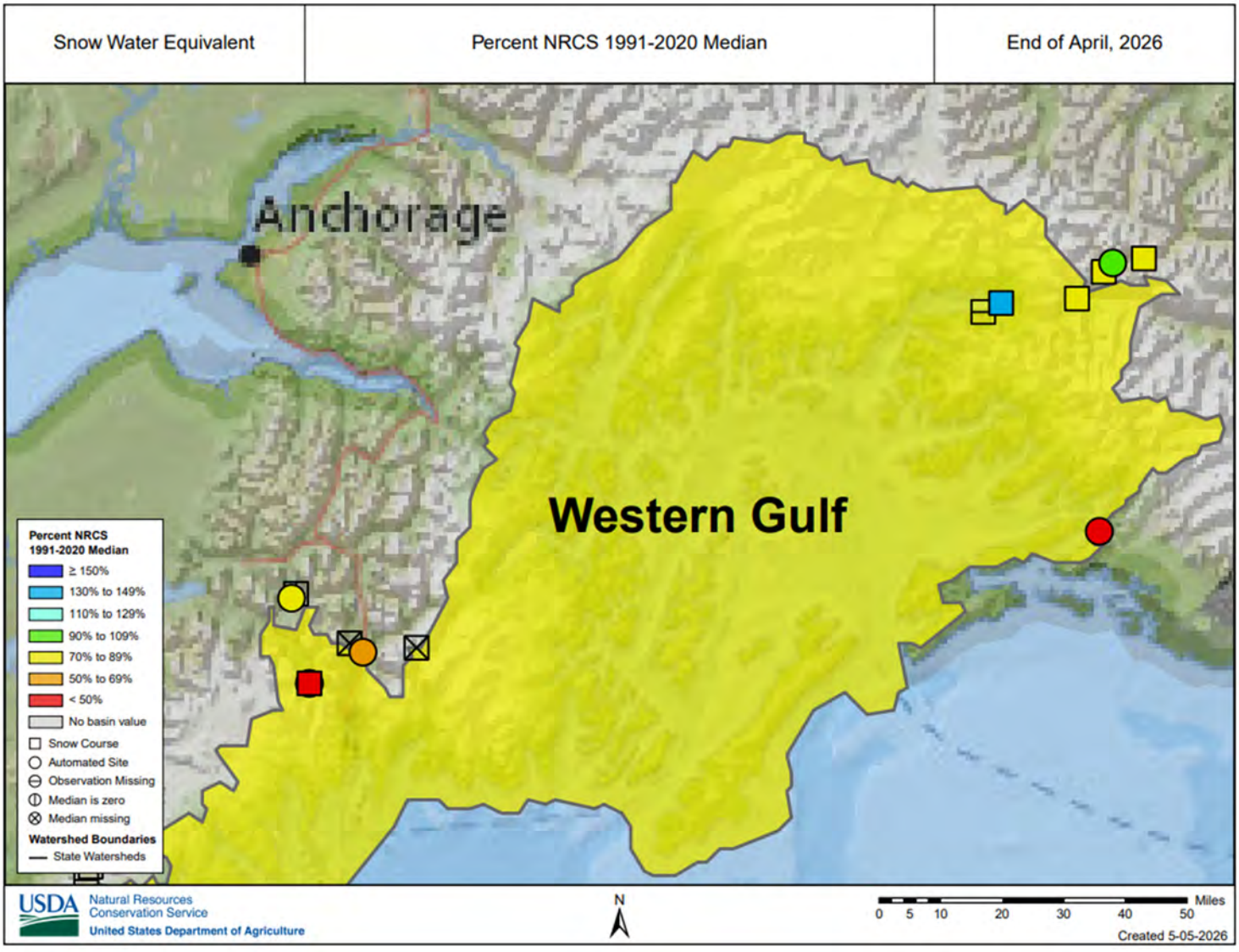


Western Gulf – Prince William Sound

Snowpack

Snowpack trends noted throughout the winter continue on May 1. The closest to normal snowpack in the region is around Valdez. The near-sea-level Valdez snow course is above normal on May 1, a function of the cold spring and delayed melt. Stations near Seward and Cordova are reporting snowpack around half of the May 1 30-year median. Mount Eyak's peak of 11.5 inches of SWE is the second lowest on record, behind only 2015.

Snowpack Map



Western Gulf — Prince William Sound

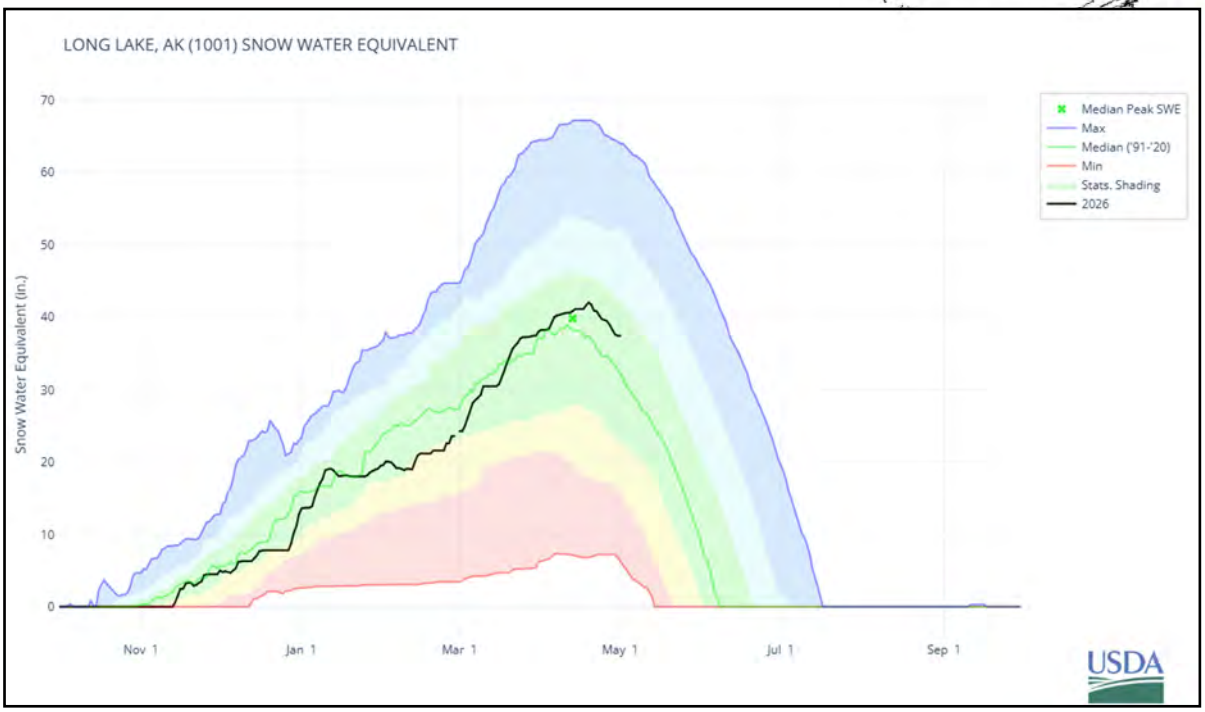
Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Cooper Lake SNOTEL	1150	16	8	5.8	2.2	71%
Esther Island SNOTEL	50	0	0	---	---	---
Exit Glacier	360	12	3	4.5	1.6	52%
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	360	9	3	2.6	1.4	---
Falls Creek**	1980	58		25.2		
Grouse Creek Divide SNOTEL	720	13	9	6.3	---	58%
Lowe River	560	20	26	7.5	9.9	87%
Nellie Juan Tarn	3080	83	---	34.3	---	---
Nicks Valley SNOTEL	4230	104	159	---	---	---
Nuka Glacier SNOTEL	1230	12	35	---	---	---
Primrose	2110	73	---	25.9	---	---
Sugarloaf Mtn SNOTEL	530	49	48	---	---	---
Terror Lake**	1450	18		11.2		
Tsaina River	1590	31	42	11.0	15.0	88%
Upper Tsaina River SNOTEL	1730	50	54	18.7	20.1	101%
Valdez	40	25	18	11.0	6.8	133%
Worthington Glacier	2080	57	68	20.4	30.6	87%
**Estimate*						
***Mid April measurement*						

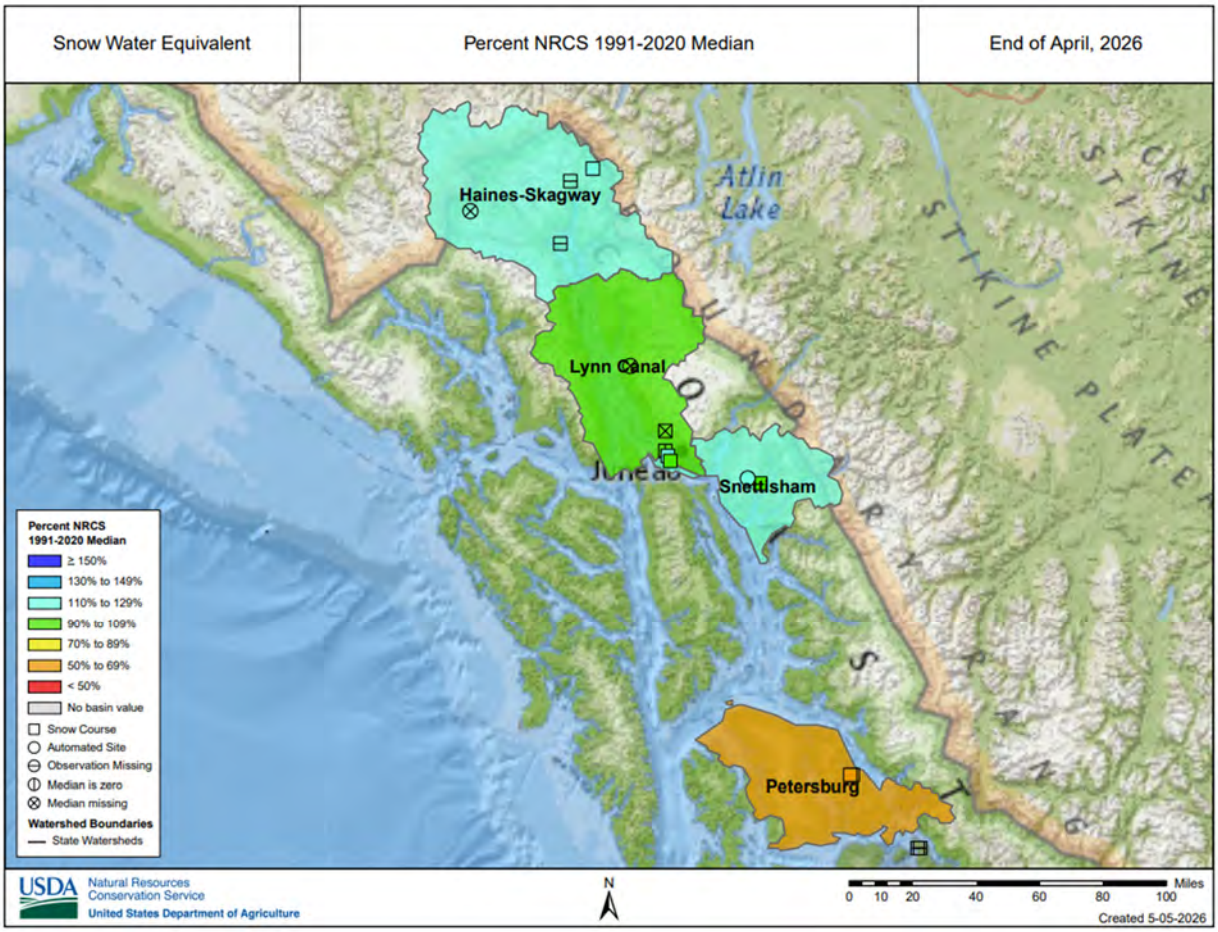
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Cooper Lake	1150	20.7	27.5	25.8	80%
Esther Island	50	81.0	134.8	92.5	88%
Exit Glacier	360	39.0	66.6	---	---
Grouse Creek Divide	720	32.2	49.4	41.6	77%
Nuka Glacier	1230	38.3	72.6	55.9	69%
Sugarloaf Mtn	530	40.5	48.2	46.4	87%
Upper Tsaina River	1730	22.8	26.2	26.7	85%

Southeast



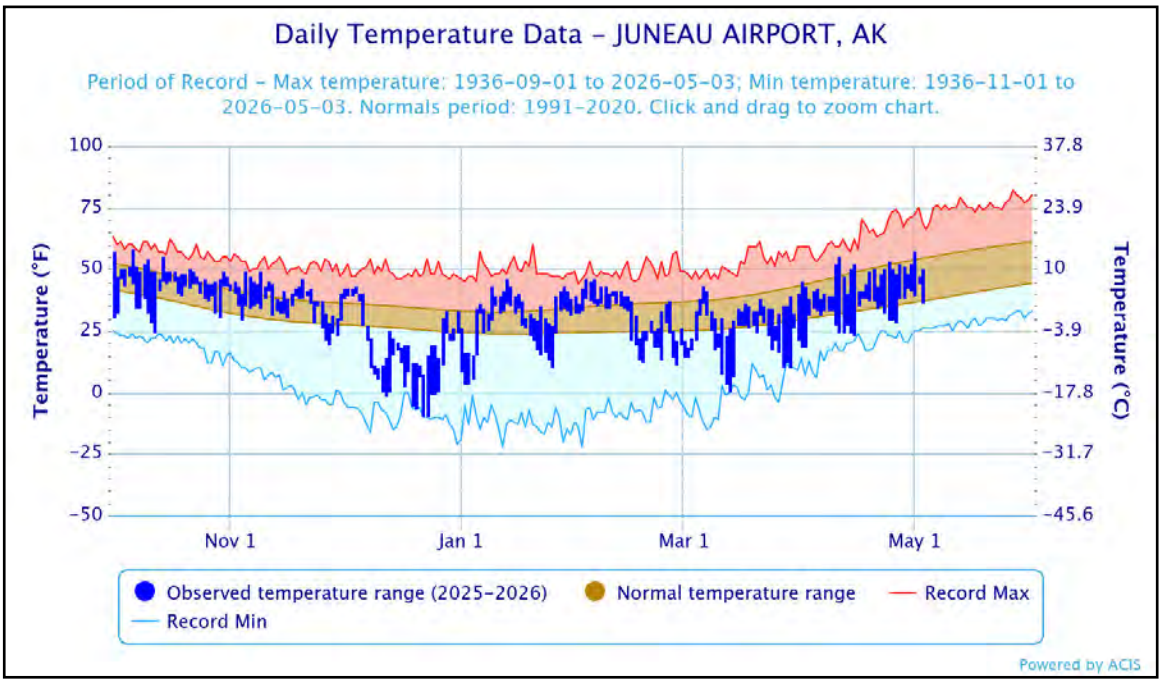
Snowpack Map



Southeast

Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS

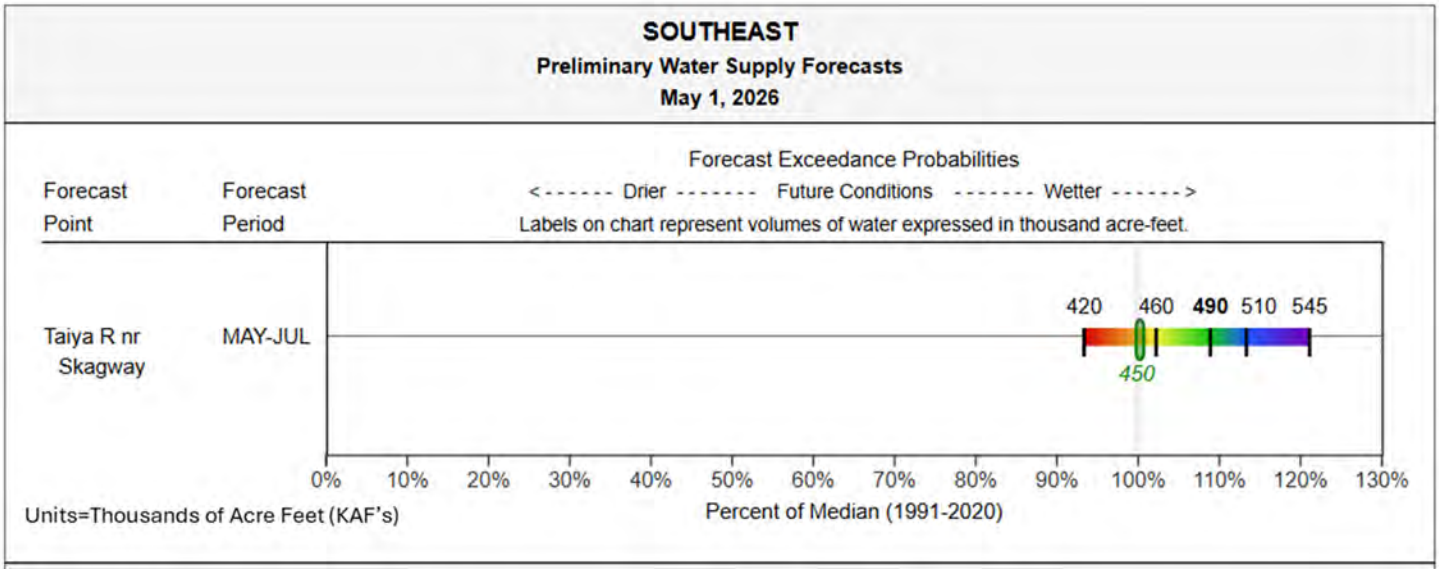


Streamflow Forecasts

Stream Runoff Index:

Forecast Point: **Skagway River: +2.5**

Index	
-2 to -3	much below average snowmelt run-off
-1 to -2	below average snowmelt runoff
-1 to +1	average snowmelt runoff
+1 to +2	above average snowmelt runoff
+2 to +3	much above average snowmelt run-off



Southeast

Snowpack

On May 1, the exceptional low-elevation Southeast snow season is winding down. Measurable snow was found at the lowest of the Douglas Island snow courses, Fish Creek, which is normally melted out by May 1. Around Petersburg, the low-elevation Petersburg snow course is melted out, which is normal for the date. The higher-elevation Petersburg Ridge snow course lost considerable SWE over the month and is now reporting around half of the 30-year median SWE for this location. North of Petersburg, normal to above-normal snowpack is noted at all stations. At the Long Lake SNOTEL, the peak SWE of 42 inches is slightly above its normal peak and occurred 6 days late.

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Cropley Lake	1770	65	---	28.3	---	94%
Eagle Crest	1220	33	0	14.9	0.0	112%
Fish Creek	520	6	0	2.7	0.0	---
Flower Mountain SNOTEL	2540	85	64	33.5	25.8	---
Heen Latinee SNOTEL	2100	53	32	23.0	13.2	---
Hoonah SNOTEL	1520	45	13	18.9	6.8	---
Juneau WFO	70	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Log Cabin B.C.	2950	50	31	18.7	10.8	125%
Long Lake SNOTEL	840	85	44	37.4	18.0	116%
Moore Creek Bridge SNOTEL	2250	64	38	---	---	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	58	28	23.0*	9.8	115%
Petersburg Reservoir	450	0	0	0.0	0.0	---
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1680	39	8	11.4	3.5	52%
Speel River	200	50	0	24.2	0.0	108%
Summit	985	37	31	11.3	9.3	188%
**Estimate*						

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Hoonah	1520	52.7	47.5	---	---
Long Lake	840	124.9	108.0	103.7	120%
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	25.1	25.0	29.8	84%

For further information contact:

NRCS Alaska web site: **https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/alaska/snow-survey**
NRCS Water and Climate Center web site: **https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/sswsf-snow-survey-and-water-supply-forecasting-program/national-water-and**

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