

Alaska Snow Survey Report



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

May 1, 2024

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Cover Photo: NRCS Hydrologic technician measures snow at Tincan Snow Course on the Kenai Peninsula.

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General Overview

Updated 1991-2020 Snow Survey and Water Supply Normals

Every 10 years, The NRCS's Snow Survey and Water supply Forecasting Program (SSWSF) produces new 30-year central tendency statistics. These are often call the site Normals. The new 1991-2020 Normals have been developed and are being used in this publication. A detailed discussion can be found on the National Water and Climate Center's website [here](#). The main take away is that "100% of Normal" this winter is not likely to be the same as it was last decade. A side-by-side comparison of the new and old Alaska snow-pack Normals for February can be found [here](#).

Snowpack

Another Alaska Snow Season is mostly in the books. Statewide, basins are in the process of taking a winters worth of solid precipitation and sending it to the ocean. In the Interior this process started a little early, in other parts of the state it started a little late, but mostly this process is happening within a week of when it normally does. Now this doesn't mean that it won't snow anymore. Independence Mine SNOTEL picked up nearly an inch of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) while writing this report. And this snow surveyor has done summer field maintenance at Atigun Pass in a July snowstorm. But barring exceptional late season snow, every station maintained by the Alaska Snow Survey Data Collection Office has peaked and is transitioning from being covered in snow, to being something for bears to play with.

April snowfall is normally meager. Statewide it's a dry month. In a lot of the state, it is the driest month. Storm tracks, favoring Western Alaska, started the month with snowfall which caused many stations to reach their average April precipitation within the first two weeks of the month. These storm tracks benefitted stations in the Susitna Basin and Cook Inlet side of the Kenai, as well. April storms in the Gulf of Alaska manifested in more precipitation in absolute numbers, but less as a percentage of Normal for stations on the Western Kenai, Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska. Much of this precipitation was measured as rainfall which is typical for the region. These stations also tend to receive more April precipitation and the driest month of the year occurs later here, usually in May or June.

Alaska Statewide Snowpack	# of Sites	Basin Index	
		Current Percent of Median	Last Year Percent of Median
Upper Yukon Basin	33	78	177
Central Yukon Basin	12	112	173
Tanana Basin	23	76	247
Koyukuk Basin	13	91	171
Kuskokwim Basin	-	-	-
Copper Basin	16	171	186
Matanuska-Susitna Basin	14	123	150
Northern Cook Inlet	7	130	138
Kenai Peninsula	21	118	141
Western Gulf of Alaska	8	185	147
Southeast Alaska	10	96	127

General Overview, Continued

Snowpack Continued . . .

One place that benefitted from a Gulf of Alaska storm track and reported above Normal April snowfall is Thompson Pass. This region has been the 2024 Snowfall lottery winner. The Upper Tsaina SNOTEL started reading its period of record maximum on November 10 and has been in record breaking territory ever since. Other snow measurements near Thompson Pass have many more years of observation and aren't reporting record values but are nonetheless much higher than Normal. The only other May 1 record in the network was measured at Old Crow in the Yukon.

The Snowpack on May 1, 2024, is a hodgepodge of above and below Normal measurements. In general terms the places that have been above Normal all winter peaked and began melting on time, or a little late, and are above Normal on May 1. This includes the Copper River Basin, much of Southcentral, the Porcupine, as well as Western and Northern Alaska. In the Interior, snowfall has been slightly below Normal for most of the season. Temperatures in April were warm and melt started early resulting in below Normal snowpack for the date.

Precipitation

Alaska precipitation patterns in April vary drastically by region, not surprising for a state this large. Western Alaska was stormy and reported two to three times Normal April precipitation. Being one of the driest months of the year at these stations, it doesn't take a monumental amount of precipitation to exceed 2-3 times the monthly Normal. Kelly Station picked up 1.7 inches of precipitation over the month which is more than three times the average half inch of precipitation that is the Normal during the station's driest month of the year. At the other end of the range Long Lake, outside of Juneau, picked up 7.2 inches of precipitation over the month, which is the largest April increment of any station in the Alaska monitoring network, but less than 80% of the station's Normal April precipitation. Southeast Alaska was generally drier than Normal over the month.

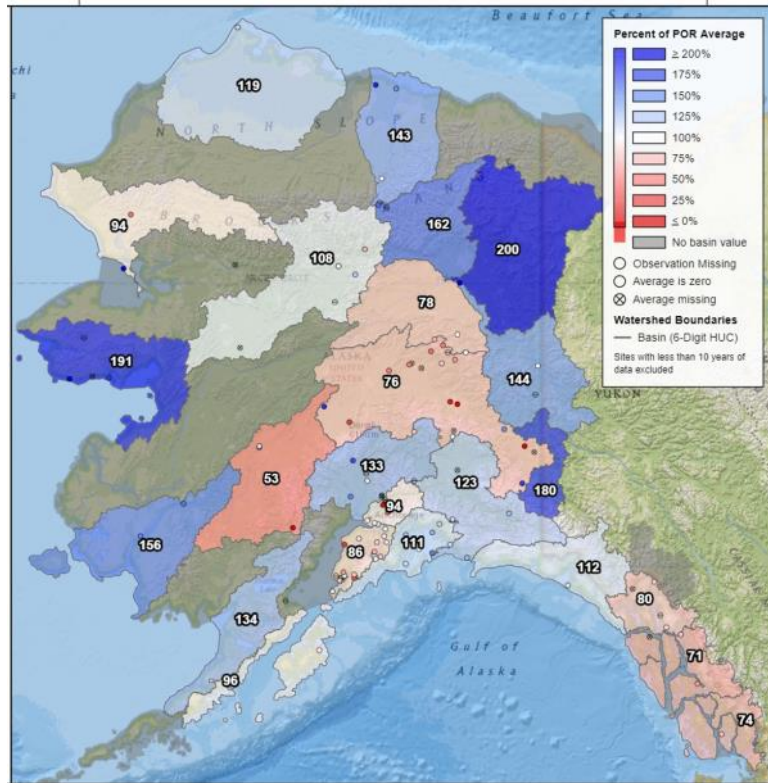
Interior Alaska stations picked up between 0.1 and 1 inch of precipitation over the month. April is one of the driest months of the year in the Interior. Depending on exactly where you are in the interior this increment can be below or above Normal for the month.

In South-Central Alaska the Western Alaska storm track benefitted stations in the Susitna basin and the western Kenai, with these stations reporting considerably above Normal precipitation. Stations proximal to the Gulf of Alaska received less than Normal precipitation over the month.

Alaska Statewide Precipitation Maps

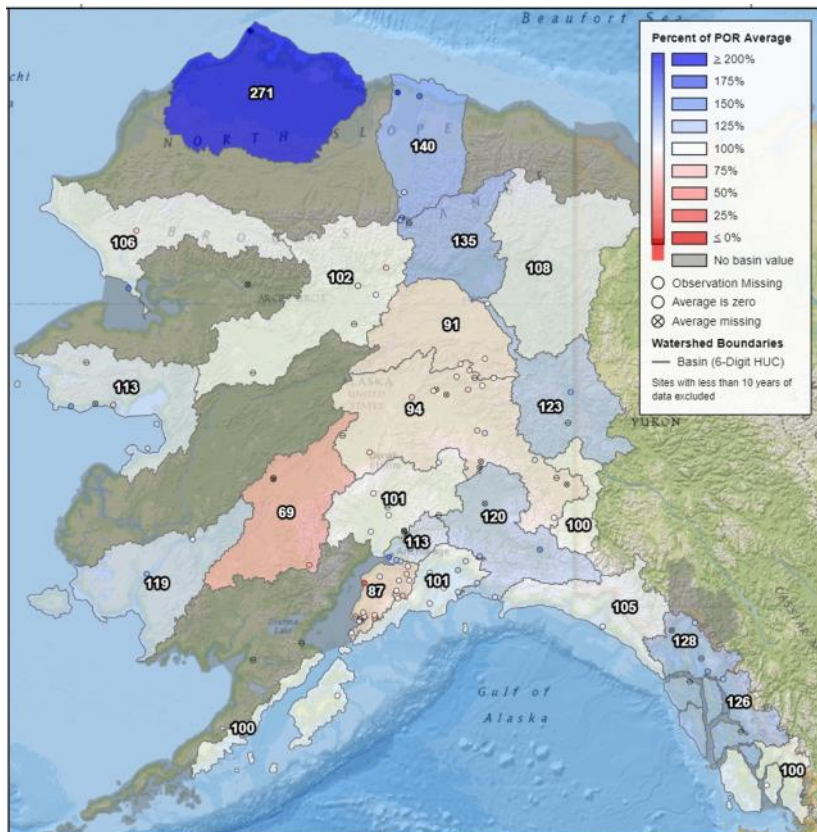
Monthly Precipitation for April 2024

(% of Period of Record Average)



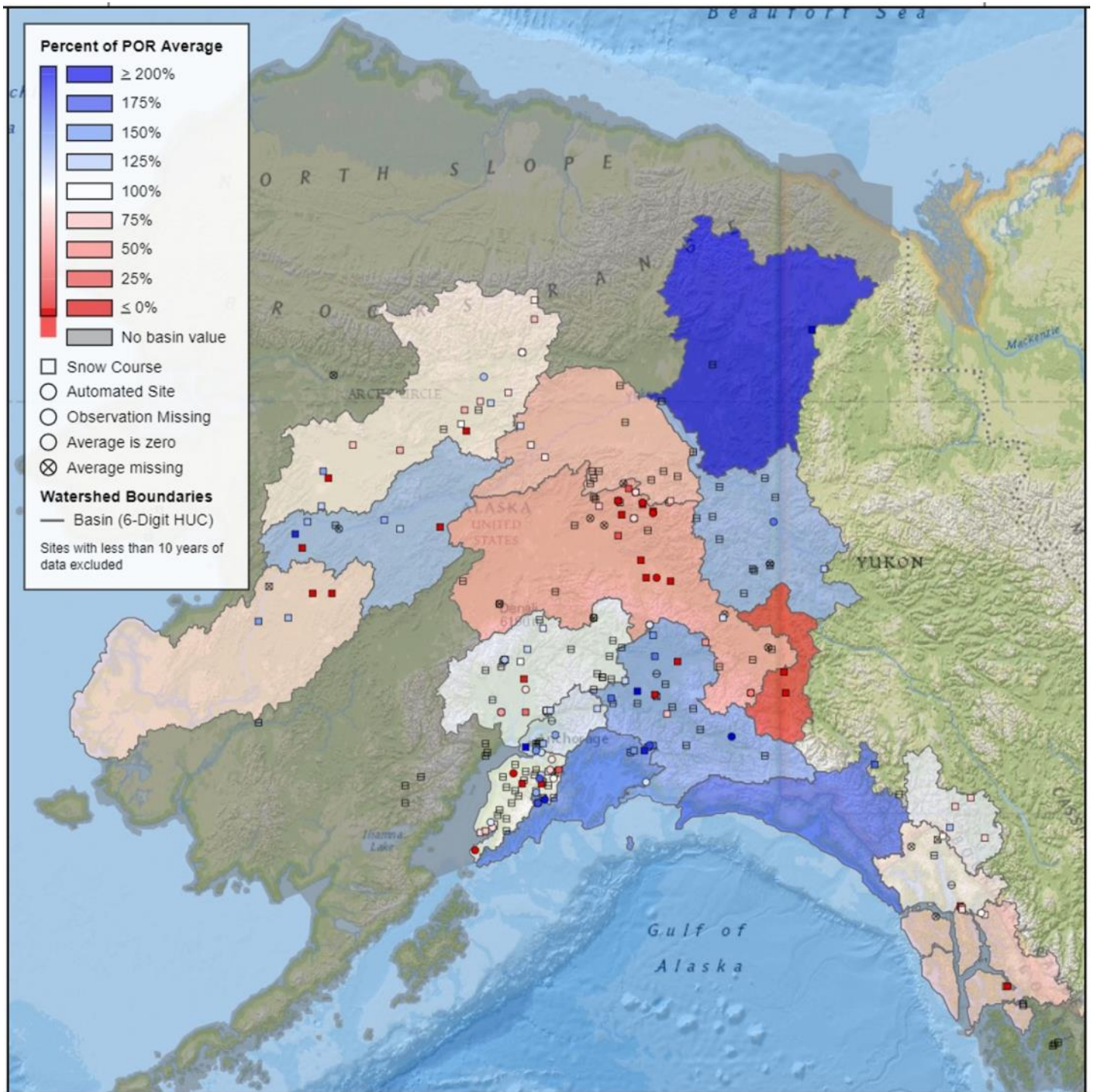
Water Year-to-date Precipitation (Oct. 1, 2023-April 30, 2024)

(% of Period of Record Average)



Alaska Statewide Snowpack Map

Based on May 1st, 2024 Snow Water Equivalent



Streamflow Forecasts

FORECAST POINT*	50% Exceedance as % of Median	Period
Yukon River at Eagle	91	April - July
Porcupine River nr Int'l Boundary.....	120	April - July
Yukon River near Stevens Village	98	April - July
Tanana River at Fairbanks	100	April - July
Tanana River at Nenana	95	April - July
Little Chena River near Fairbanks	90	April - July
Chena River near Two Rivers	85	April - July
Salcha near Salchaket	93	April - July
Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek	110	April - July
Sagvanirktok River near Pump Station 3	110	April - July
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse	128	April - July
Gulkana River at Sourdough	153	April - July
Little Susitna River near Palmer	113	April - July
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna	107	April - July
Ship Creek near Anchorage	121	April - July
Kenai River at Cooper Landing	98	April - July
Bradley Lake Inflow	—	April - July
Taiya River nr Skagway	108	April - July

New NRCS Water Supply Forecast System for Alaska

This year, the NRCS begins using a new water supply forecast (WSF) system, the Multi-Model Machine-Learning Metasystem, or M⁴. In comparison to the historic singular WSF model, the new system creates a mean value from six different forecast models. Using the mean of the ensemble of models harnesses the strengths of each technique while insulating against potential individual model vulnerabilities. The original NRCS WSF model remains as part of the suite of ensemble models. Testing shows that the ensemble mean generally equals or exceeds the performance of any individual model member.

The Alaska Streamflow forecasts in this report contain forecasts derived from both the legacy regression models and the new M⁴ forecast model.

Application of NRCS water supply probabilistic forecasts remains unchanged.

Contact:

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Additional reading:

[Assessing the new NRCS water supply forecast model for the American West](#)
[A Machine Learning Metasystem for Robust Probabilistic Nonlinear Regression-Based Forecasting](#)

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.

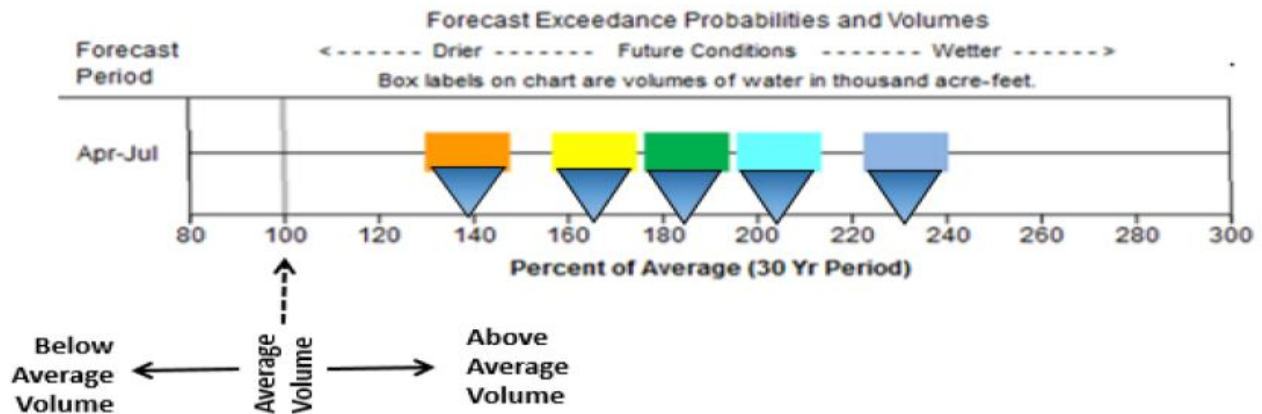
How to Interpret the Streamflow Forecast Graphic:

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.

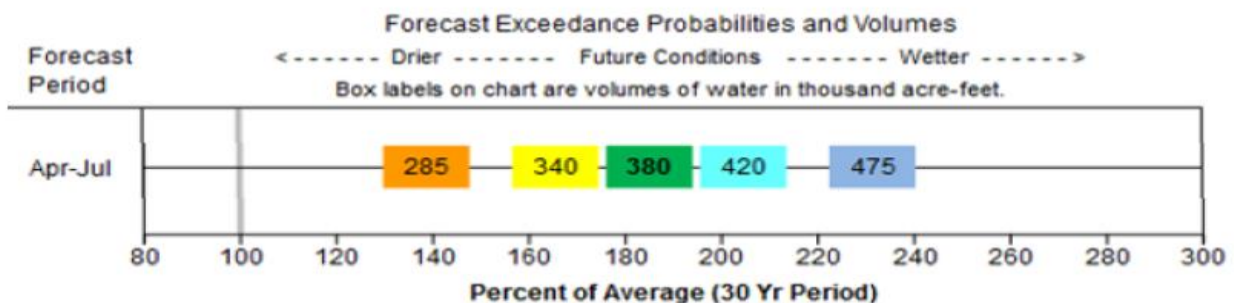


The five colored boxes represent each forecast's five exceedances.

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

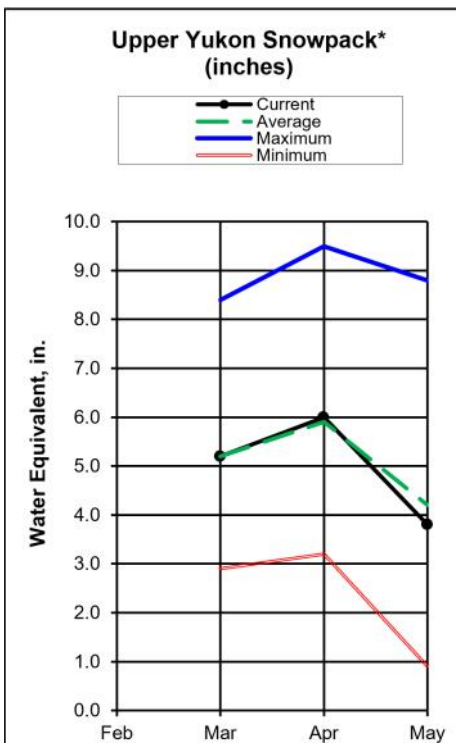
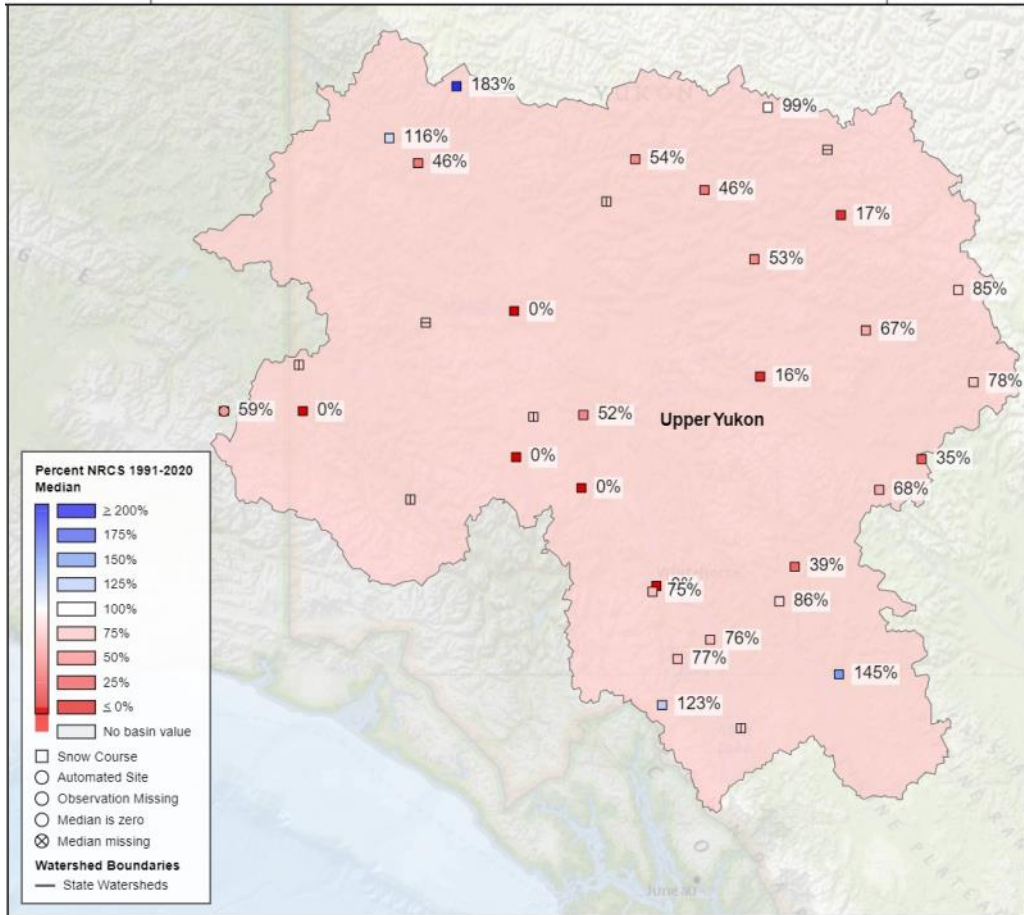


centered above 185% of average. Volumes decrease with drier future conditions (left of green box) and increase with wetter conditions (right of green box).

Forecast graphics for other basins are available at: https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/Fcst_Chart/

Upper Yukon Basin

Upper Yukon Snowpack



Snowpack

Snowpack in the Upper Yukon is below Normal on May 1, 2024. Like the previous two months the measurements with above Normal snowpack are near the border with British Columbia, south of Whitehorse, and also near the Alaska boarder, north of Beaver Creek. On the southern end of the measurements, Summit gained SWE over the month and was measured as its second highest measurement in twenty-seven-years of observation. This is an anomaly as most Yukon measurements are below Normal and the Basin Index is below Normal on May 1.

Upper Yukon Basin

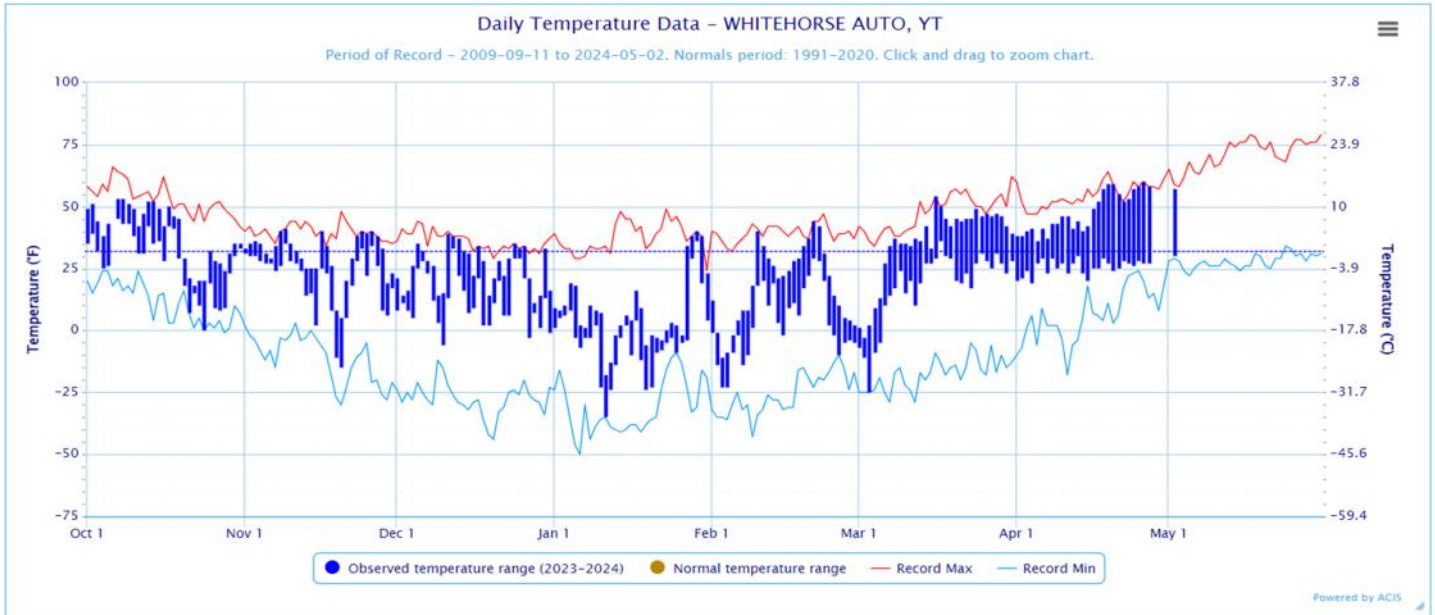
Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Atlin Lake	2395	6	12	1.6	3.2	---
Beaver Creek	2150	0	32	0	9.1	---
Blackstone River	1020	15	33	3.9	7.1	---
Burns Lake	3650	20	37	6.9	10	78%
Burwash Airstrip	2660	0	16	0	3.5	---
Calumet	4300	16	43	4	9.8	54%
Chair Mountain	3500	0	29	0	8.2	0%
Chisana SNOTEL	3320	5	27	1.3	7.1	59%
Edwards Lake	2720	12	29	2.6	7	46%
Finlayson Airstrip	3240	4	19	0.9	5	35%
Francis River	730	19	19	5.4	5.6	---
Fuller Lake	3695	27	33	7.1	7.4	85%
Grizzly Creek	3200	21	34	7.7	8.7	183%
Hoole River	3400	11	26	2.6	6.5	68%
Hyland	855	16	24	4.9	7.2	---
Jordan Lake	3050	7	24	1.5	6.4	39%
King Solomon Dome	3540	11	42	2.4	10.9	46%
Log Cabin B.C.	2900	48	48	18.5	17.1	123%
Macintosh	3805	0	34	0	7.7	0%
Mayo Airport	1770	0	14	0	3.9	---
Meadow Creek	4050	30	48	9.7	13.1	86%
Midnight Dome	2805	24	43	6.7	9.8	116%
Montana Mtn.	3350	16	26	3.6	6.5	77%
Morley Lake	2700	17	20	4.8	6.3	145%
Mt. Berdoe	3395	5	37	1.5	8.7	52%
Mt. Mcintyre B	3600	19	30	4.6	7.2	75%
Mt. Nansen	3350	0	27	0	5.7	---
Ogilvie River	550	19	34	3.9	6.7	---
Pelly Farm	1550	0	13	0	3.8	0%
Pine Lake Airstrip	995	25	29	7.9	8.4	---
Plata Airstrip	2725	5	22	1	6.1	17%
Rackla Lake	3410	30	41	7.4	8.7	99%
Rose Creek Faro	1080	1	16	0.4	4.2	16%
Russell Lake	3480	18	38	4.6	9.5	53%
Satasha Lake	3630	0	32	0	6.3	0%
Summit	985	37	42	12.6	10.9	210%
Tagish	3540	15	30	3.7	7.2	76%
Twin Creeks	2950	14	26	3.9	7.8	67%
Watson Lake Airport	685	0	11	0	2.8	---
Whitehorse Airport	2300	0	14	0	4.5	0%

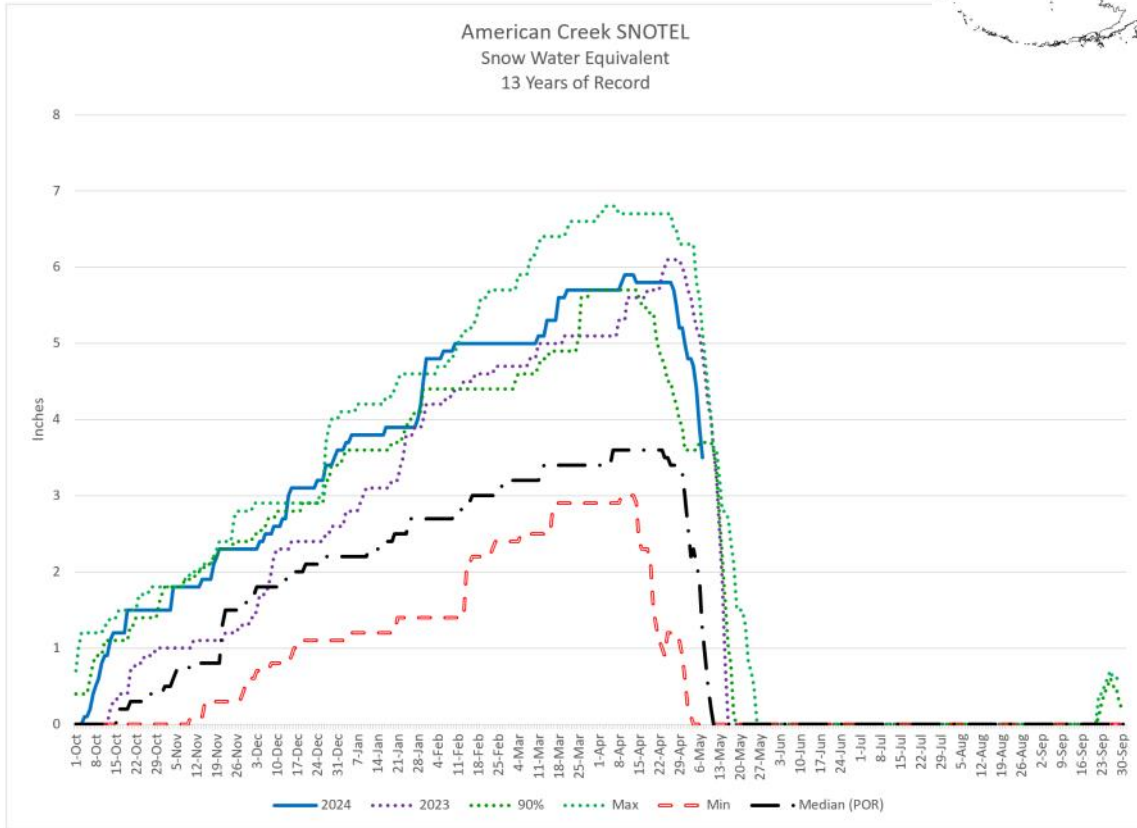
Upper Yukon Basin

Temperature Chart

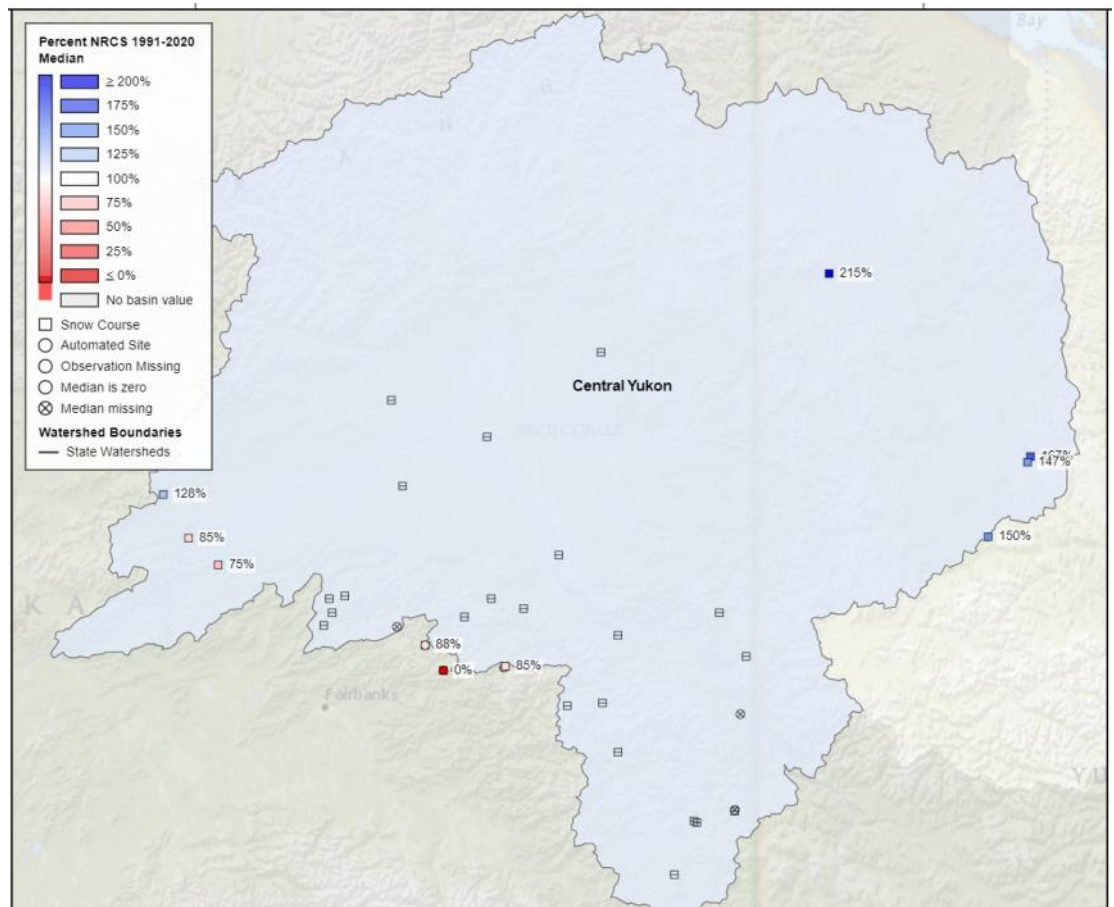
Source: NOAA ACIS



Central Yukon Basin



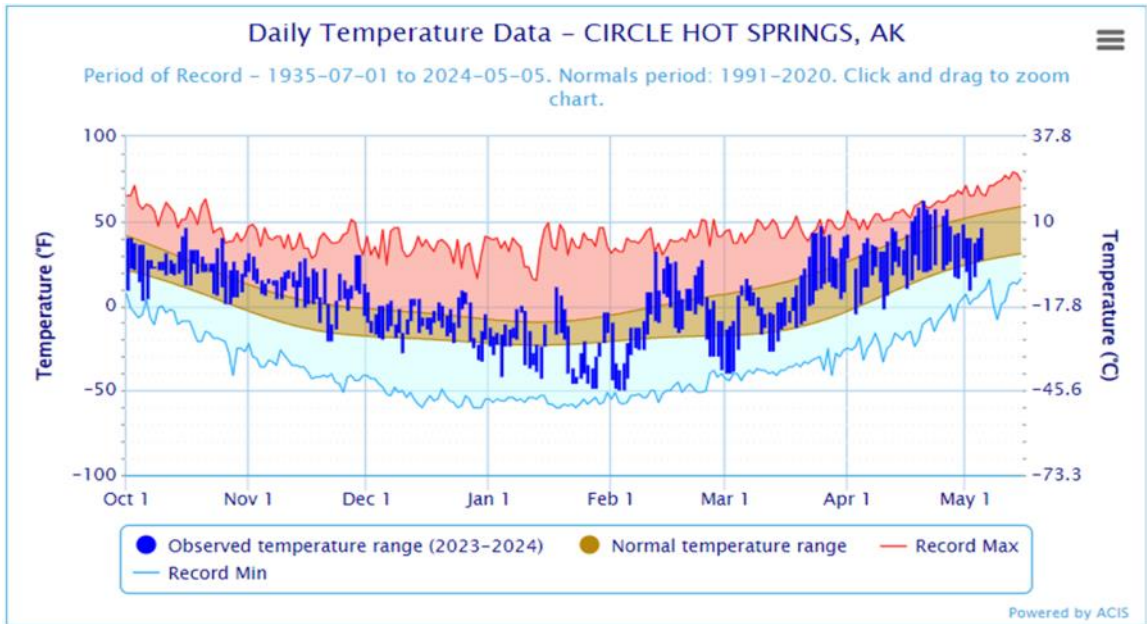
Snowpack Map



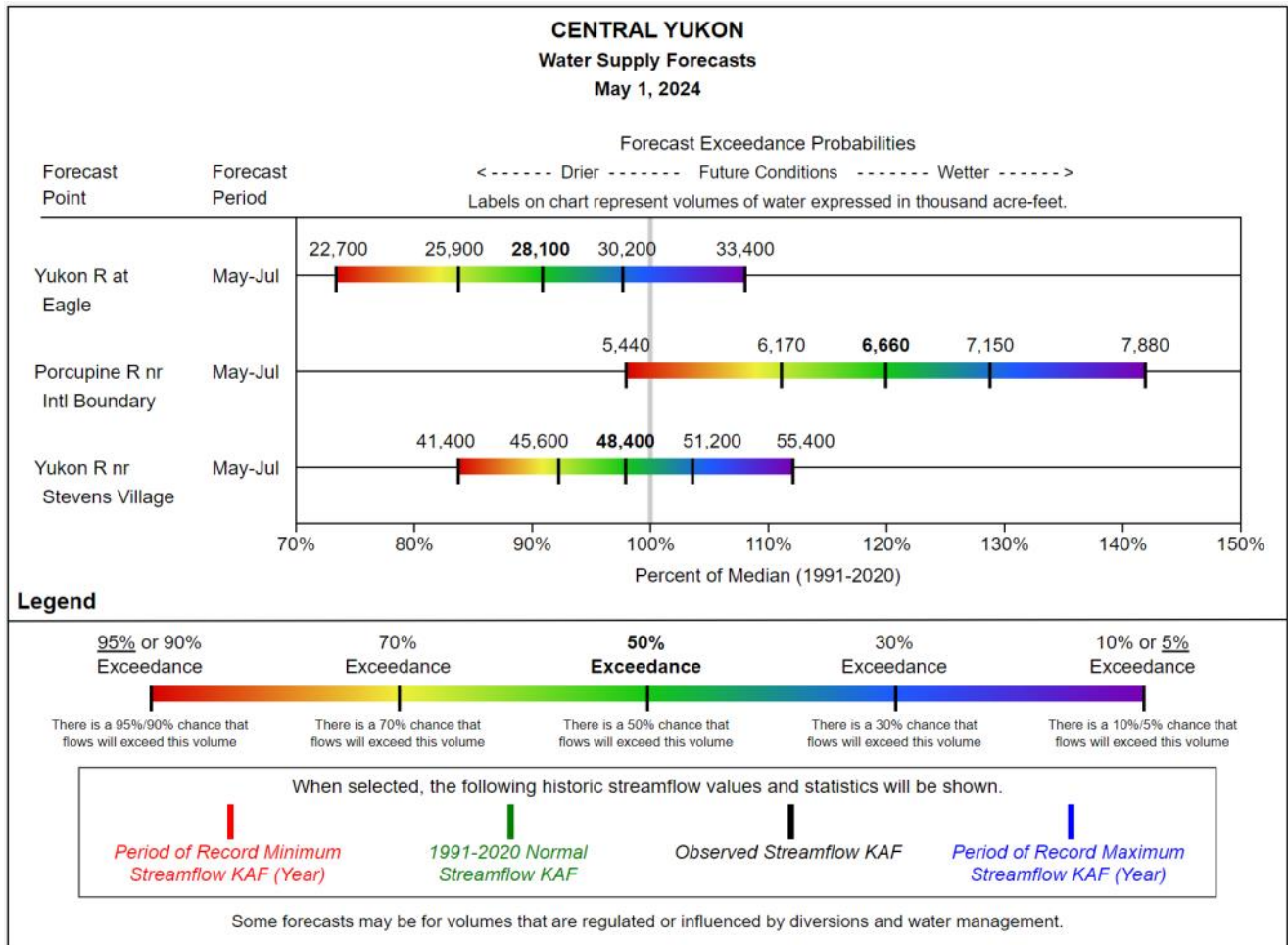
Central Yukon Basin

Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow



Central Yukon Basin

Snowpack

The snowpack in the Central Yukon on May 1, 2024, ranges from historic to below Normal. The historic data comes from the Canadian snow courses in the upper Porcupine drainage. These measurements are well above Normal with the 8.6 inches of SWE measured at Old Crow being a forty-year record. Downstream, snowpack decreases and the measurements near the bridge on the Dalton Highway are below Normal.

Snowpack Data

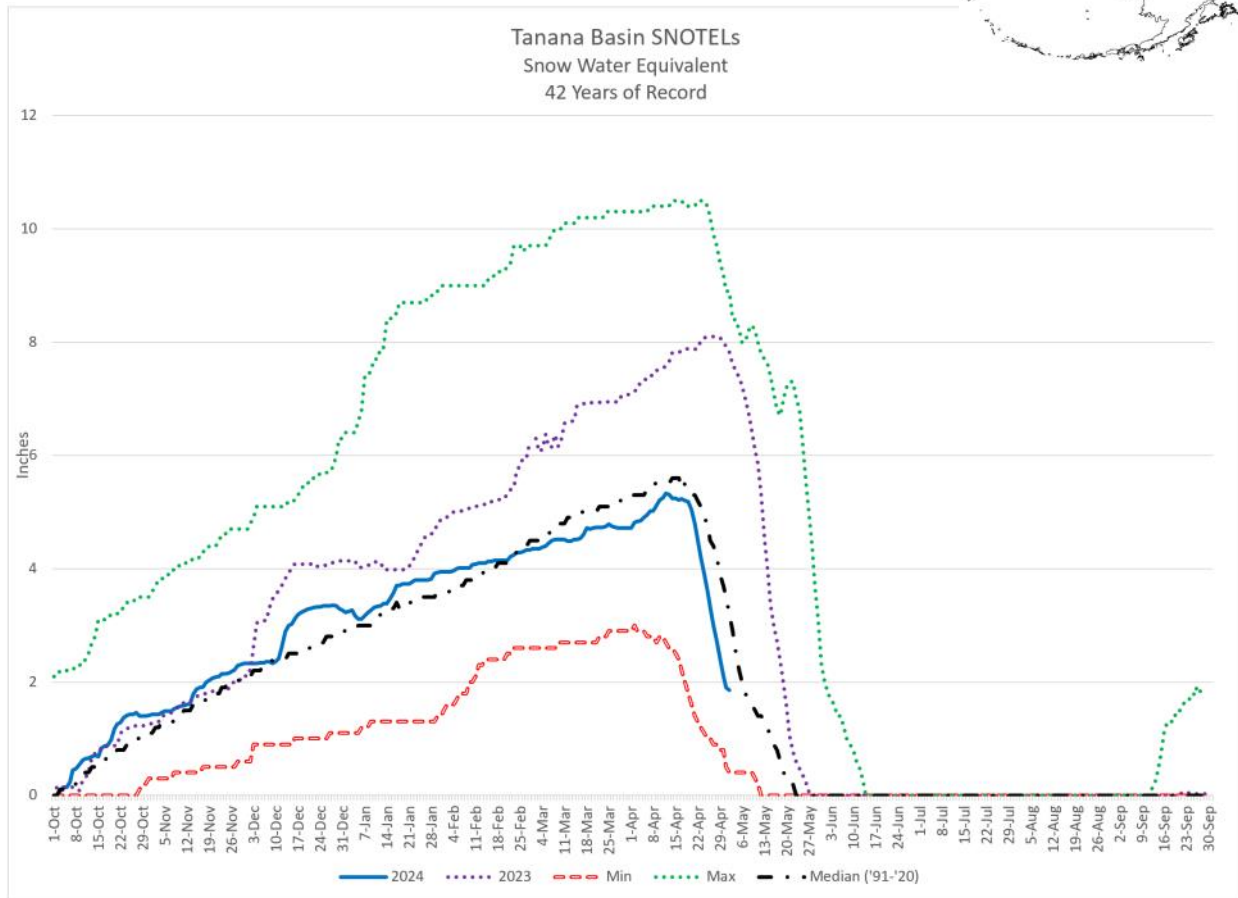
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
American Creek SNOTEL	1050	16	23	4.8	5.7	---
Atigun Pass SNOTEL	4800	36	39	---	---	---
Eagle Plains	2330	24	35	8.5	7.8	147%
Eagle River	1115	27	27	7	5.4	167%
Eagle Summit SNOTEL	3650	21	15	---	---	---
Fort Yukon SNOTEL	430	2	13	---	---	---
Hess Creek	1000	15	26	3	6	75%
Jack Wade Jct SNOTEL	3585	18	36	6.3	7.7	---
Monument Creek	1850	0	29	0	7.6	0%
Monument Creek SNOTEL	1850	0	25	0	7.4	0%
Mt. Ryan	2800	14	36	4	9.3	87%
Mt. Ryan SNOTEL	2800	9	34	4.2	8.7	88%
Old Crow	980	28	36	8.6	7.5	215%
Riffs Ridge	2130	22	40	7.8	8.9	150%
Seven Mile	600	10	26	2.9	5.4	85%
Thirty Mile	1350	26	34	7.4*	8	128%
Upper Chena	3000	18	37	5.6	9	85%
Upper Chena SNOTEL	2850	18	38	---	10.2	---
Upper Nome Creek SNOTEL	2520	9	29	3	7.4	---

*Estimate

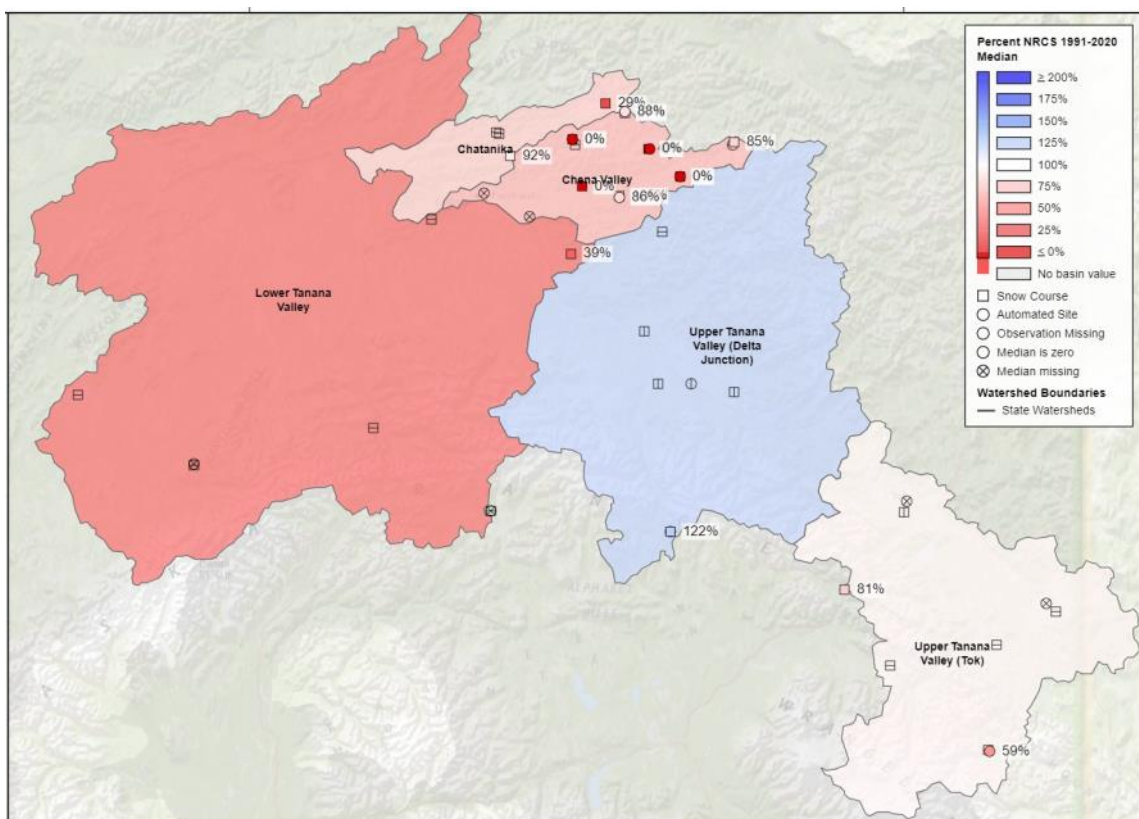
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
American Creek	1050	5.9	6.3	---	---
Atigun Pass	4800	8	6.7	6.6	121%
Eagle Summit	3650	5.5	7.5	5.8	95%
Fort Yukon	430	3.9	4.6	3.8	103%
Jack Wade Jct	3585	7.1	8.2	---	---
Monument Creek	1850	5.7	7.5	6.4	89%
Mt. Ryan	2800	5.5	7.9	6.2	89%
Upper Chena	2850	7.6	9.1	7.8	97%
Upper Nome Creek	2520	6.9	10.1	7	99%

Tanana Basin



Snowpack Map



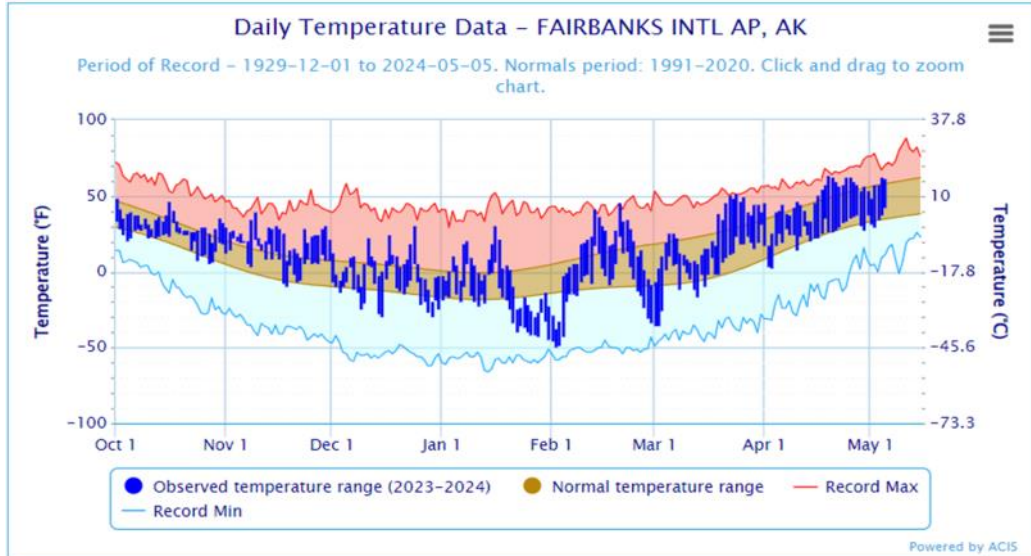
Tanana Basin

Snowpack

The snowpack in the Tanana basin is below Normal on May 1, 2024. Snowpack that was near Normal on April 1 is melting ahead of schedule and the May 1 values are being reported as low. In the mountains around Isabel Pass, Fielding Lake is reporting above Normal snowpack and is about a week delayed in melting out. This is the only measurement in the basin that is above Normal. The Basin Index for the Tanana is below Normal on May 1.

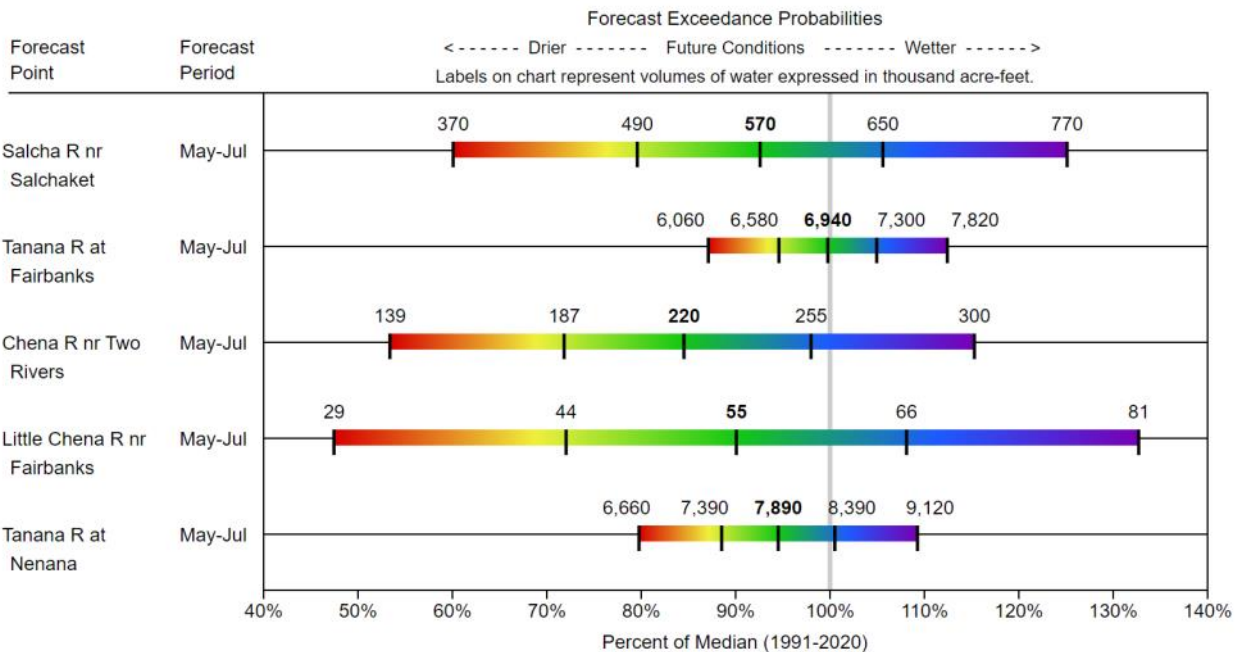
Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts

TANANA Water Supply Forecasts May 1, 2024



Tanana Basin

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Chena Lakes SNOTEL	500	0	9	0.0*	4.2	---
Chisana SNOTEL	3320	5	27	1.3	7.1	59%
Cleary Summit	2230	18	38	4.8	9.5	92%
Colorado Creek	700	0	29	0	7.2	0%
Creamers Field SNOTEL	440	0*	10	0.0*	4	---
Faith Creek	1750	4	31	0.9	7.7	29%
Fielding Lake SNOTEL	3000	32	34	11	10.3	---
Fielding Lake	3000	42	46	12	12.4	122%
Fort Greely	1500	0	22	0	5.4	---
French Creek	1800	6	37	1.4	10.1	39%
Gerstle River	1200	0	17	0	4.8	---
Granite Crk SNOTEL	1240	0*	20	0.0*	6.5	---
Kantishna SNOTEL	1550	2	35	0.2	8.8	---
Little Chena Ridge	2000	0	27	0	7.2	0%
Little Chena Ridge SNOTEL	2000	0	19	0.0*	5.8	0%
Look Eyrie SNOTEL	5040	121	155	---	---	---
Mentasta Pass	2430	8	31	2.6	7	81%
Monahan Flat SNOTEL	2710	28	29	7.6	7.1	---
Monument Creek	1850	0	29	0	7.6	0%
Monument Creek SNOTEL	1850	0	25	0	7.4	0%
Mt. Ryan SNOTEL	2800	9	34	4.2	8.7	88%
Mt. Ryan	2800	14	36	4	9.3	87%
Munson Ridge SNOTEL	3100	22	40	7.5	11	86%
Munson Ridge	3100	28	42	8.2	10.5	105%
Nenana SNOTEL	415	0	16	---	---	---
Paradise Hill SNOTEL	2010	0	14	0.0*	5	---
Shaw Creek Flats	980	0	13	0	3.6	---
Teuchet Creek SNOTEL	1640	0*	16	0.0*	5.9	0%
Teuchet Creek	1640	0	18	0	4.9	0%
Tok SNOTEL	1630	0	---	0	3.8	---
Tok Junction	1650	6	29	1.3	6.4	---
Upper Chena SNOTEL	2850	18	38	---	10.2	---
Upper Chena	3000	18	37	5.6	9	85%
Upper Nome Creek SNOTEL	2520	9	29	3	7.4	---

*Estimate

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Chena Lakes	500	3.8	---	---	---
Chisana	3320	4.2	7.2	3.8	111%
Creamers Field	440	4.1	4.8	---	---
Fielding Lake	3000	11.4	12.9	---	---
Granite Crk	1240	5.1	6.2	4.2	121%
Kantishna	1550	5.8	9.5	5.8	100%
Little Chena Ridge	2000	5.6	7.7	6.1	92%
Monahan Flat	2710	9.1	9.3	7.8	117%
Monument Creek	1850	5.7	7.5	6.4	89%
Mt. Ryan	2800	5.5	7.9	6.2	89%
Munson Ridge	3100	7.6	10.2	8.8	86%
Nenana	415	4.2	7.3	3.9	108%
Paradise Hill	2010	3.4	6.5	---	---
Teuchet Creek	1640	4.7	6.2	5.2	90%
Tok	1630	4.4	6.7	---	---
Upper Chena	2850	7.6	9.1	7.8	97%
Upper Nome Creek	2520	6.9	10.1	7	99%

Western Interior Basins



Snowpack

Koyukuk

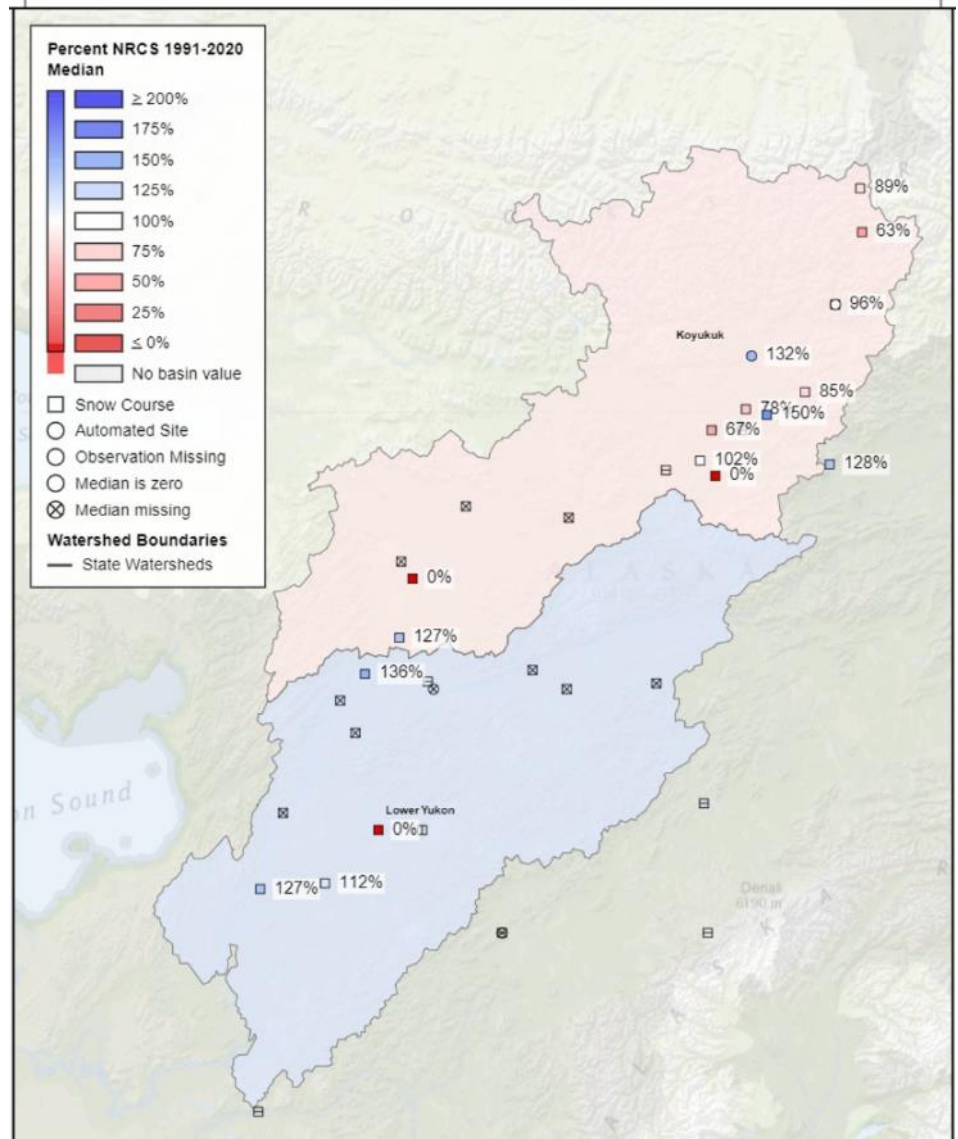
Snow in the Koyukuk is a mixed bag on May 1, 2024. There are places with no snow, and there are places with both below and above Normal snowpack. Much of this variability is likely a result of melt patterns. Bettles and Coldfoot both received above Normal snowfall for the month and appear to have peaked and begun melting a little early. The Basin Index for all the measurements in the Koyukuk is below Normal.

Kuskokwim

Snow in the Kuskokwim is likely above Normal on May 1, 2024. The 2.8 inches of SWE being reported at the McGrath SNOTEL is near Normal for the date. Elsewhere in the basin Telaquana Lake, Aniak and Bethel are all snow free, which is typical. April precipitation at Aniak was well above Normal, and snow depth sensors and Bethel and Aniak support total April snowfall in the lower basin being well above Normal, even though they are both snow free on May 1.

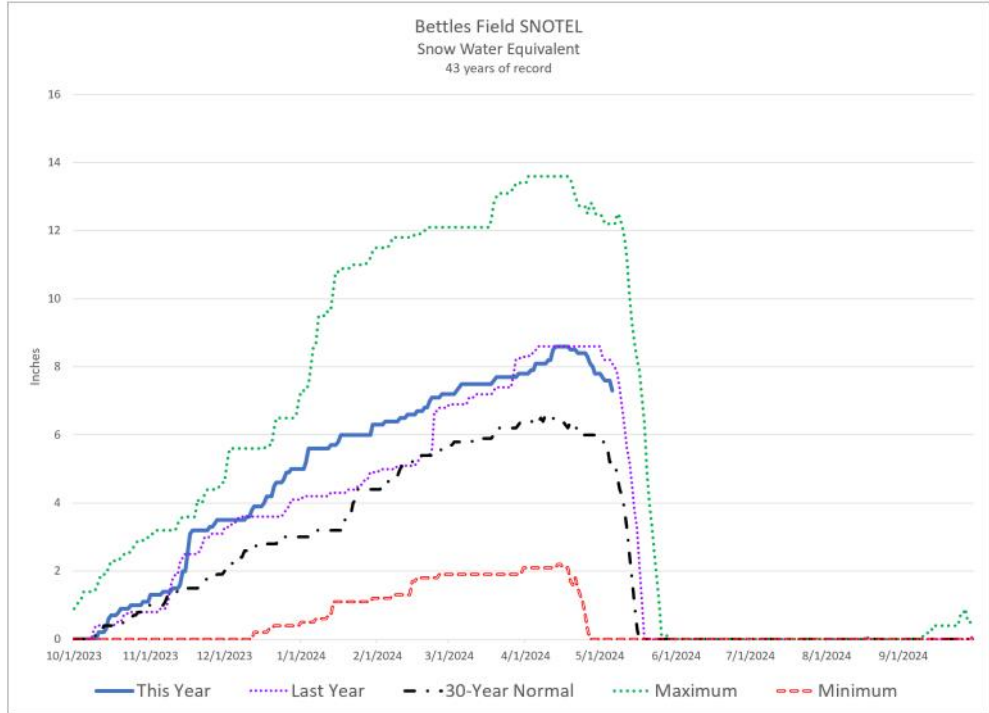
Lower Yukon

The Lower Yukon snowpack is mostly above Normal on May 1, 2024. Several Aerial Markers were noted as snow free, but only one of these, Wapoo Hills, is not normally measured as snow free on this date. In the places where snowpack was measured it was measured as above Normal, and Basin Index is above Normal.



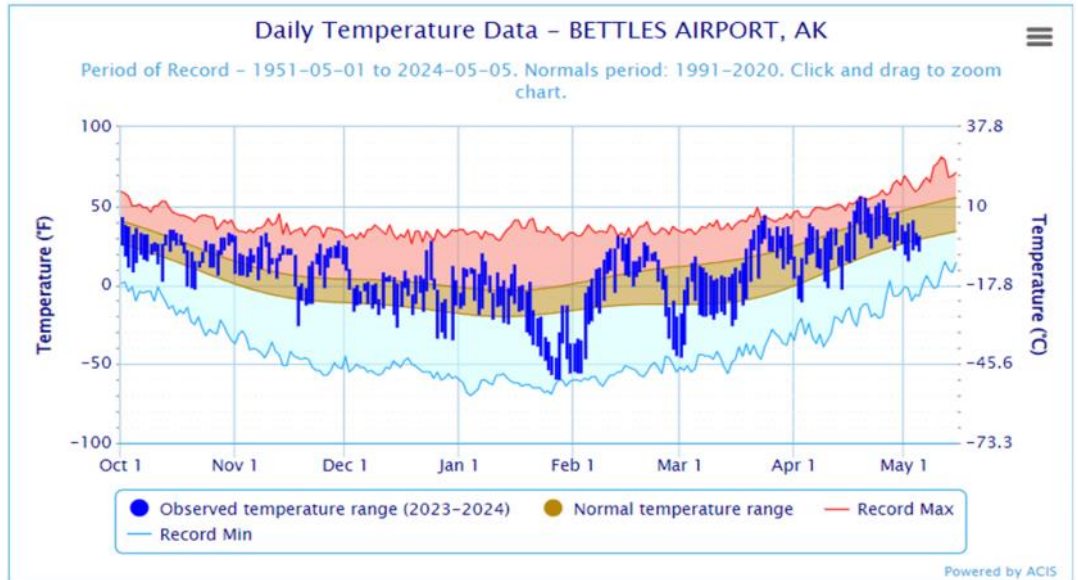
Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Chart

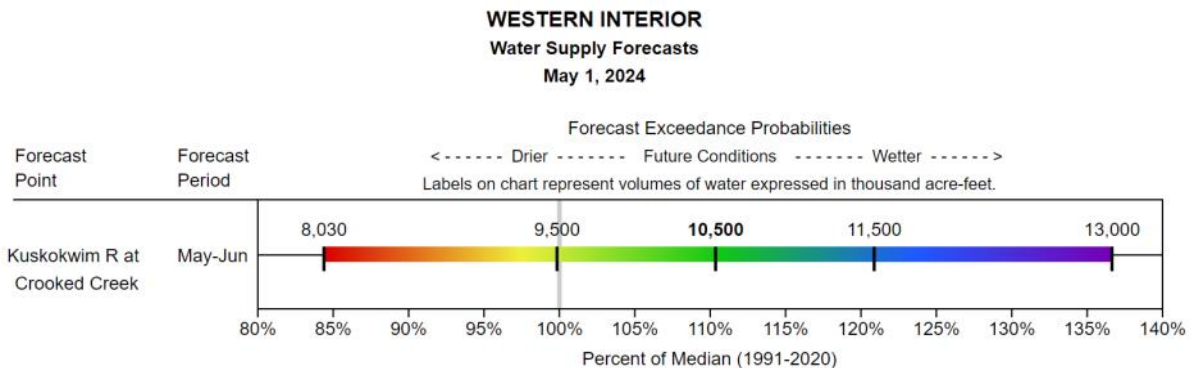


Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Data

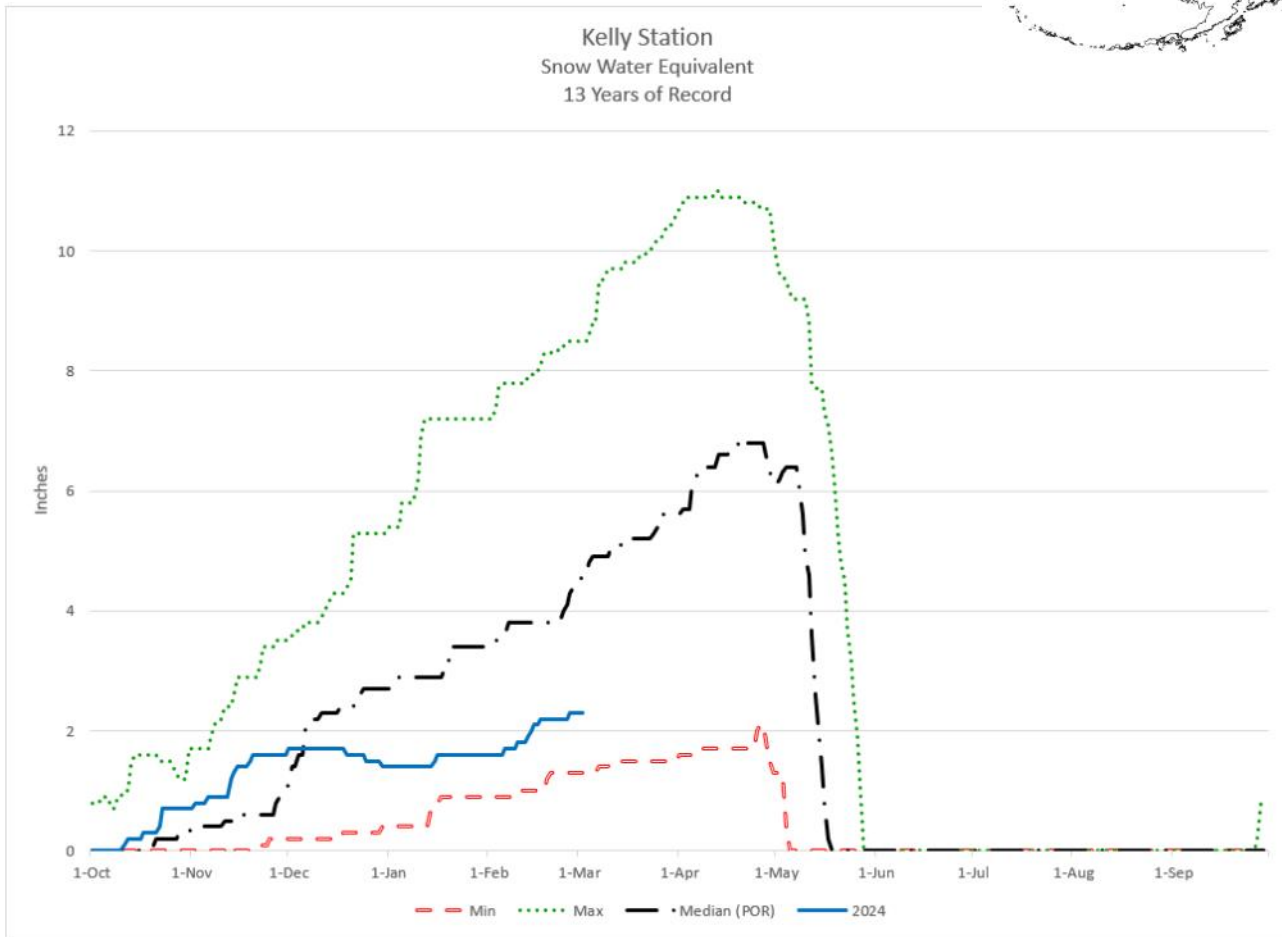
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Koyukuk						
Bettles Field SNOTEL	640	23	30	7.8	8.6	132%
Bonanza Forks	1200	13	29	3.3	6.5	85%
Cloverleaf	170	0	21	0	7.1	0%
Coldfoot SNOTEL	1040	18	27	5.3	6.5	96%
Coldfoot	1040	19	---	5.7*	---	---
Colville Bend	170	19	24	7.1*	7.8	---
Disaster Creek	1550	7	20	1.9	3.9	63%
Gobblers Knob SNOTEL	2030	0	7	---	---	---
Huggins Creek	290	9	27	3.5*	9.1	---
Jr Slough	160	15	24	5.6*	7.7	127%
Kaldoyeit	750	16	40	5.1*	9.7	150%
Kanuti Chalatna	670	7	28	2.4*	7.9	67%
Kanuti Kilolitna	550	0	25	0	7.1	0%
Minnkokut	580	15	37	5.0*	10.1	78%
Nolitna	560	13	45	4.3*	9.7	102%
Table Mountain	2200	17	23	4.1	5.3	89%
Thirty Mile	1350	26	34	7.4*	8	128%
Treat Island	190	7	21	2.6*	6.8	---
Kuskokwim						
Aniak SNOTEL	80	0*	---	---	---	---
McGrath SNOTEL	340	8	34	2.8	11	---
Telaquana Lake SNOTEL	1275	0*	15	0.0*	5.5	---
Lower Yukon						
Bullfrog	100	24	27	8.4*	9	---
Deer Creek	195	21	29	7.4*	9.9	---
Galena AK SNOTEL	410	8	21	3.1	6.5	---
Hozatka Lake SNOTEL	206	1	21	---	---	---
Little Mud River	855	0	18	0	5.5	---
Lower Nowitna River	205	9	21	3.4*	7.1	---
Middle Innoko	150	18	27	6.7*	9.7	112%
Ninemile Island	140	33	27	11.6*	8.7	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	0	0	0	0	---
Squirrel Creek	150	21	30	7.6*	9.6	136%
Upper Innoko	180	0	24	0	8.5	---
Wapoo Hills	220	0	30	0	9.1	0%
Yankee Slough	100	27	30	9.5*	10.2	127%

*Estimate

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Koyukuk					
Bettles Field	640	7.2	8.5	7.5	96%
Coldfoot	1040	5.9	8	6.2	95%
Gobblers Knob	2030	8.5	8.8	6.4	133%
Kuskokwim					
Aniak	80	11.5	14.2	5.9	195%
McGrath	340	8.6	12.4	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1275	6.2	8.7	---	---
Lower Yukon					
Galena AK	410	7	7.3	---	---
Hozatka Lake	206	6	7.8	---	---

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound



Snowpack

Arctic

Water year to date precipitation recorded on the North Slope stations along the Dalton highway is well above Normal on May 1, 2024. The 5.6" of precipitation recorded at Prudhoe Bay since October 1 is the highest value for the date in its twenty-year record. The Utqiagvik Airport is reporting its highest precipitation for the date in its eighty-nine-year record.

Kotzebue

Snowpack in the basins that feed into Kotzebue Sound is kind of a mystery for Alaska Snow Survey this year. We only have two stations in the region. One of these, Dahl Creek, only has two years of data. It's reading less than it was last year at the time, but last year was thought to be exceptional. Kelly Station has been reading low all year. Snow depth and precipitation from this site support values that are slightly below Normal for most of the winter. SWE has been reporting considerably less than Normal values all winter and this is likely erroneous. The instrument that records SWE is a fluid filled bladder and had to be replaced last summer. There's a chance there is a small leak that is causing this to read artificially low. We won't know for sure until the site is visited this summer.

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	4800	36	39	---	---	---
Dahl Creek SNOTEL	260	18	44	6.9	12.9	---
Imnaviat Creek SNOTEL	3050	26	21	---	---	---
Prudhoe Bay SNOTEL	30	20	17	---	---	---
Sagwon SNOTEL	1000	12	15	---	---	---
Kotzebue Sound						
Kelly Station SNOTEL	310	9	37	3.0*	9.6	48%

*Estimate

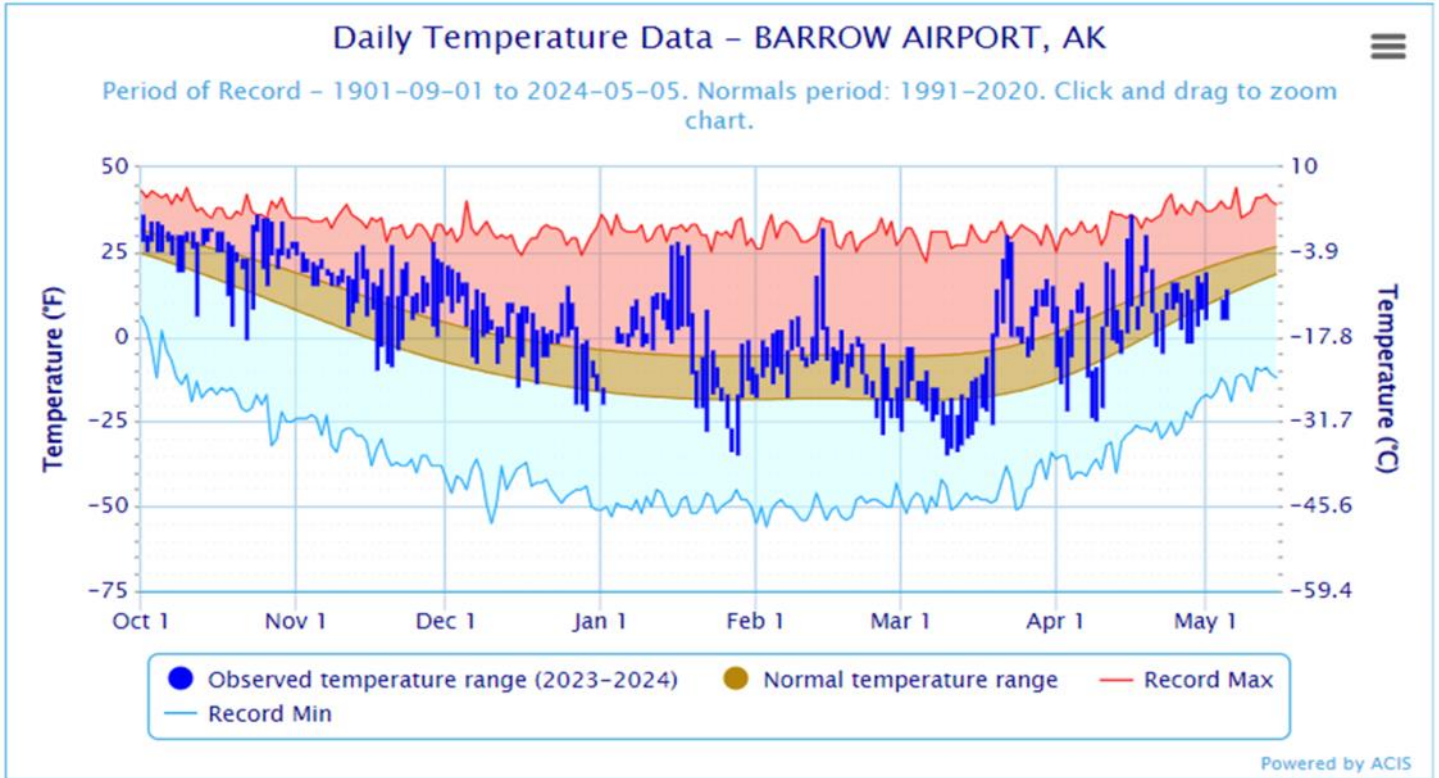
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Arctic					
Atigun Pass	4800	8	6.7	6.6	121%
Dahl Creek	260	9.2	13.8	---	---
Imnaviat Creek	3050	3.9	3.8	3.3	118%
Prudhoe Bay	30	5.6	3.7	3.7	151%
Sagwon	1000	4.1	3.7	3.2	128%
Kotzebue Sound					
Kelly Station	310	6.9	10.4	7.9	87%

Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS

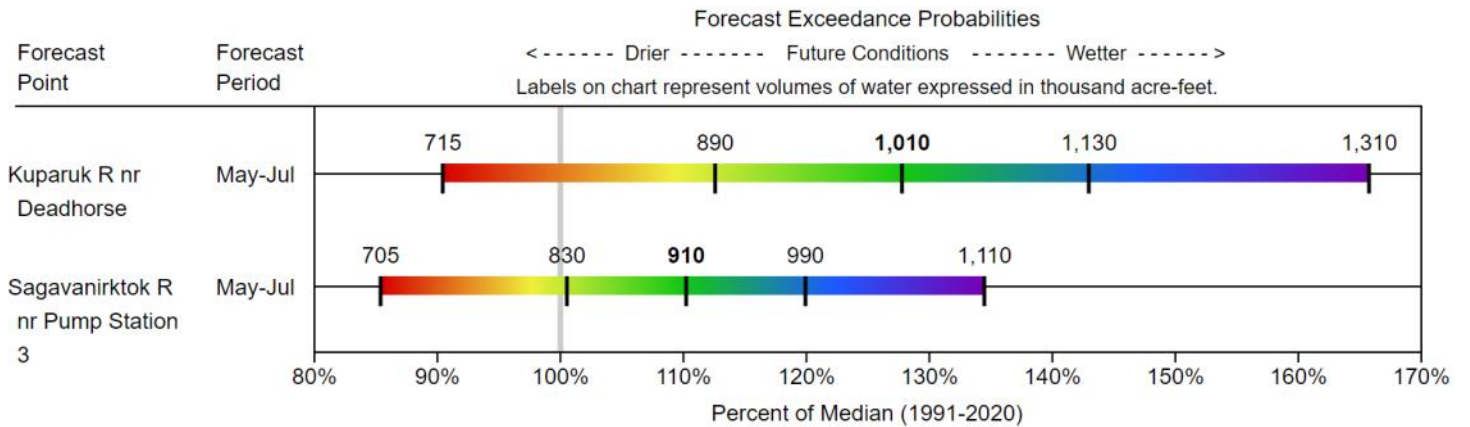


Streamflow Forecasts

ARCTIC AND NORTHWEST

Water Supply Forecasts

May 1, 2024

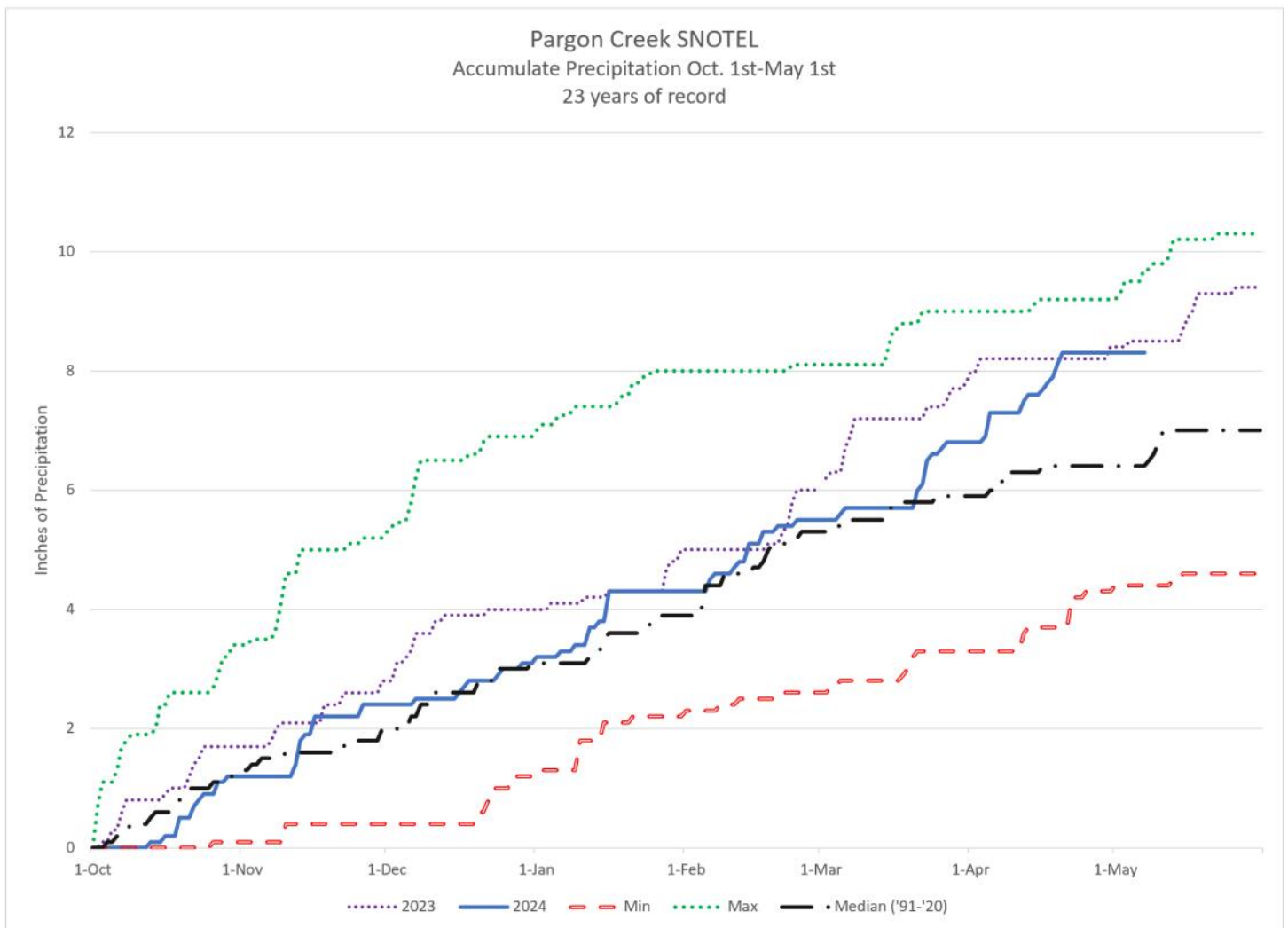


Norton Sound/Y-K Delta/Bristol Bay



Snowpack

Water year-to-date precipitation, and likely snowpack, on the Seward Peninsula is above Normal on May 1, 2024. April precipitation continues the trend of a wetter than Normal spring. With below freezing temperatures and above Normal precipitation it is likely that snowpack on the Seward peninsula is above Normal.



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	80	11.5	14.2	5.9	195%
Pargon Creek	100	8.3	8.4	6.4	130%
Rocky Point	250	5.2	5.4	6.1	85%

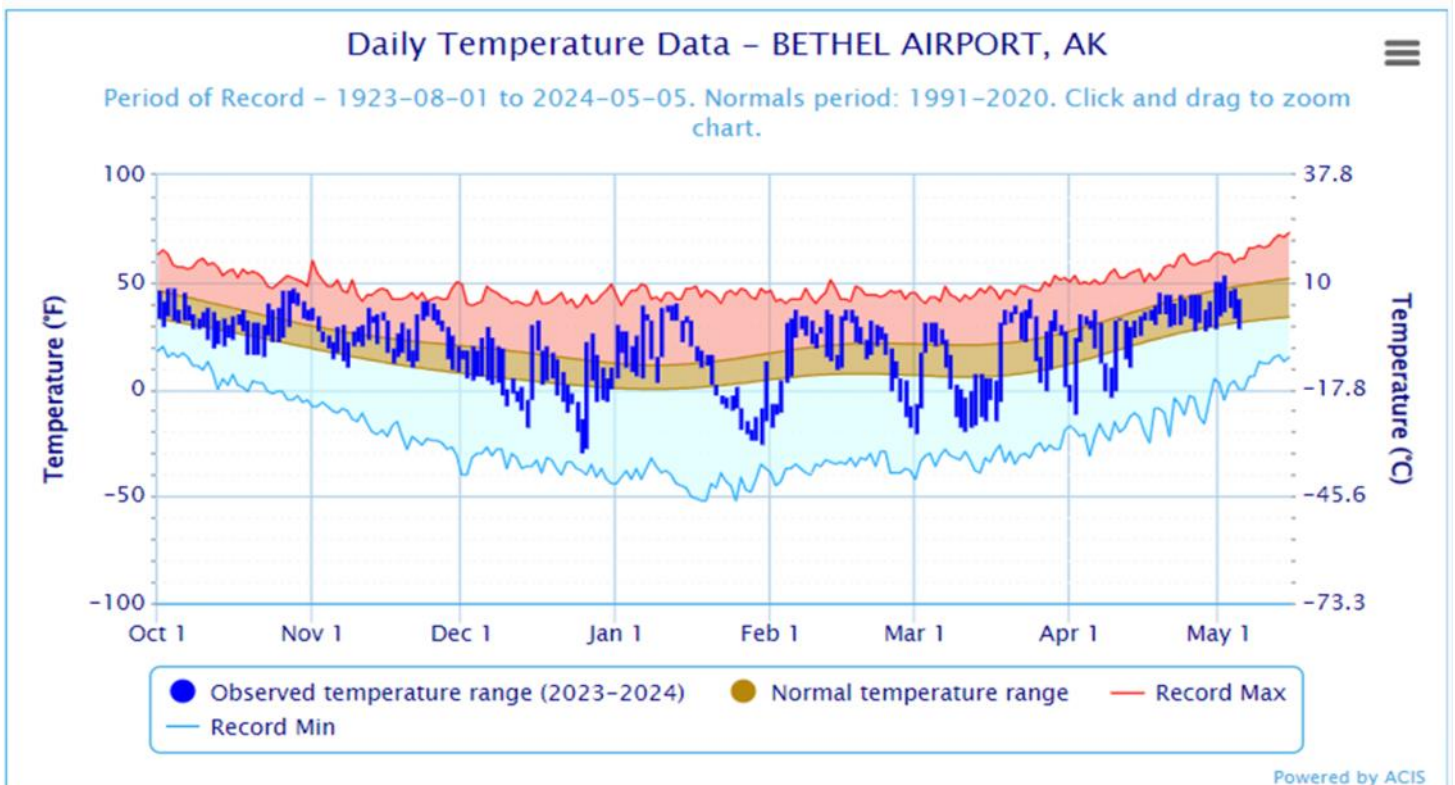
Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Aniak SNOTEL	80	0*	---	---	---	---
Pargon Creek SNOTEL	100	12	22	---	---	---
Rocky Point SNOTEL	250	38	43	---	---	---

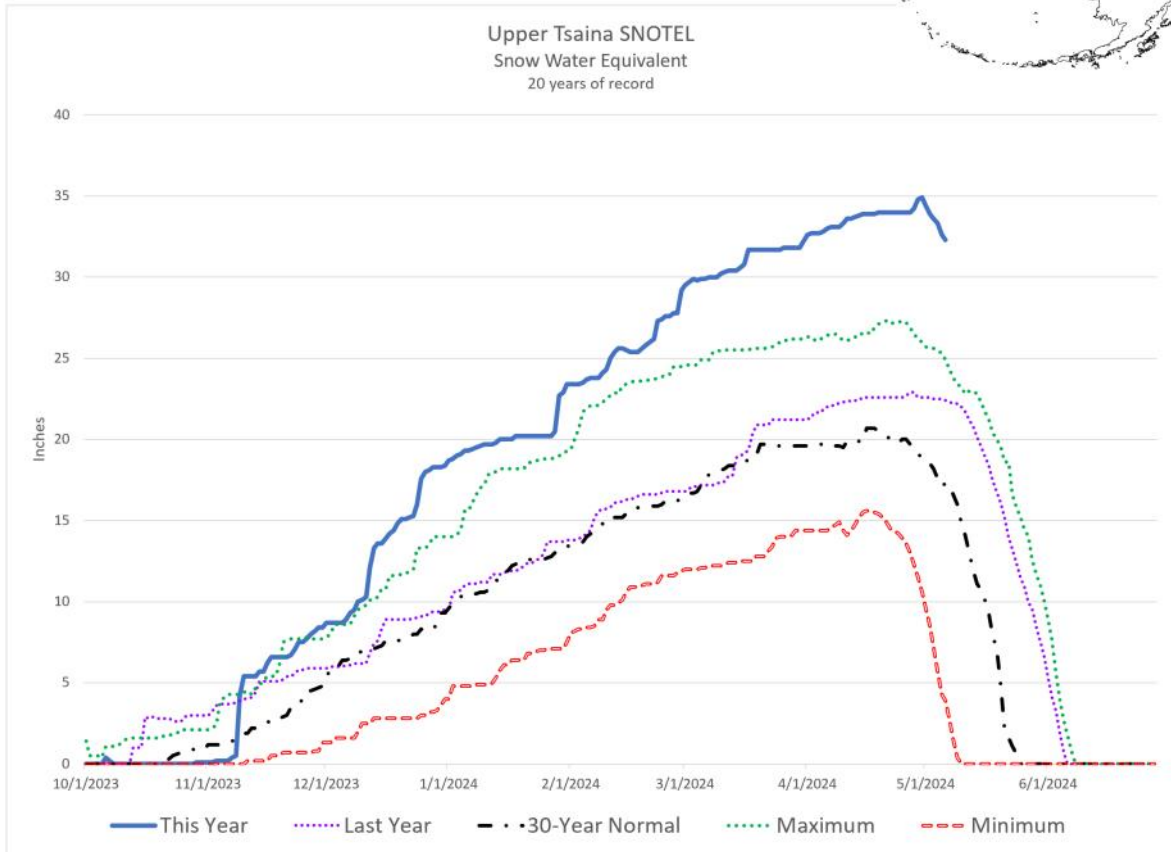
*Estimate

Temperature Data

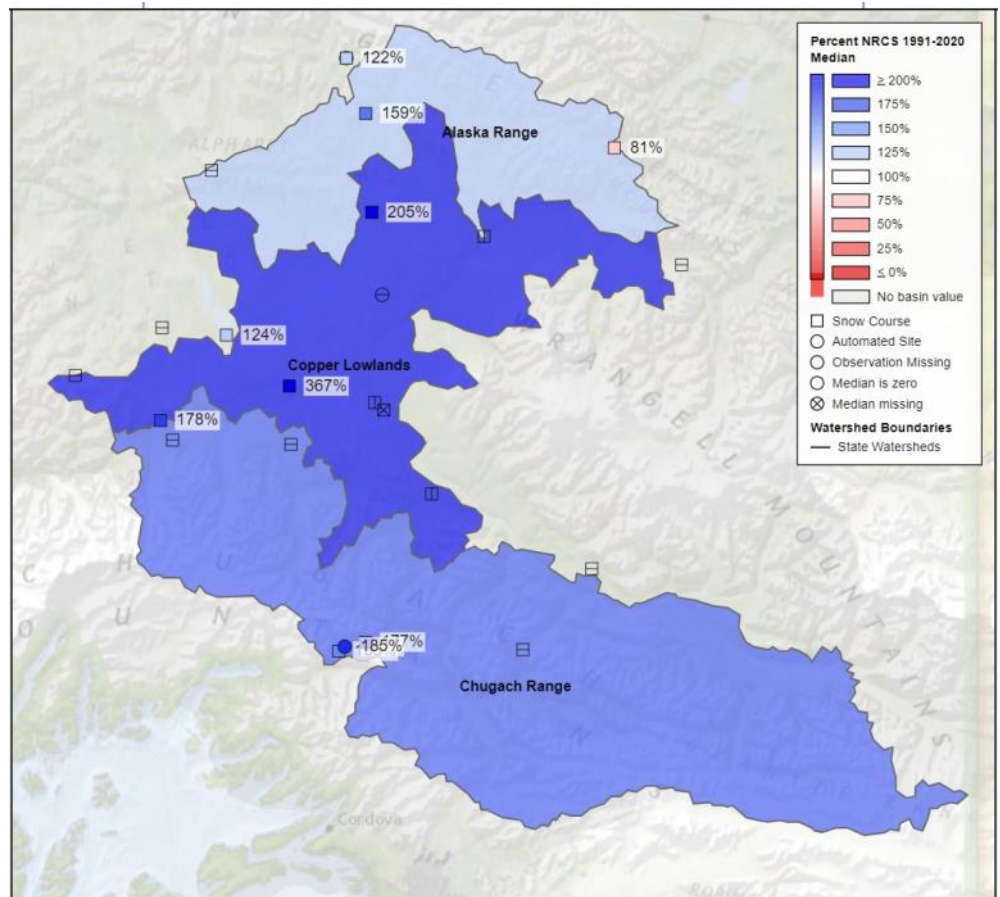
Source: NOAA ACIS



Copper Basin



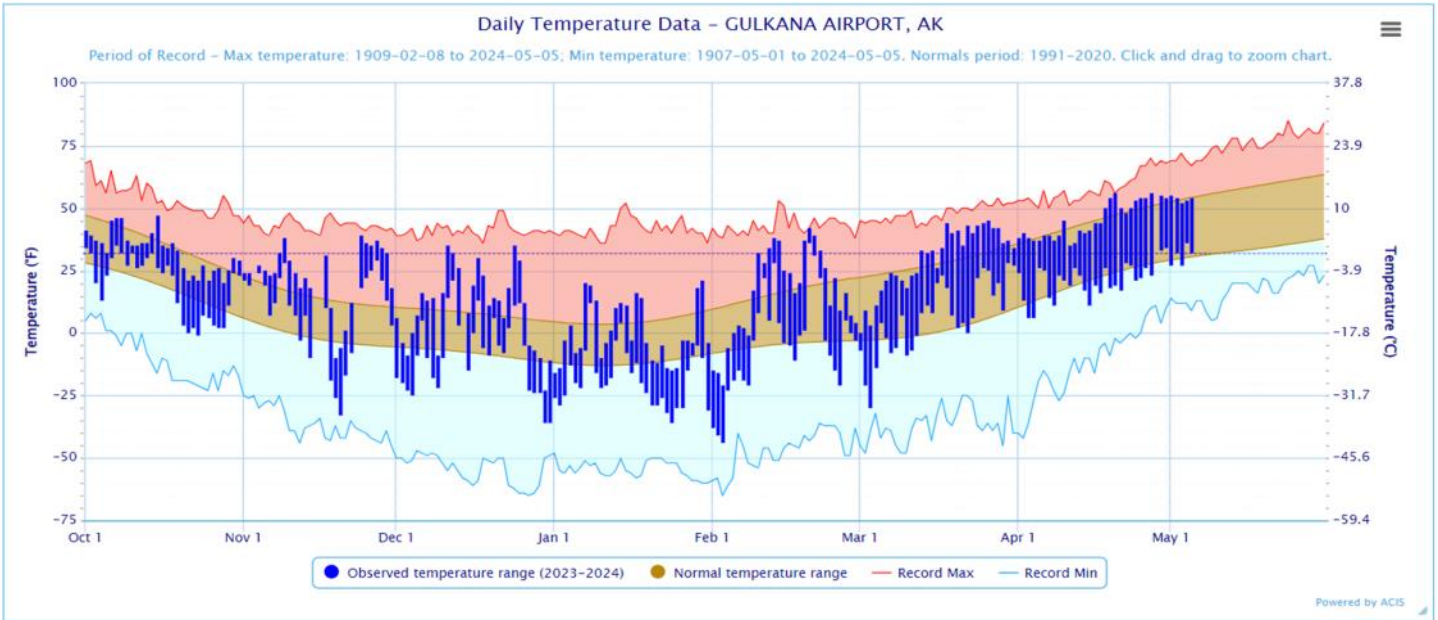
Snowpack Map



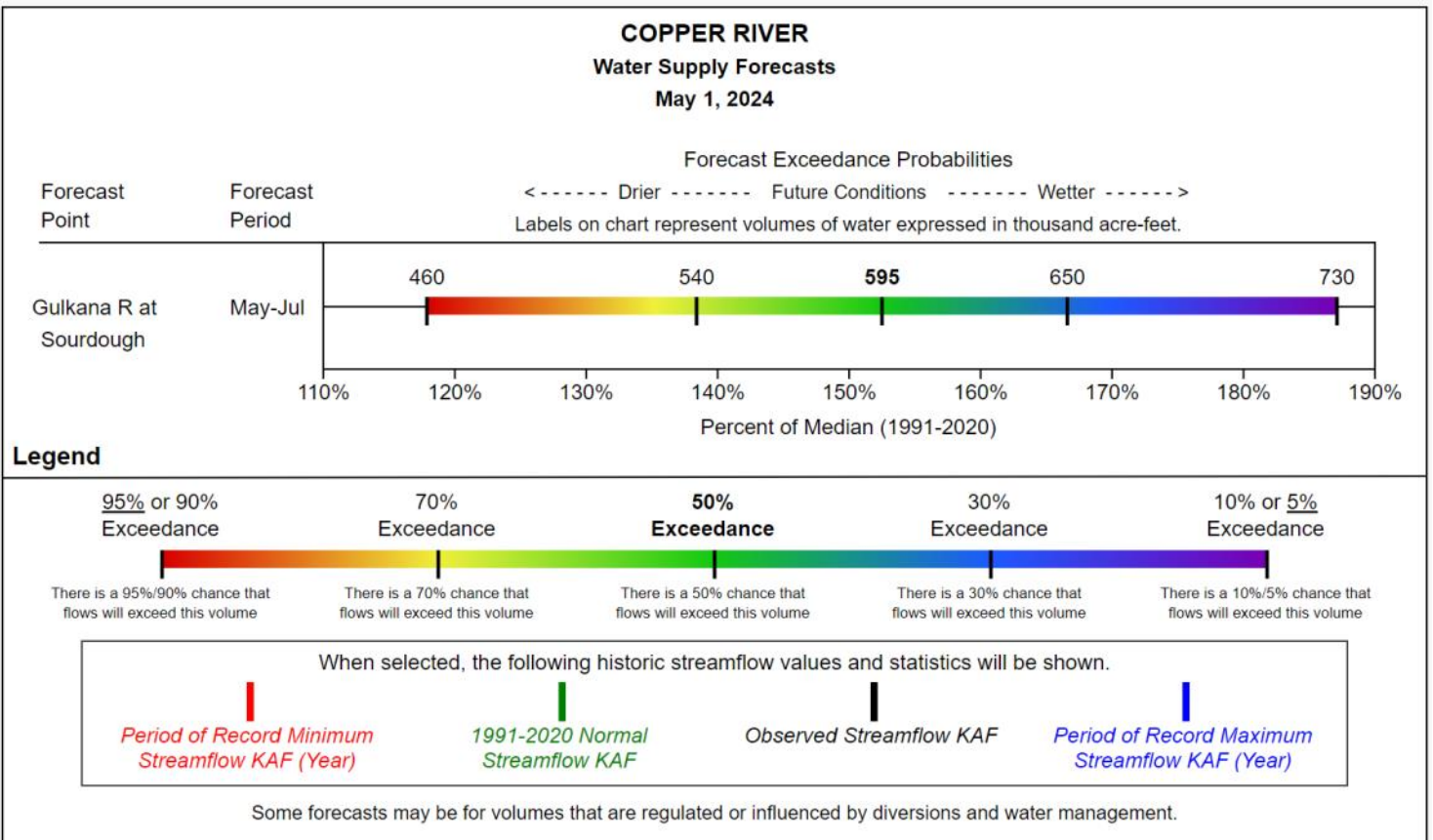
Copper Basin

Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts



Copper Basin

Snowpack

Snowpack in the Copper River basin is exceptionally above Normal on May 1, 2024. The most exceptional measurements are near Thompson Pass. The Upper Tsaina Snotel has been reading its period-of-record maximum for almost the entire year and continues to do so on May 1. Elsewhere in the basin measurements are also very high. Meltout appears to be more or less on time, but with ample snowfall throughout the season, stations are reporting well above Normal for the date.

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Chistochina	1950	0	23	0	6.5	---
Copper Center	1264	13	---	4.4	---	---
Fielding Lake	3000	42	46	12	12.4	122%
Fielding Lake SNOTEL	3000	32	34	11	10.3	---
Gulkana River SNOTEL	1830	7	26	---	---	---
Haggard Creek	2540	25	42	7.8	11.4	205%
Horsepasture Pass SNOTEL	4300	31	38	---	---	---
Kenny Lake School	1300	3	20	0.6	6.3	---
Lake Louise	2400	12	33	3.6	9.1	124%
Little Nelchina	2650	17	33	5.7	8.8	178%
Look Eyrie SNOTEL	5040	121	155	---	---	---
Lowe River	600	54	35	21.4	15.2	249%
May Creek SNOTEL	1610	16	24	5.6	8.8	---
Mentasta Pass	2430	8	31	2.6	7	81%
Mt. Eyak SNOTEL	1405	68	73	27.4	32.8	138%
Nicks Valley SNOTEL	4280	146	101	---	---	---
Paxson	2650	32	44	9.7	12.2	159%
Tazlina	1250	0	18	0	6.7	---
Tolsona Creek	2000	19	29	5.5	7.7	367%
Tsaina River	1650	60	52	22.1	18.3	177%
Upper Tsaina River SNOTEL	1750	81	63	34.4	22.6	185%
Worthington Glacier	2100	83	65	35.9	25.2	153%

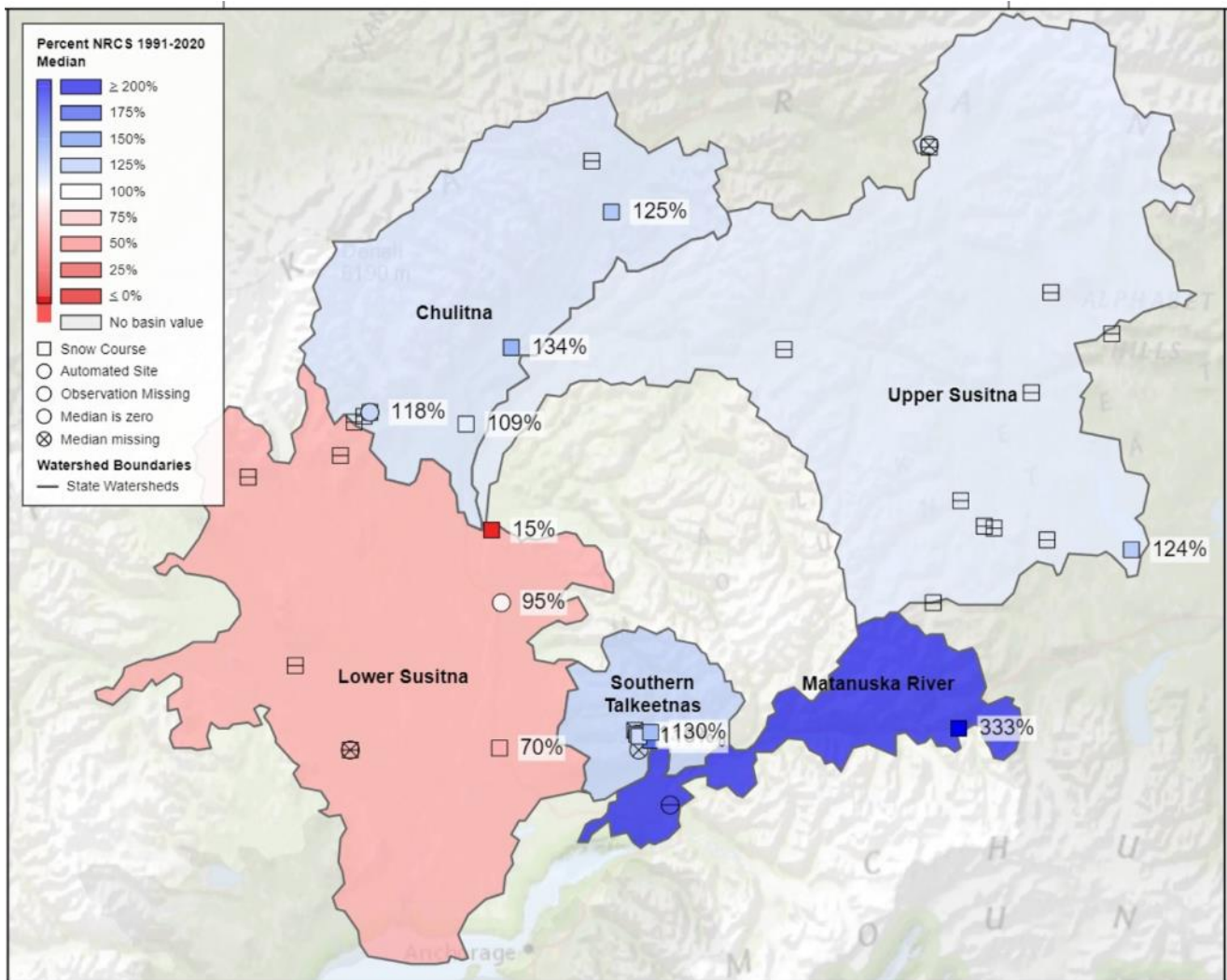
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Fielding Lake	3000	11.4	12.9	---	---
Gulkana River	1830	8.2	10.4	---	---
May Creek	1610	11	12.6	6.2	177%
Mt. Eyak	1405	90.4	82.3	79.2	114%
Upper Tsaina River	1750	33.8	27.5	26.7	127%

Matanuska—Susitna Basin



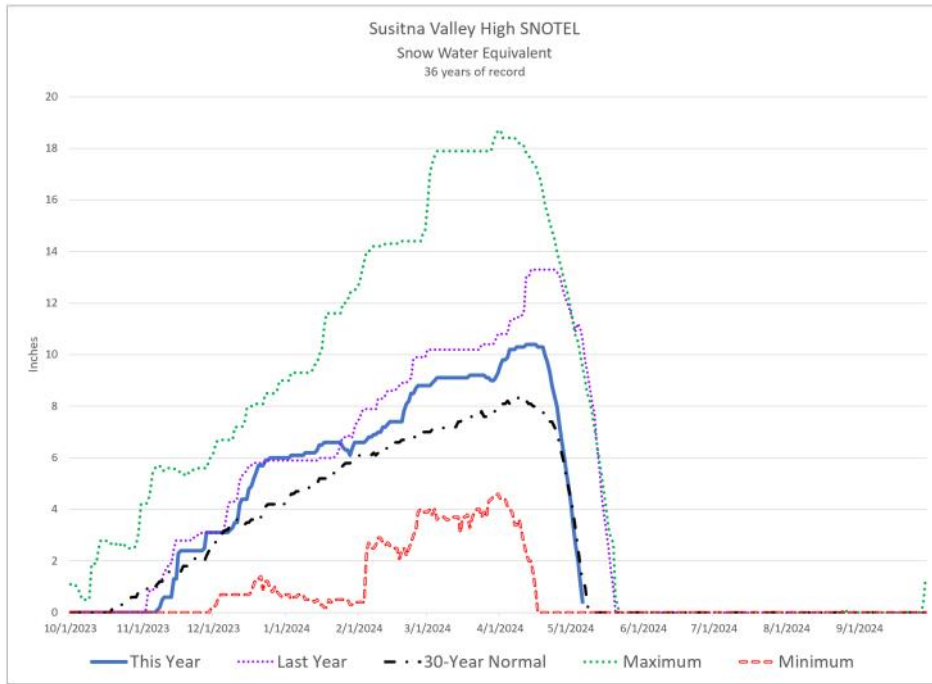
Snowpack Map



Snowpack

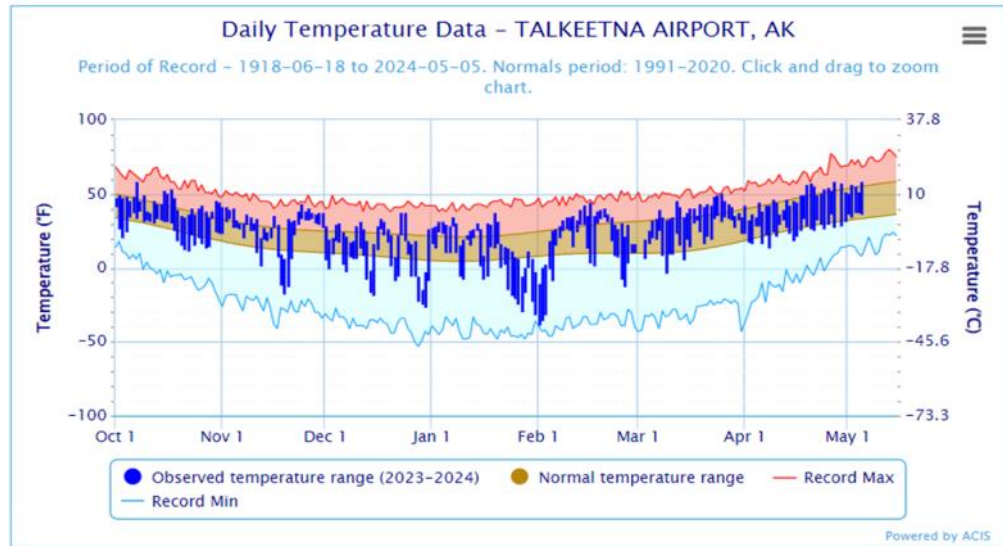
The snowpack in the Matanuska and Susitna Basins is mostly above Normal on May 1, 2024. The highest above Normal are the snow measurements in the Talkeetna Mountains near Hatcher Pass. Coming off the heels of a March that saw almost no snowfall, April delivered ample precipitation at the beginning of the month and the snow measurements that transect the road to Independence Mine are all above Normal for the date. In the lower portion of the Susitna River basin, early melt made for lower-than-Normal measurements at Willow and Talkeetna. Snowpack trends to above Normal higher in the basin. Sheep Mountain, the sole measurement in the Matanuska drainage is reading above Normal, a result of above Normal snowfall throughout the winter and meltout that is slower than Normal on the south facing snow course.

Matanuska—Susitna Basin



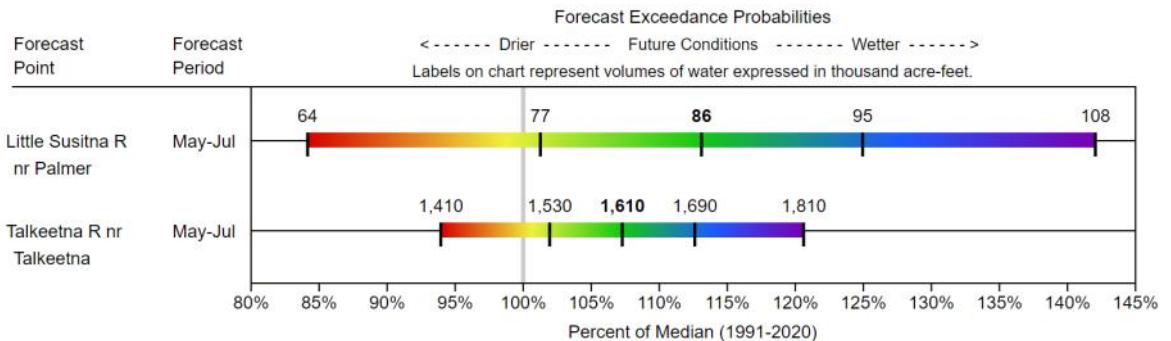
Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BASINS Water Supply Forecasts May 1, 2024



Matanuska—Susitna Basin

Snowpack Data

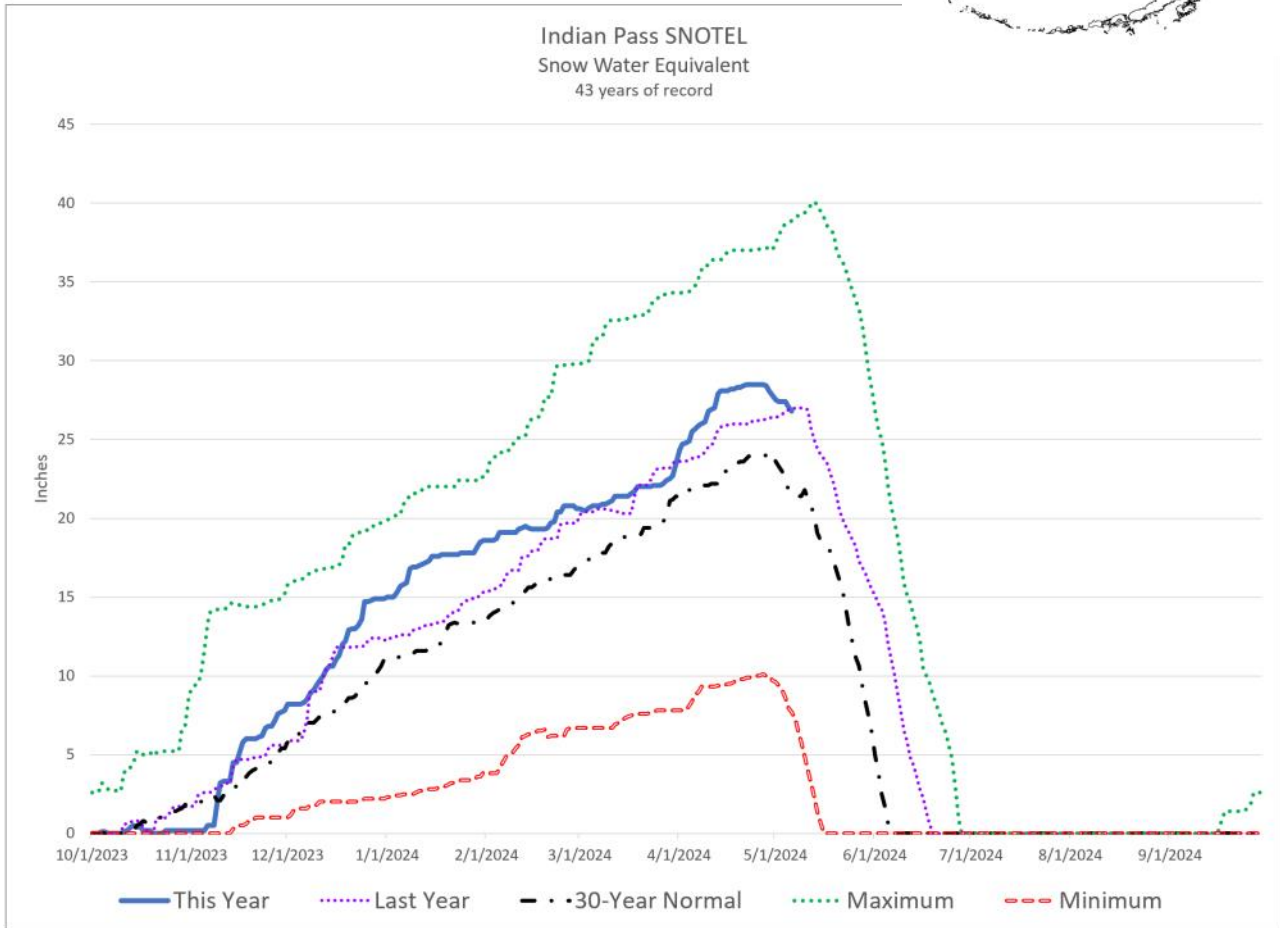
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Alexander Lake SNOTEL	160	7	17	0.9	4.6	---
Archangel Road	2200	41	50	15.1	17.6	130%
Birthday Pass	4020	85	93	33.7	34.9	---
Blueberry Hill	1200	46	47	17.3	14.7	134%
Denali View	700	29	32	9.5	10.1	109%
E. Fork Chulitna	1770	45	46	15.7	12.3	125%
Fishhook Basin	3300	58	67	22.1	24.6	116%
Frostbite Bottom SNOTEL	2700	47	51	17.7	18.6	---
Horsepasture Pass SNOTEL	4300	31	38	---	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	67	73	27.3	27	121%
Independence Mine SNOTEL	3550	57	66	23	25.2	---
Lake Louise	2400	12	33	3.6	9.1	124%
Little Susitna	1700	28	37	9.8	13.4	161%
Monahan Flat SNOTEL	2710	28	29	7.6	7.1	---
Moraine SNOTEL	2100	19	25	6.8	7.6	200%
Sheep Mountain	2900	12	27	4	8	333%
Spring Creek SNOTEL	580	0*	0	---	---	---
Susitna Valley High SNOTEL	375	10	29	4.2	11.6	95%
Talkeetna	350	3	27	0.5	8.5	15%
Tokositna Valley SNOTEL	850	44	39	16	12.8	118%
Willow Airstrip	200	5	32	1.4	9.7	70%

*Estimate

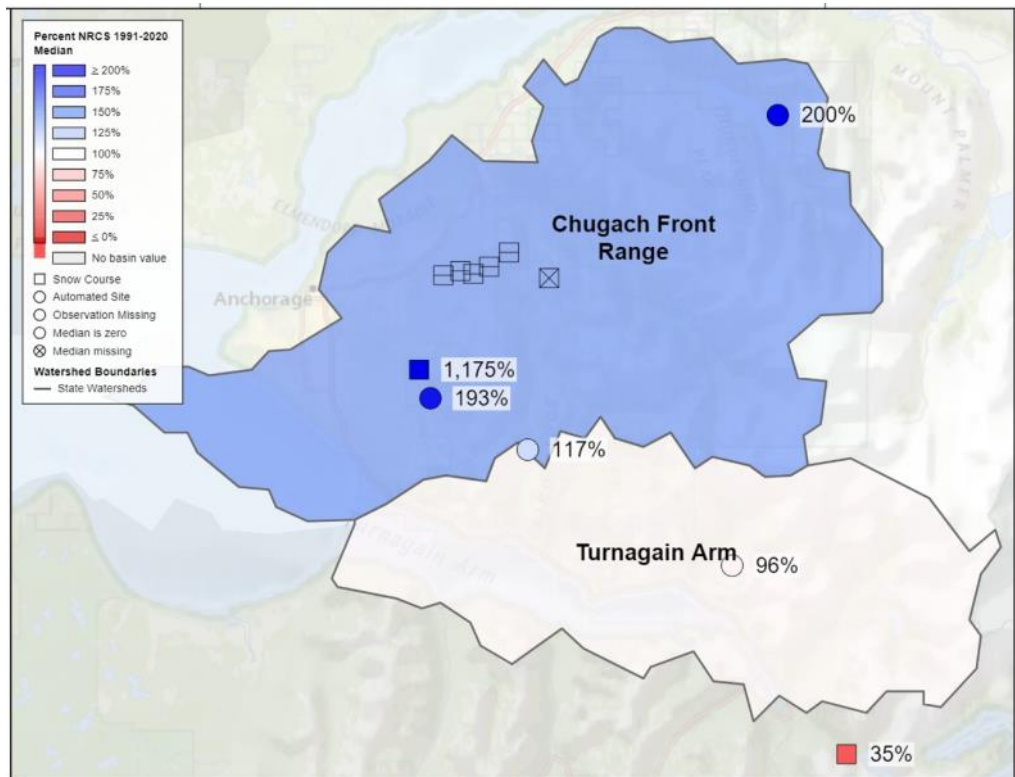
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Alexander Lake	160	16.6	15.4	---	---
Frostbite Bottom	2700	21.5	19.9	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	22.8	23.2	19.4	118%
Monahan Flat	2710	9.1	9.3	7.8	117%
Moraine	2100	13.3	11.4	11.2	119%
Spring Creek	580	9.3	9.3	---	---
Susitna Valley High	375	13	16.4	12.8	102%
Tokositna Valley	850	22.4	---	22.5	100%

Northern Cook Inlet



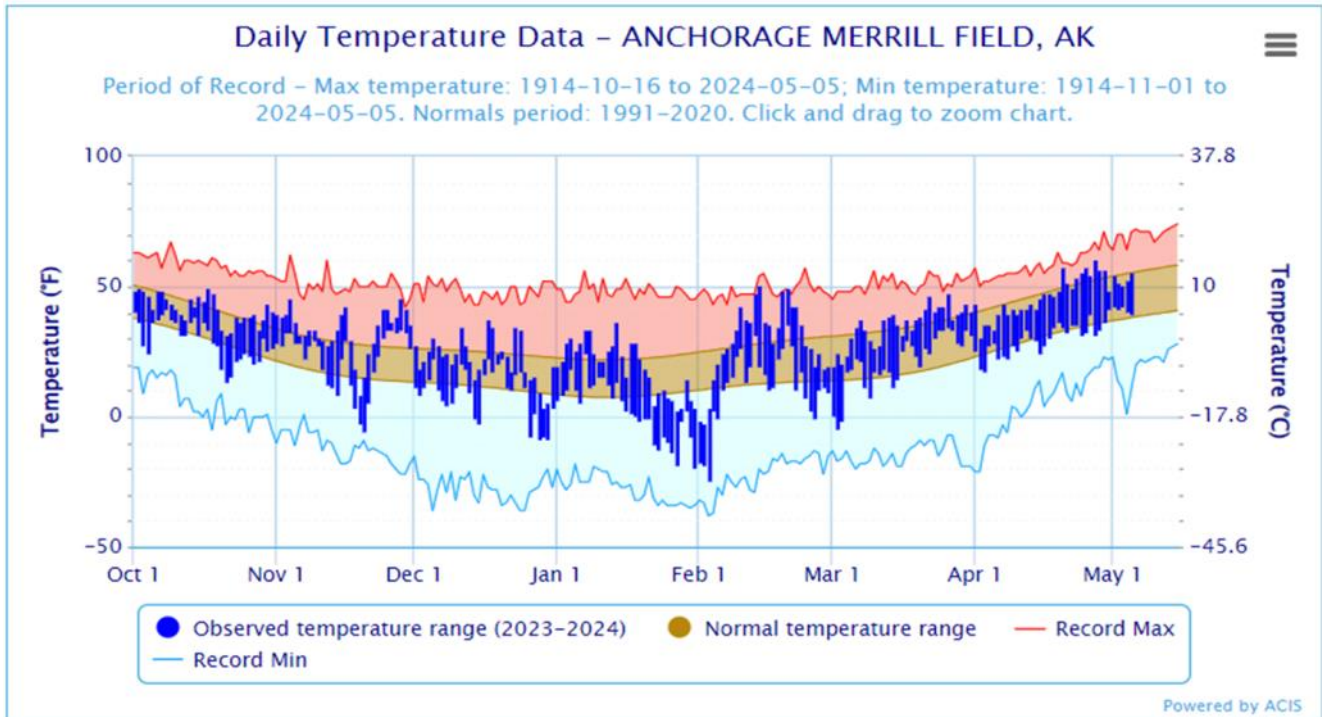
Snowpack Map



Northern Cook Inlet

Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS

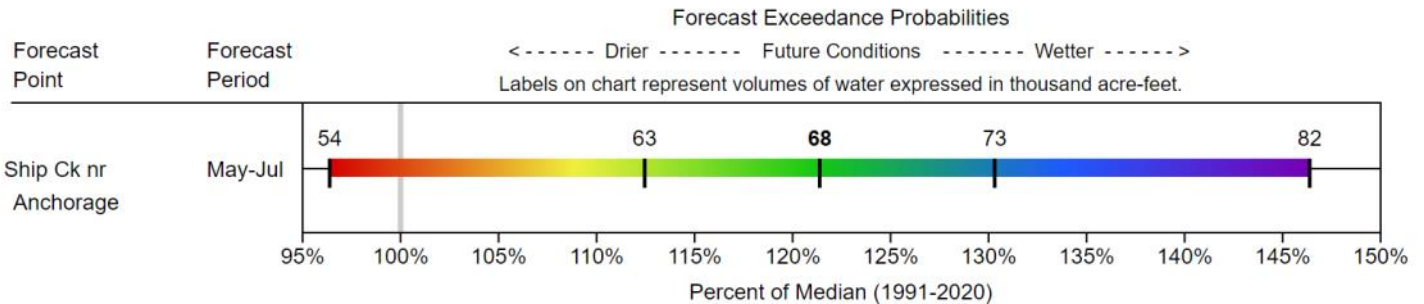


Streamflow Forecasts

NORTHERN COOK INLET

Water Supply Forecasts

May 1, 2024



Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Anchorage Hillside	2080	20.2	15.7	16.1	125%
Frostbite Bottom	2700	21.5	19.9	---	---
Indian Pass	2350	34.1	31	28.2	121%
Moraine	2100	13.3	11.4	11.2	119%
Mt. Alyeska	1540	44.9	36.5	47.7	94%
Spring Creek	580	9.3	9.3	---	---

Northern Cook Inlet

Snowpack

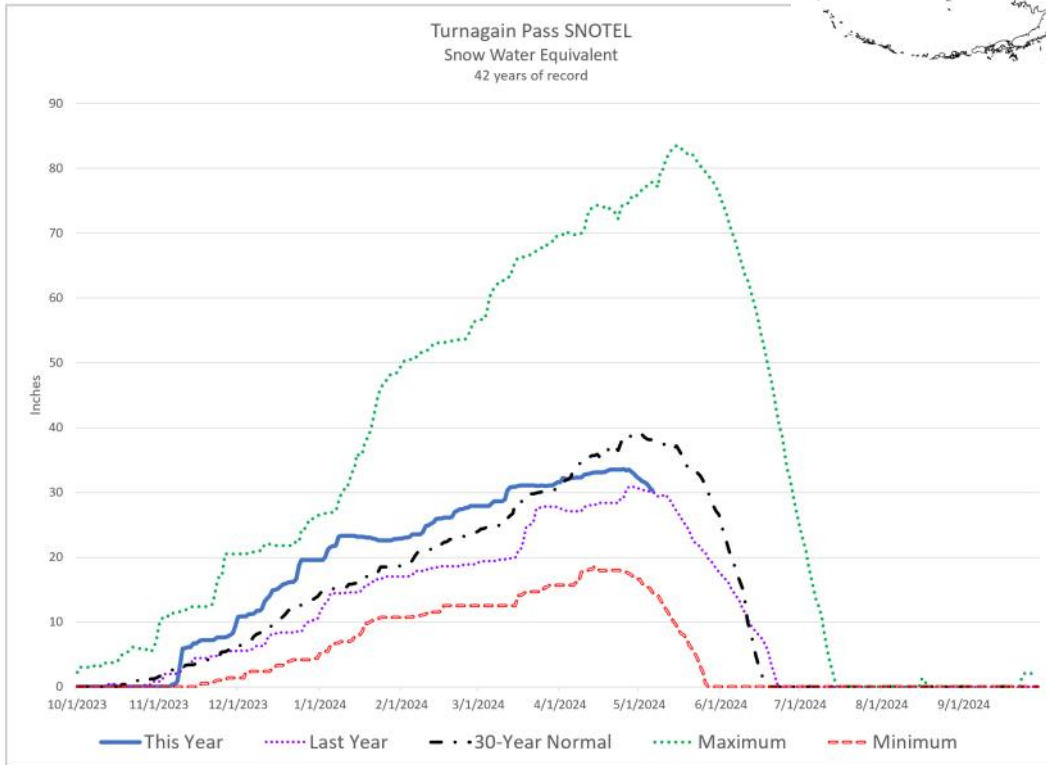
The snowpack in the Northern Cook Inlet region is above Normal on May 1, 2024. Snowpack is most above Normal on the Knik Arm side of the region with measurements trending towards Normal at the stations closer to Turnagain Arm. Moraine and Anchorage Hillside both peaked about a week later than their period of record average. The Kincaid and South Fork Campbell Creek Snow Courses appear to mirror this trend and are holding on to more snow than is usual for the date.

Snowpack Data

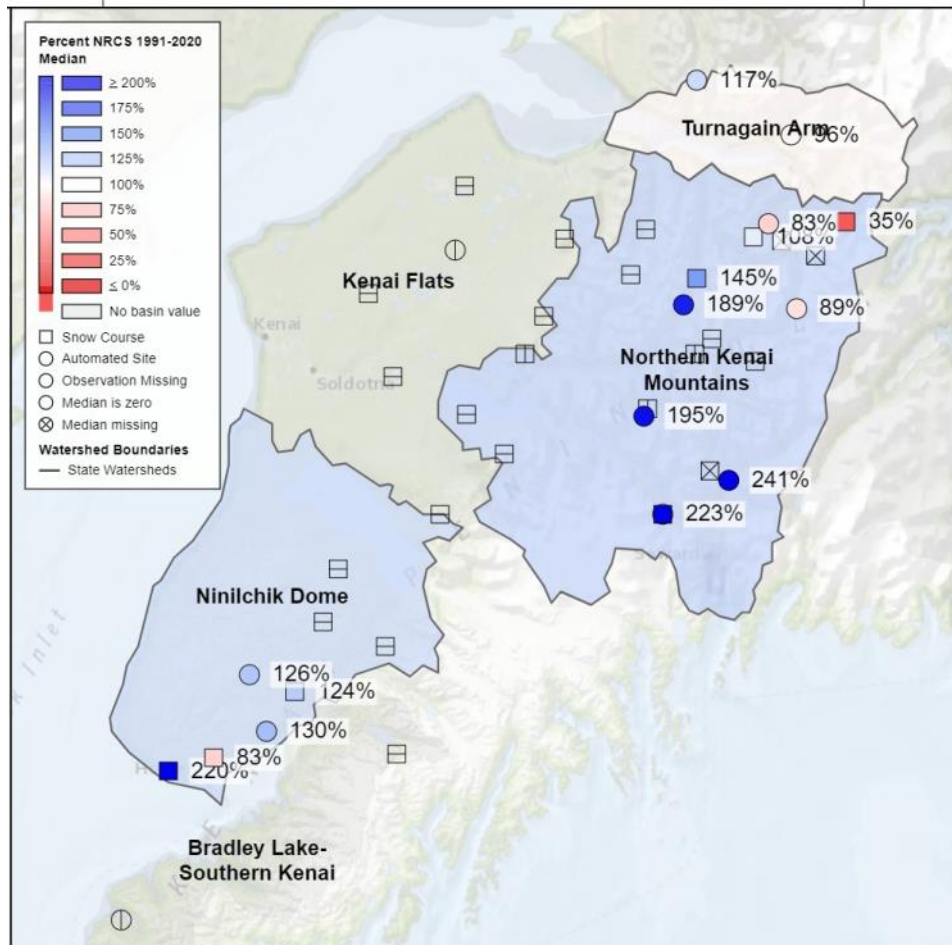
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	1991-2020 % of Normal
Anchorage Hillside SNOTEL	2080	34	34	11.4	11.8	193%
Frostbite Bottom SNOTEL	2700	47	51	17.7	18.6	---
Indian Pass SNOTEL	2350	67	67	27.5	26.4	117%
Kincaid Park	250	3	17	1.5	5.4	---
Little Susitna	1700	28	37	9.8	13.4	161%
Mcneil River SGS SNOTEL	140	1*	---	---	---	---
Moraine SNOTEL	2100	19	25	6.8	7.6	200%
Mt. Alyeska SNOTEL	1540	71	64	29.3	23.4	96%
Portage Valley	50	6	30	2.4	11.4	35%
South Campbell Creek	1200	14	24	4.7	8.6	1175%
South Fork Eagle River	2160	23	41	7.2	13.7	---
Spring Creek SNOTEL	580	0*	0	---	---	---

*Estimate

Kenai Peninsula



Snowpack Map



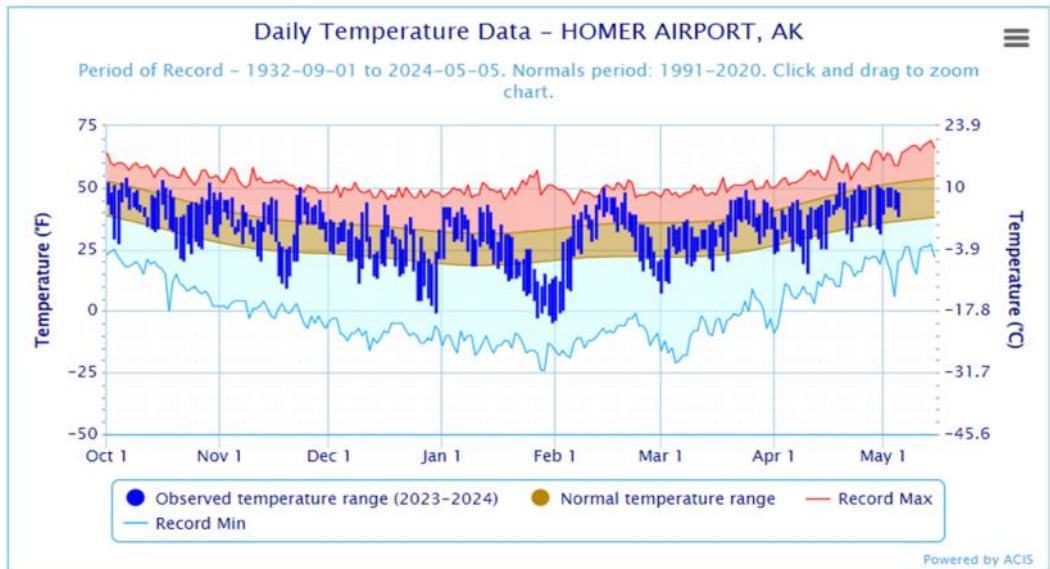
Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack

The snowpack on the Kenai Peninsula is a mixed bag on May 1, 2024. Well above Normal snowpack is being reported by the stations near Seward, as well as those in the central Kenai. Measurements around Homer are below Normal. On the northern end of the Peninsula measurements are also below Normal. After starting the season with a bang, the southcentral snow hub Turnagain Pass has fizzled and is nearly 20 percent below Normal on May 1. To better understand the snowpack in the higher elevations of the Kenai Mountains, a May 1 helicopter accessed snow course run was established. The results have been interesting, including a measurement this year of less snowpack at the Tincan Snow Course at 3370 feet ASL than Turnagain Pass SNOTEL at 1800 feet ASL. Alaska Snow Survey is currently pursuing permitting with USFS to add this site and Primrose into our automated data collection network. Snow measurement in the alpine is difficult and being able to see the data in near real time will allow us to assess the effect of wind removing snowpack from the site versus actual precipitation patterns.

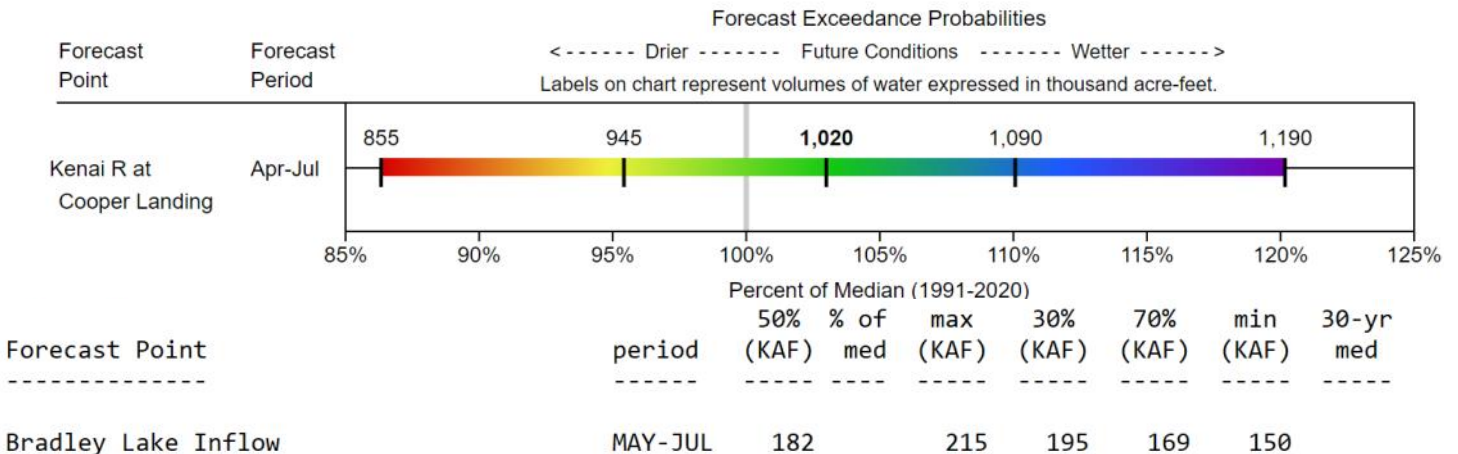
Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS



Streamflow Forecasts

KENAI PENINSULA Water Supply Forecasts April 1, 2024



Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack Data

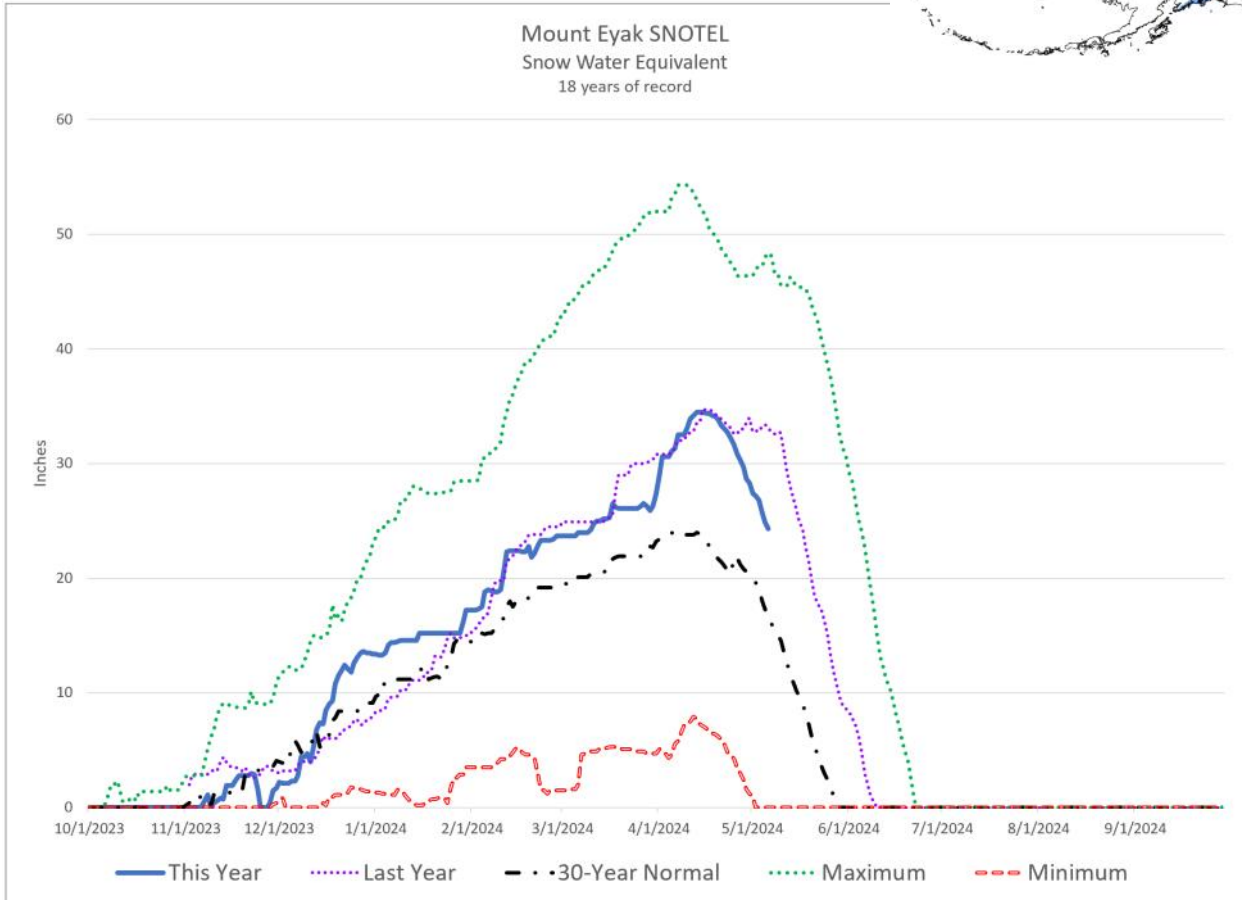
Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		1991-2020 % of Normal
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	
Anchor River Divide SNOTEL	1653	30	35	11.7	12.3	126%
Bertha Creek	950	46	56	18.2	18.2	108%
Bridge Creek	1300	24	32	7.6	9.5	83%
Cooper Lake SNOTEL	1200	37	42	16	15.7	195%
Demonstration Forest	780	17	25	4.4	8.1	220%
Eagle Lake	1400	22	34	7.2	10.8	124%
Exit Glacier	400	50	51	19.2	17.9	223%
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	44	48	15.8	18.7	---
Grandview SNOTEL	1100	72	87	29.6	33.2	89%
Grouse Creek Divide SNOTEL	700	57	50	26	19.3	241%
Indian Pass SNOTEL	2350	67	67	27.5	26.4	117%
Jean Lake	620	0	6	0	2.2	---
Kenai Moose Pens SNOTEL	300	0	17	0.0*	6.5	---
Kenai Summit	1390	33	45	13.3	17.2	145%
Lower Kachemak Creek SNOTEL	1915	41	48	---	---	---
Mcneil Canyon SNOTEL	1320	15	31	5.7	12	130%
Middle Fork Bradley SNOTEL	2300	52	41	---	---	---
Moose Pass	700	0	35	0	11.8	---
Mt. Alyeska SNOTEL	1540	71	64	29.3	23.4	96%
Nuka Glacier SNOTEL	1250	73	---	---	---	---
Port Graham SNOTEL	300	0*	---	0.0*	12.8	---
Portage Valley	50	6	30	2.4	11.4	35%
Primrose	2140	98	93	43.3	42.6	---
Snug Harbor Road	500	2	18	1	4.2	---
Spencer Bench	2430	121	116	57.3	52.2	---
Summit Creek SNOTEL	1400	31	34	12.1	11.7	189%
Tincan	3370	73	114	30.6	50.2	---
Turnagain Pass SNOTEL	1880	77	81	32.1	30.6	83%

*Estimate

Precipitation Data

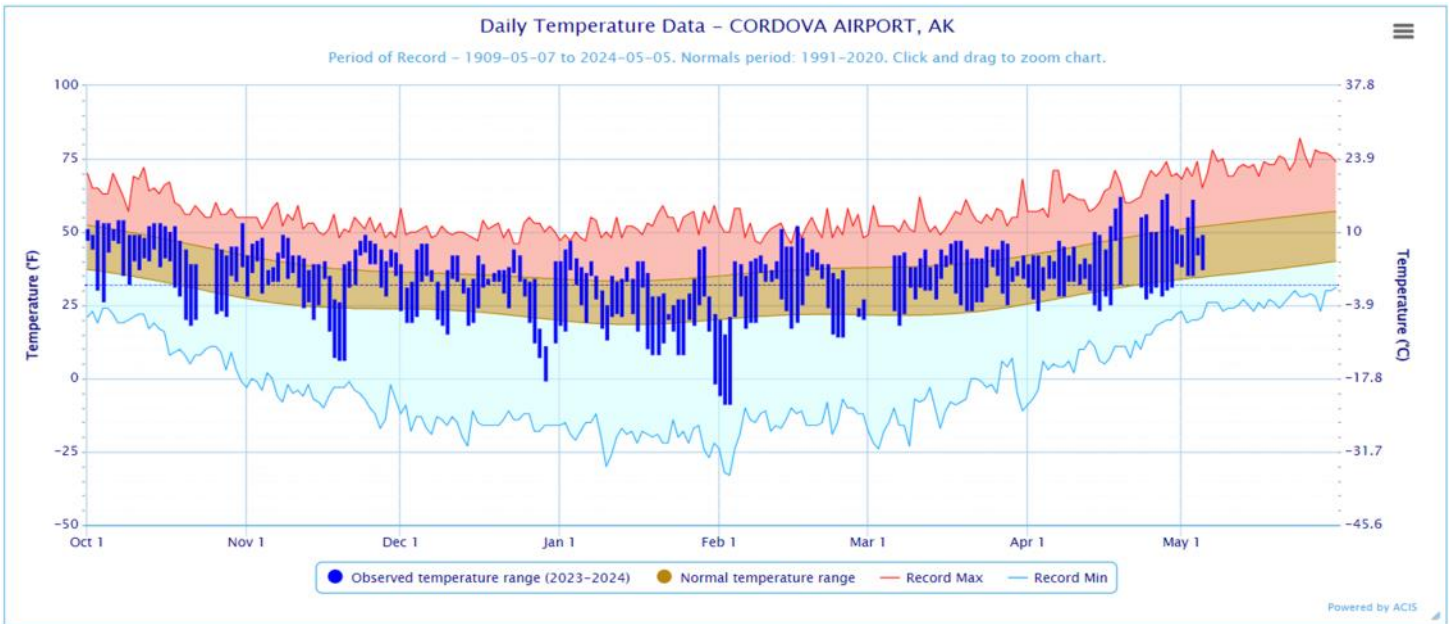
Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Anchor River Divide	1653	16.9	14.7	19	89%
Cooper Lake	1200	27.4	22.3	25.8	106%
Exit Glacier	400	49	36.6	---	---
Grandview	1100	38.3	40.4	44.9	85%
Grouse Creek Divide	700	31.2	30.8	41.6	75%
Indian Pass	2350	34.1	31	28.2	121%
Kenai Moose Pens	300	9.5	9.6	8.8	108%
Lower Kachemak Creek	1915	26.8	26.5	---	---
Mcneil Canyon	1320	16.1	13	17.6	91%
Middle Fork Bradley	2300	30.1	24.8	35.3	85%
Mt. Alyeska	1540	44.9	36.5	47.7	94%
Nuka Glacier	1250	32.4	32.1	55.9	58%
Port Graham	300	46.7	38.8	51	92%
Summit Creek	1400	18.9	16.5	17.4	109%
Turnagain Pass	1880	36	35.1	43.3	83%

Western Gulf – Prince William Sound



Temperature Chart

Source: NOAA ACIS

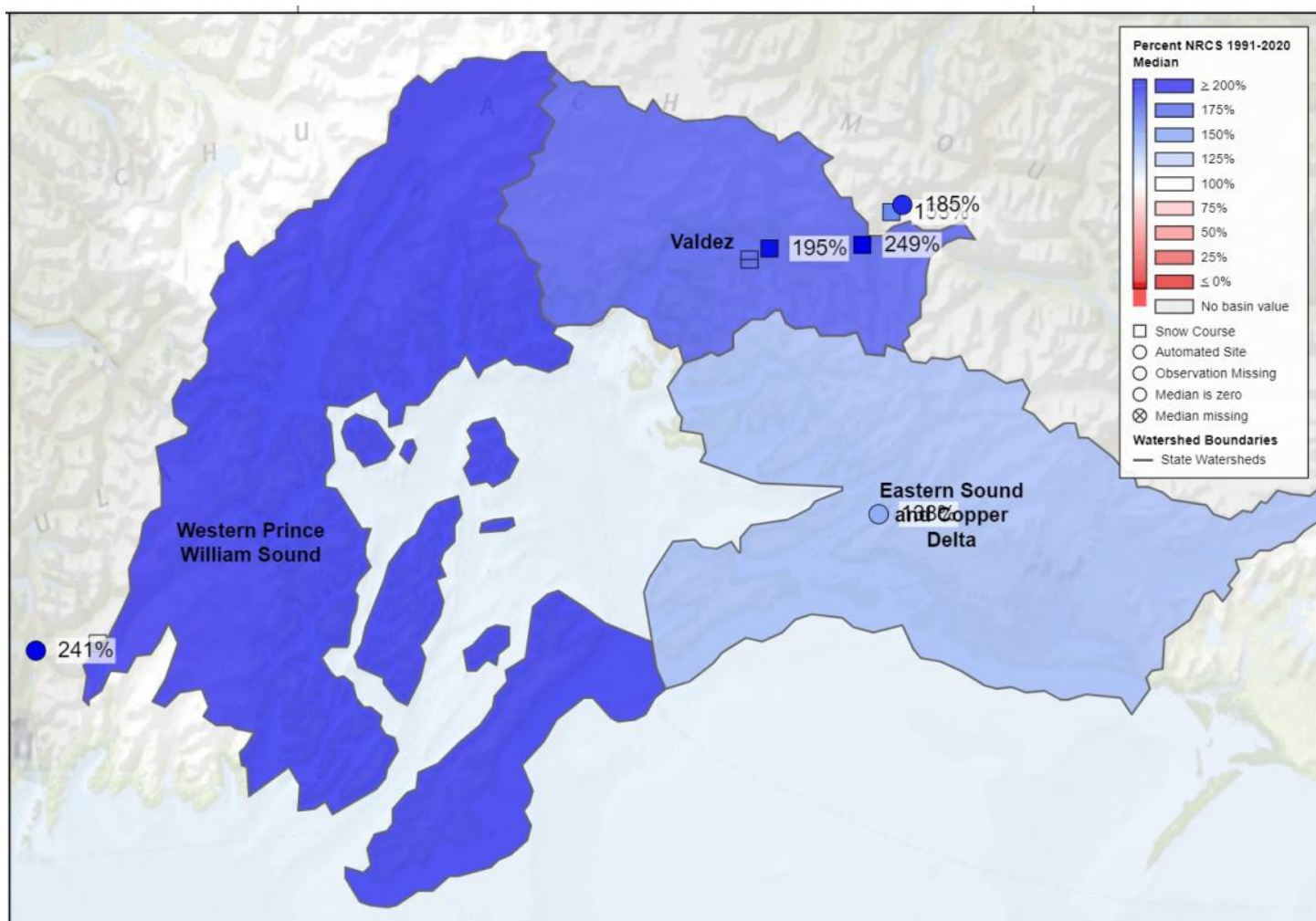


Western Gulf – Prince William Sound

Snowpack

The snowpack in the Western Gulf is above Normal on May 1, 2024. Upper Tsaina and Grouse Creek SNOTELs are reporting their period-of-record maximum SWE for the date. The 21.4 inches of SWE measured at the Lowe River Snow Course is the second highest value in forty-eight years of observation. All measurements in the region are well above Normal for the date.

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	1200	37	42	16	15.7	195%
Esther Island SNOTEL	50	11*	33	---	---	---
Exit Glacier	400	50	51	19.2	17.9	223%
Exit Glacier SNOTEL	400	44	48	15.8	18.7	---
Grouse Creek Divide SNOTEL	700	57	50	26	19.3	241%
Hidden Basin Δ		116	110	56.1*	47.6	
Lowe River	600	54	35	21.4	15.2	249%
Mt. Eyak SNOTEL	1405	68	73	27.4	32.8	138%
Nicks Valley SNOTEL	4280	146	101	---	---	---
Nuka Glacier SNOTEL	1250	73	---	---	---	---
Primrose	2140	98	93	43.3	42.6	---
Shotgun Δ	1980	82	91	41	37.6	
Sugarloaf Mtn SNOTEL	550	71	46	---	---	---
Terror Lake Δ	1450	80	80	37	29.6	
Tsaina River	1650	60	52	22.1	18.3	177%
Upper Tsaina River SNOTEL	1750	81	63	34.4	22.6	185%
Valdez	50	40	19	16.2	7.4	195%
Worthington Glacier	2100	83	65	35.9	25.2	153%

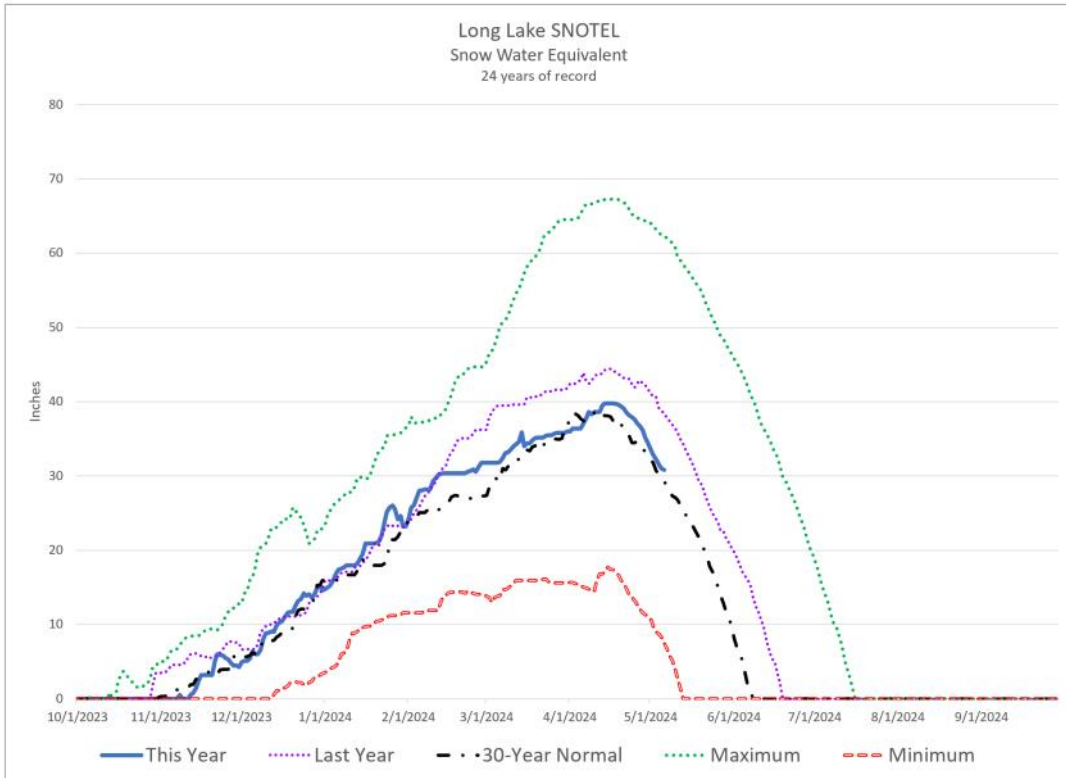
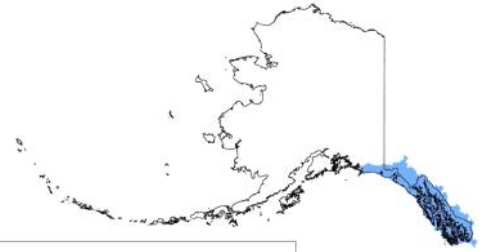
*Estimate

Δ Measured 4/15/2024, 4/18/23

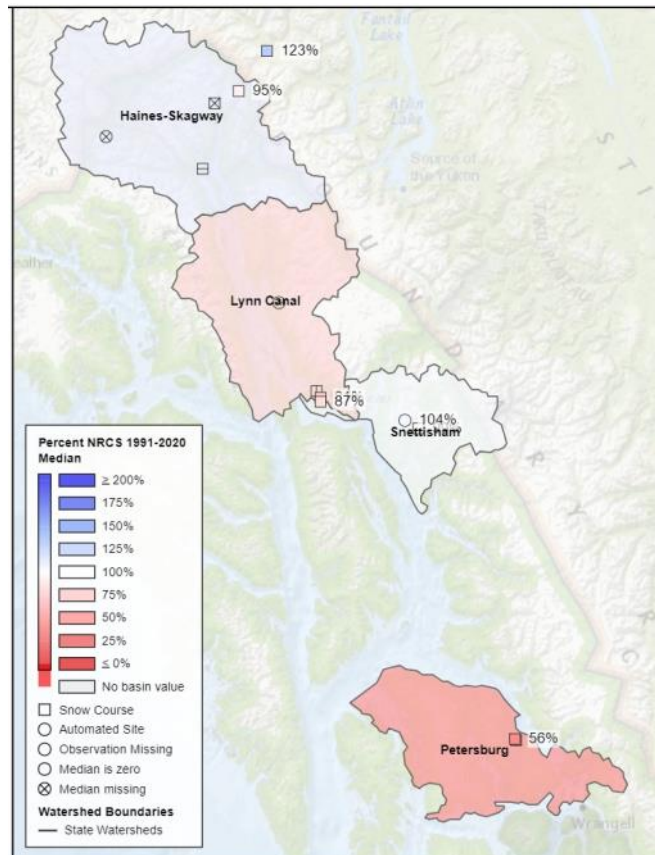
Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Cooper Lake	1200	27.4	22.3	25.8	106%
Esther Island	50	89.2	76.5	92.5	96%
Exit Glacier	400	49	36.6	---	---
Grouse Creek Divide	700	31.2	30.8	41.6	75%
Mt. Eyak	1405	90.4	82.3	79.2	114%
Nuka Glacier	1250	32.4	32.1	55.9	58%
Sugarloaf Mtn	550	52	43.9	46.4	112%
Upper Tsaina River	1750	33.8	27.5	26.7	127%

Southeast



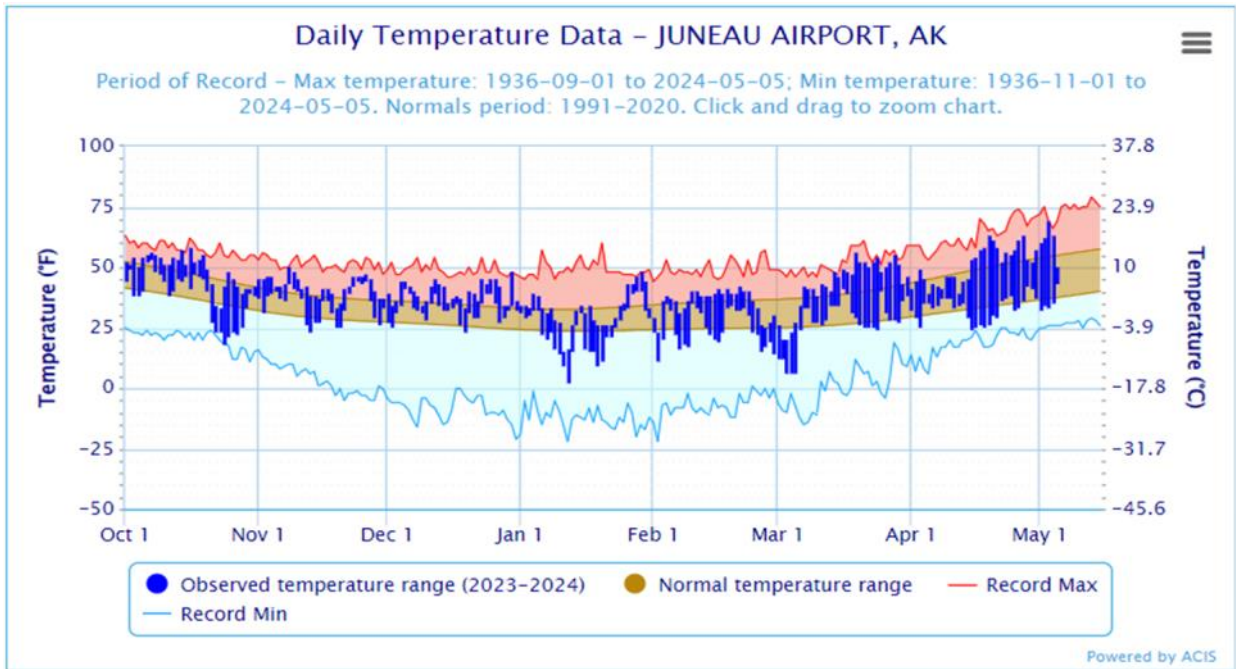
Snowpack Map



Southeast

Temperature Data

Source: NOAA ACIS



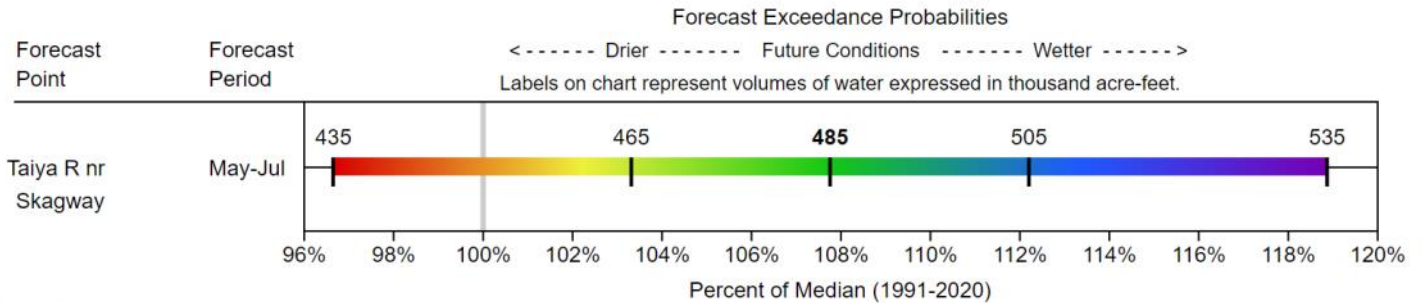
Streamflow Forecasts

Stream Runoff Index:

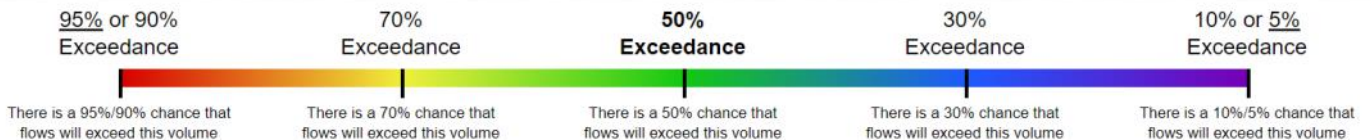
Forecast Point: Skagway River: **+2**

Index	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 Water Supply Forecasts May 1, 2024



Legend



Southeast

Snowpack

In Southeast Alaska the low elevations are snow free, which is typical for the date. At higher elevation, snowpack is near Normal at Moore Creek and Long Lake, and below Normal on Douglas Island. Further south the upper elevation snowpack around Petersburg and Ketchikan is below Normal for the date. April precipitation was below Normal for the third month in a row, however water year-to-date precipitation remains above Normal due to the record wet months earlier in the year.

Snowpack Data

Site Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)		Water Content (in)		1991-2020 % of Normal
		Current	Last Year	Current	Last Year	
Cropley Lake	1650	63	95	26.1	34.5	87%
Eagle Crest	1200	31	49	10.8	17.4	81%
Fish Creek	500	0	0	0	0	---
Flower Mountain SNOTEL	2510	85	68	33.1	25.7	---
Heen Latinee SNOTEL	2065	36	57	---	---	---
Hoonah SNOTEL	1550	48	---	22.8	---	---
Lake Grace Pass*	1900	72	139	27.5	58	---
Log Cabin B.C.	2900	48	48	18.5	17.1	123%
Long Lake SNOTEL	850	78	95	33.5	41.1	104%
Mint Ridge*	1900	51	119	20.2	44	---
Moore Creek Bridge SNOTEL	2250	57	55	---	---	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	41	61	19	23.8	95%
Mount Ripinsky SNOTEL	2500	123	176	---	---	---
Mount Tye*	2790	72	130	26.4	48.7	---
Petersburg Reservoir	550	0	0	0	0	---
Petersburg Ridge, S.	1650	28	93	12.3	35.3	56%
Speel River	280	46	52	22.2	24.6	99%
Summit	985	37	42	12.6	10.9	210%
Tye Pass*	2820	115	185	46.6	185	---
Upper Swan Mountain*	1700	23	77	8	32	---
West Creek	475	0	0	0	0	---

*Measured 4/17/24, 4/19/23

Precipitation Data

Site Name	Elev.	Inches Accumulated since October 1st			
		This Year	Last Year	1991-2020 Normal	% of Normal
Hoonah	1550	51.2	---	---	---
Long Lake	850	129.8	117.9	103.7	125%
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	35.8	33.4	29.8	120%

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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