Nicks Valley SNOLITE, above Thompson Pass, was measured mid-April with 121” of Snow Depth and 46.7” of Water Content.
The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service cooperates with the following organizations in snow survey work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State of Alaska</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Depart of Agriculture - U.S. Forest Service</td>
<td>Alaska Department of Fish and Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chugach National Forest</td>
<td>Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities</td>
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<td>Tongass National Forest</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Commerce</td>
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<td>NOAA, Alaska Pacific RFC</td>
<td>Division of Mining and Water</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Defense</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</td>
<td>Alaska Energy Authority</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Interior</td>
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<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>Soil and Water Conservation Districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Geological Survey</td>
<td>Homer SWCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>National Park Service</td>
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<th>Municipalities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>Mantanuska-Susitna Borough School District</td>
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<td>Juneau</td>
<td>Eagle School, Gateway School District</td>
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<td>Alaska Electric, Light and Power, Juneau</td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyeska Resort, Inc.</td>
<td>British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyeska Pipeline Service Company</td>
<td>Department of the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anchorage Municipal Light and Power</td>
<td>Government of the Yukon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chugach Electric Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper Valley Electric Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer Electric Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketchikan Public Utilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince William Sound Science Center</td>
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Palmer, Alaska

Cover Photo: NRCS Hydrologic Technician Keegan Krantz maintains the Nicks Valley SNOLITE site. The site was measured as a snow course on April 20, 2022 with 121” of snow depth and 46.7” of SWE. Photo by Austin Hart.
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<tr>
<td>Northern Cook Inlet</td>
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<td>Western Gulf</td>
<td>41,42</td>
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<td>43,44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Numbers and other contact information</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 snowpack Normals for May can be found here.

_________________________________________________________________________________________

**SnowPack**

After a long, dark and, in many locations, record breaking stormy winter, April provided the break that sun starved Alaskans have been craving. For most of the month, and most of the state, the weather was clear and cold. Snow enthusiasts were happy and easily recognized by their “Alaska tans”; which is a more conservative version of a farmer’s tan which only extends from the top of the neck to the bottom of the sunglasses.

The snowpack on May 1, which has been exceptional all winter, continues to be robust. Even with a strong April sun and the transition to summer under way, the timing is mostly on the later side of average. This results in the majority of the state retaining a considerably above normal snowpack. Of the 163 Alaska Stations with more than 10 years of record, 44 of these boasted period-of-record high SWE for May 1. This trend continues up into the Yukon Territory where the snowpack also continues to be one for the record books. This is more remarkable because April was mostly dry and snow loss to melting was observed throughout the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alaska Statewide Snowpack</th>
<th># of Sites</th>
<th>Current Percent of Median</th>
<th>Last Year Percent of Median</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yukon Basin</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Yukon Basin</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanana Basin</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koyukuk Basin</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuskokwim Basin</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yukon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper Basin</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matanuska-Susitna Basin</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cook Inlet</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenai Peninsula</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Gulf of Alaska</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Alaska</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Overview

Snowpack continued

The month of April started and ended with storms across the southern portion of the state. Total precipitation was below normal for the region and included rain for lower elevations, which is typical for the month. The majority of stations below 1000’ Above Sea Level (ASL) are snow free. Telemetered stations in southern Alaska began melting near normal, with a range of a few days early, to nearly a week late depending on the location.

The Tanana and Copper River basins remain at or near record snowpack for May 1 despite little to no input over the month. Temperatures in the interior were cooler than normal which helped preserve a stout snowpack. The onset of melt in these basins is about one week later than normal.

In the Yukon basin the snowpack remains considerably above normal despite below average monthly precipitation. The upper Yukon, as measured by Canadian snow surveyors, is at historic maximum for most of the reporting stations. Going downstream the snowpack isn’t breaking records but is well above normal. Near the town of Eagle, the American Creek SNOTEL was installed on higher ground to replace Mission Creek SNOTEL when it was destroyed by ice dam flooding in 2009. The snowpack on the Yukon is considerably more robust on May 1, 2022 than it was on May 1, 2009. However, snowpack is only one of many factors in predicting breakup flooding.

Snow monitoring stations in the Arctic reaches of the state are sparse but indicate this area may have below normal snowpack. The May through July forecast for the Sagavanirktok River on the north slope is predicted at 95%, which is the only forecast point in the state that is below normal. The rest of the state is predicted to have well above normal stream flows.

Precipitation

Away from the Gulf of Alaska, the April was dry, with many stations reporting zero precipitation for the month. Fifteen of the 89 stations used to monitor monthly precipitation received no measurable precipitation over the April. These stations are concentrated in the central part of the state. The north and western reaches of the state received some precipitation, although less than normal. On the southern coast the month ended stormy with warm temperatures and high rain lines. These storms favored the coast, with isolated stations recording near normal precipitation. Although these stations are outliers with the majority of the state received well below average April precipitation.

Temperature

For most of the Alaska April temperature was normal to slightly below normal. The exception is in western Alaska where Bethel and Nome reported above average temps; 3°F and 5°F warmer respectively. In southcentral, Anchorage was 1°F warmer than normal, but Homer and Talkeetna were 1°F cooler. In the Copper River Basin Gulkana was 4°F cooler than normal, which preserved a record snowpack that received almost no input over the month.
Alaska Statewide Precipitation Maps

Monthly Precipitation for April, 2022
(% of POR Average)

Water Year-to-date Precipitation (Oct. 1-April 30th, 2022)
(% of POR Average)
## Streamflow Forecasts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORECAST POINT</th>
<th>Percent of Ave. Flow</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yukon River at Eagle</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine River nr Int’l Boundary</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yukon River near Stevens Village</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanana River at Fairbanks</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanana River at Nenana</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Chena River near Fairbanks</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chena River near Two Rivers</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salcha near Salchaket</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagvanirktok River near Pump Station 3</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuparuk River near Deadhorse</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulkana River at Sourdough</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Susitna River near Palmer</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talkeetna River near Talkeetna</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship Creek near Anchorage</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenai River at Cooper Landing</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley Lake Inflow</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiya River nr Skagway</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>April - July</td>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORECAST POINT</th>
<th>INDEX</th>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Key:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koyukuk River at Hughes</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>much below average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF Koyukuk R near Wiseman</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>-2 to -3</td>
<td>below average snowmelt runoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slate Creek at Coldfoot</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Creek above Victoria Creek</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch Creek below South Fork</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caribou Creek at Chatanika</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susitna River near Gold Creek</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chulitna River near Talkeetna</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deshka River at mouth near Willow</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Creek at Parks Highway</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Creek near Willow</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skwentna River at Skwentna</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuitna River near Tyonek</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell Creek near Spenard</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>+1 to +2</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Creek at Indian</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>-1 to +1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Creek at Bird Creek</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>-1 to +1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Creek nr Girdwood</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>-1 to +1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Mile Creek near Hope</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resurrection Creek near Hope</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouse Ck at Grouse Lake Outlet nr Seward</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchor River near Anchor Point</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Creek near Ninilchik</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>-1 to +1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninilchik River near Ninilchik</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>-1 to +1</td>
<td>above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fritz Creek near Homer</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skagway River at Skagway</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Watershed C nr Petersburg</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Creek near Juneau</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>much above average snowmelt runoff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exceedance Percentage</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Forecast Volume (KAF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Light Blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/](https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/Fcst_Chart/)

This is a new product. Please submit likes, dislikes and questions to Daniel.Fisher2@usda.gov
Upper Yukon Basin

Snowpack

The snowpack in the upper Yukon is well above normal. The basin’s sites are indexing at 201% of normal SWE on May 1, 2022. While several snow courses had decreased in SWE due to seasonal melt, several sites experienced increases in SWE over the month. Of the 38 SWE measurements this month, 18 were at all time maximums.
# Upper Yukon Basin

## Snowpack Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlin Lake</td>
<td>2395</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
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*Estimate*
Upper Yukon Basin

Upper Yukon Snowpack

Streamflow Forecasts

**UPPER YUKON BASIN**
Water Supply Forecasts
May 1, 2022

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities

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<th>Forecast Point</th>
<th>Forecast Period</th>
<th>Percent of Average (1991-2020)</th>
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## Legend

- **95% or 90% Exceedance**
  - There is a 95% or 90% chance that flows will exceed this volume.

- **70% Exceedance**
  - There is a 70% chance that flows will exceed this volume.

- **50% Exceedance**
  - There is a 50% chance that flows will exceed this volume.

- **30% Exceedance**
  - There is a 30% chance that flows will exceed this volume.

- **10% or 5% Exceedance**
  - There is a 10% or 5% chance that flows will exceed this volume.

When selected, the following historic streamflow values and statistics will be shown.

- Period of Record Minimum Streamflow KAF (Year)
- 1991-2020 Normal Streamflow KAF
- Observed Streamflow KAF
- Period of Record Maximum Streamflow KAF (Year)

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.
Central Yukon Basin

Snowpack

The May 1 snowpack in the Central Yukon basin is still above normal, despite two consecutive months of well below normal precipitation. This snowpack continues to be anchored by massive gains from earlier in the winter, and all reporting stations show above normal snowpack. Snow stations in this basin recorded melt during the month. However, cool temperatures helped prolong the snowpack and melt at the SNOTEL stations in the basin started about a week later than normal.
### Central Yukon Basin

#### Snowpack Data

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*Estimate

#### Snowpack Map

![Snowpack Map](image-url)
Central Yukon Basin

Precipitation

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Streamflow Forecasts

![Streamflow Forecasts Diagram]

*Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.*
Tanana Basin

Snowpack Map

Fairbanks Temperature

Departure from Normal (Deg F)

Oct  Dec  Feb  Apr
Tanana Basin

Snowpack

Despite almost no precipitation in April, the May 1 snowpack in the Tanana basin remains one for the books. Measurement sites between Tok and Fairbanks are all reporting period of record high SWE for May 1. The 8.5” of SWE measured at Shaw Creek Flats is substantial, given that the normal value is 0.0” for May 1. It is also the highest measurement in 63 years of observation. The SNOTELs in the hills that feed the Chena River started their melt out about a week later than average, but May 1 SWE measurements are still near record. Monument Creek SNOTEL snowpack peaked 26% higher than its previous record, or at 213% of median peak snowpack.

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† measured 4/13/2022
### Precipitation

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<th>% of Normal</th>
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### Streamflow Forecasts

---

**Tanana Basin**

Water Supply Forecasts

May 1, 2022

---

[Streamflow forecasts chart]

Legend:

- 95% or 90% Exceedance
- 70% Exceedance
- 50% Exceedance
- 30% Exceedance
- 10% or 5% Exceedance

When selected, the following historic streamflow values and statistics will be shown:

- Period of Record Minimum Streamflow KAF (Year)
- 1991-2020 Normal Streamflow KAF
- Observed Streamflow KAF
- Period of Record Maximum Streamflow KAF (Year)

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.
Western Interior Basins

Snowpack Map

Bettles Temperature

Percent of POR Average
- 200%
- 175%
- 150%
- 125%
- 100%
- 75%
- 50%
- 25%
- 0%
- No basin value

Watershed Boundaries
- State Watersheds
- Sites with less than 10 years of data around

Departure from Normal deg F

Oct  Dec  Feb  Apr
Western Interior Basins

Snowpack

**Koyukuk**
Snowpack in the Koyukuk is slightly above normal. The basin index is reporting 108% median on May 1. The Table Mountain and Bonanza Forks snow courses, on the Dalton Highway, are reporting below normal snowpack. The remainder of reporting stations in the basin are at or above historical median. Bettles Field and Coldfoot SNOTEL stations, started melting on April 26, which is 6 days later than normal.

**Kuskokwim**
Snow in the Kuskokwim is above normal where it persists. The 9.4” of SWE reported by the McGrath SNOTEL is considerably higher than normal for May 1. The only other data point in this this basin, Telaquana Lake, melted out on April 22nd; which is about one week later than its period of record median. Aniak SNOTEL melted out on April 16th.

**Lower Yukon**
The May 1 snowpack in the Lower Yukon is above normal. The aerial markers down river of Galena are all reporting above normal snowpack for the date. The 6.1” of SWE being reported at Galena AK SNOTEL on May 1st is the period-of-record high value in its 4-year record, though this was due to delayed melt-out, it reported a peak snowpack similar to 2020.

Snowpack Data

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*Estimate
Western Interior Basins

Precipitation

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Streamflow Forecasts

![Streamflow Forecasts Diagram]

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.
The stations along the Dalton highway are reporting the fourth month in a row of below normal winter precipitation. April precipitation was 38% of average for the 6 stations used to index this region. Snow depth measurement points along the Dalton Highway are mixed, with Prudhoe Bay moderately above, and the others below, period of record median.

Kotzebue
The 6.6” of SWE the Kelly Station SNOTEL is reporting on May 1 is near the period of record normal value of 6.3”. Melt at the station began on April 27, one day later than normal.
## Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

### Snowpack Data

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*Estimate

### Precipitation

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<th>% of Normal</th>
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Kotzebue Sound

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Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

Streamflow Forecasts

ARCTIC AND KOTZEBUE SOUND
Water Supply Forecasts
May 1, 2022

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities
<------ Drier ------ Future Conditions ------ Wetter ------>
Labels on chart represent volumes of water expressed in thousand acre-feet.

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</table>

Legend

95% or 90% Exceedance
70% Exceedance
50% Exceedance
30% Exceedance
10% or 5% Exceedance

When selected, the following historic streamflow values and statistics will be shown.

Period of Record Minimum Streamflow KAF (Year)
1991-2020 Normal Streamflow KAF
Observed Streamflow KAF
Period of Record Maximum Streamflow KAF (Year)

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.
Snowpack

The Seward Peninsula received below average precipitation for April. The 3 stations used to index the basin are reporting 54% normal monthly precipitation. Reported snow depths are well below period of record median.

Precipitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>1991-2020 Normal</th>
<th>% of Normal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Norton Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pargon Creek</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>103%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Point</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>89%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Norton Sound/Bristol Bay

### Snowpack Data

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Pargon Creek</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Point</td>
<td>250</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Precipitation-Bethel

- **Percent of Average**
  - Oct: 150
  - Dec: 100
  - Feb: 450
  - Apr: 150

### Bethel Temperature

- **Departure from Normal (deg F)**
  - Oct: 0
  - Nov: -10
  - Dec: -15
  - Jan: 0
  - Feb: -5
  - Mar: 0
  - April: -10
Snowpack

Snowpack in the Copper River Basin is considerably above normal for almost the entirety of the basin. Precipitation patterns over the month of April were mixed, with the upper reaching, interior, portions of the basin receiving almost no precipitation and storms preferring coastal locations. The beginning of April started with a series of storms that came in through Valdez and gave snow to the Thompson Pass region. This is in line with climatology but has not been the pattern through the winter. Worthington glacier has been an outlier of below normal snowpack in the basin all season. April storms brought the May 1 measurement of 24.8” SWE to 106% normal, the first above normal reading for this snow course all year. The interior snow measurements in this basin remain near record despite receiving very little precipitation in April. The 15.4” SWE measured at Haggard Creek is the highest May 1st reading in 57 years of record, and only 0.3” lower than the April 1 measurement. This indicates some melting, however colder than normal temps observed at Gulkana indicate that the onset of melt is delayed in the interior reaches of the basin. Both May Creek and Upper Tsaina SNOTELs started melt out near normal dates.
## Copper Basin

### Snowpack Data

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<td>7.2</td>
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<td>7.2</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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<td>15.4</td>
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<td>1.7</td>
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<td>7.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>12.5</td>
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<td>12.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Tsaina River</td>
<td>1750</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>15.3</td>
<td>22.2</td>
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</table>

† Measured 4/20/2022

### Snowpack Map

![Snowpack Map](image-url)
Copper Basin

Precipitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>1991-2020 Normal</th>
<th>% of Normal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fielding Lake</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulkana River</td>
<td>1830</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Creek</td>
<td>1610</td>
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<td>8.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>142%</td>
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<td>Upper Tsaina River</td>
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<td>19.3</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>72%</td>
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</table>

Streamflow Forecasts

[Diagram of streamflow forecasts]

When selected, the following historic streamflow values and statistics will be shown:

- Period of Record Minimum Streamflow KAF (Year)
- 1991-2020 Normal Streamflow KAF
- Observed Streamflow KAF
- Period of Record Maximum Streamflow KAF (Year)

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.
**Snowpack**

The May 1 snowpack in the Matanuska and Susitna basins, like the proceeding months, is well above normal. This is despite well below normal April precipitation. The Lake Louise snow course, in the upper reaches of the Susitna, was measured at 8.5” SWE, which is its highest May reading in 57 years of observation. It is also only 8% less than the April 1 reading, which compared to the normal decrease of 45% indicates melt has begun but is likely delayed. Downstream, in the lower basin the snowpack is less record-breaking, however all reporting stations recorded well above normal SWE on May 1. The Susitna Valley High SNOTEL peaked on April 1, which is 10 days earlier normal, though Alexander Lake SNOTEL is headed for its latest melt-out in its 8-year record.
## Matanuska—Susitna Basin

### Snowpack Data

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Palmer</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>580</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susitna Valley High</td>
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*Estimate

### Precipitation

#### Inches Accumulated since October 1st

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<th>Last Year</th>
<th>1991-2020 Normal</th>
<th>% of Normal</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Lake</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frostbite Bottom</td>
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<td>23.1</td>
<td>18.7</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence Mine</td>
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<td>27.9</td>
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<td>7.8</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>16.8</td>
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Matanuska—Susitna Basin

Snowpack Map

Streamflow Forecasts

MATANUSKA • SUSITNA BASINS
Water Supply Forecasts
May 1, 2022

Forecast Exceedence Probabilities
<---- Drier ----> Future Conditions <---- Wetter ---->

Labels on chart represent volumes of water expressed in thousand acre-feet.

Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>95% or 90% Exceedence</th>
<th>70% Exceedence</th>
<th>50% Exceedence</th>
<th>30% Exceedence</th>
<th>10% or 5% Exceedence</th>
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<tr>
<td>There is a 95% chance that flows will exceed this volume</td>
<td>There is a 70% chance that flows will exceed this volume</td>
<td>There is a 50% chance that flows will exceed this volume</td>
<td>There is a 30% chance that flows will exceed this volume</td>
<td>There is a 10% or 5% chance that flows will exceed this volume</td>
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When selected, the following historic streamflow values and statistics will be shown.

Period of Record Minimum Streamflow KAF (Year)
1991-2020 Normal Streamflow KAF
Observed Streamflow KAF
Period of Record Maximum Streamflow KAF (Year)

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.
Northern Cook Inlet

The May 1 snowpack for the Northern Cook Inlet region is above average in all locations with a snowpack. There was no snow at the Kincaid snow course, but at 250’ ASL this is normal for the date. Every other measurement in the region is above average despite April precipitation being 34% of average. Moraine SNOTEL peaked at 11.3” SWE on April 15, which is 3 days later than normal. This value is 145% of the normal peak and will push melt out later than normal. Anchorage Hillside SNOTEL started its melt-out 10 days later than median and reached a peak SWE of 13.4” which is 132% of median peak SWE.
### Northern Cook Inlet

#### Snowpack Data

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<td>0</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>0.4</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td>2020</td>
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*Estimate

#### Snowpack Map

![Snowpack Map](image-url)
### Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>1991-2020 Normal</th>
<th>% of Normal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anchorage Hillside</td>
<td>2080</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>107%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Pass</td>
<td>2350</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>30.6</td>
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<td>117%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moraine</td>
<td>2100</td>
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<td>11.2</td>
<td>130%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Alyeska</td>
<td>1540</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>115%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>580</td>
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### Streamflow Forecasts

**NORTHERN COOK INLET**

**Water Supply Forecasts**

May 1, 2022

**Forecast Exceedance Probabilities**

- < - - - - Drier
- - - - - Future Conditions
- - - - - - - - - Wetter

Lables on chart represent volumes of water expressed in thousand acre-feet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forecast Point</th>
<th>Forecast Period</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Ck nr</td>
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</table>

Legend:

- 95% or 90% Exceedance
- 70% Exceedance
- 50% Exceedance
- 30% Exceedance
- 10% or 5% Exceedance

When selected, the following historic streamflow values and statistics will be shown.

- Period of Record Minimum Streamflow KAF (Year)
- 1991-2020 Normal Streamflow KAF
- Observed Streamflow KAF
- Period of Record Maximum Streamflow KAF (Year)

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.
Kenai Peninsula

Snowpack

The May 1 snowpack on the Kenai Peninsula is generally above normal. The low elevation snow courses Snug Harbor (500’ ASL), Jean Lake (620’ ASL) and Moose Pass (700’ ASL) were all snow free on May 1, which is typical for these locations. Most of the other snow measurements are above normal. April precipitation was below average but concentrated in a series of warm and very wet storms that occurred over the end of April, and into the first of May. This initiated an avalanche cycle that the local avalanche center noted as larger than any seen in the last 10 years. This also resulted in soaking rain below 1000’ ASL, which is likely why the Portage snow course at 50’ ASL is one of the few locations to report below normal snow on May 1. Regardless, the region boasts a considerably above normal snowpack, and melt out, when averaged amongst the telemetered stations in the region, appears to be about one week late. The high mountains sites, only measured May 1, are either similar to last year’s snowpack or markedly more wet than last year.
## Snowpack Data

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<tr>
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*Estimate*

## Snowpack Map

![Snowpack Map](image-url)
Kenai Peninsula

Precipitation

Inches Accumulated since October 1st

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>1991-2020 Normal</th>
<th>% of Normal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anchor River Divide</td>
<td>1653</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>17.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper Lake</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>115%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exit Glacier</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandview</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouse Creek Divide</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>106%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenai Moose Pens</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>115%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Kachemak Creek</td>
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<td>38.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>McNeil Canyon</td>
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<td>40.8</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>38.1</td>
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Streamflow Forecasts

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<th>Forecast Point</th>
<th>Forecast Period</th>
<th>% of Average</th>
<th>Maximum(%)</th>
<th>Minimum(%)</th>
<th>50% Exceedance (KAF)</th>
<th>30yr Average (KAF)</th>
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<td>85</td>
<td>195</td>
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The May 1 snowpack in the Western Gulf region is above normal, with all stations reporting above normal SWE on May 1. April precipitation was about half of normal for the region and included rain for low elevations. Melt at the telemetered stations is a few days early compared to normal. Mt. Eyak peaked on April 9, which is about one week early.
Western Gulf — Prince William Sound

Snowpack Data

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<tr>
<td>Exit Glacier</td>
<td>400</td>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>22.8</td>
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<td>8.6</td>
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<td>96</td>
<td>65</td>
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<td>24.0</td>
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Snowpack Map

Precipitation

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<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>1991-2020 Normal</th>
<th>% of Normal</th>
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<td>55.7</td>
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<td>19.3</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>72%</td>
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Southeast

Snowpack

The May 1 snowpack in Southeast Alaska is above normal where it persists. April precipitation was mixed across the region although generally below normal monthly precipitation. Juneau Airport and the Moore Creek Bridge SNOTEL are the only precipitation monitoring stations in the state to report near normal monthly precipitation, with rain being the predominant precipitation type at monitoring stations. The lower elevation snow courses, Fish Creek, West Creek and Petersburg Reservoir are snow free, which is typical for this date. The remainder of the monitoring stations are reporting above normal snowpack. The Long Lake SNOTEL peaked a few days earlier than its normal date to do so.
## Snowpack Data

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<td>92.8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore Creek Bridge</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>20.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore Creek Bridge SNOTEL</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Tyee Δ</td>
<td>2790</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petersburg Reservoir</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petersburgh Ridge, S.</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>21.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speel River</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>22.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyee Pass Δ</td>
<td>2820</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>88.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Creek</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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*Estimate

† Measured 4/12/22

Δ Measured 4/14/22

## Snowpack Map

### Precipitation Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>1991-2020 Normal</th>
<th>% of Normal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heen Latinee</td>
<td>2065</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>53.0</td>
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<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Lake</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>118.6</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>103.7</td>
<td>114%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moore Creek Bridge</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>91%</td>
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</table>

## Streamflow Forecast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forecast Point</th>
<th>Forecast Period</th>
<th>% of Average</th>
<th>Maximum(%)</th>
<th>Minimum(%)</th>
<th>50% Exceedance (KAF)</th>
<th>30yr Average (KAF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taiya River near Skagway</td>
<td>Apr-Jul</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For further information contact:

NRCS Alaska web site:  https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/snow/
NRCS Water and Climate Center web site:  https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/

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