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Natural  
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Service

# Alaska

# Basin Outlook Report

# February 1, 2002



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## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

### **Snowpack**

The snow pack began the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of October in South Central and north of the Alaska Range to the southern Brooks Range. This is about normal time for elevations below 1500 feet. This was late for the elevations above 1500 feet, which generally see a permanent snow pack begin about the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Most of the state saw little snow in November while a storm moved through and brought increases to South Central and the Southeast the first week of December. Significant snow fell at elevation as temperatures warmed starting the 20<sup>th</sup> of December through the Northern Kenai Mountains and through Southeast Alaska. Most of Western Alaska and north of the Alaska Range did not see the snow. The Fairbanks area has not received much snow, less than 50 percent of normal to date. Western Alaska received significant snow in January as indicated by the McGrath snow course, which is 114 percent of normal.

### **Precipitation**

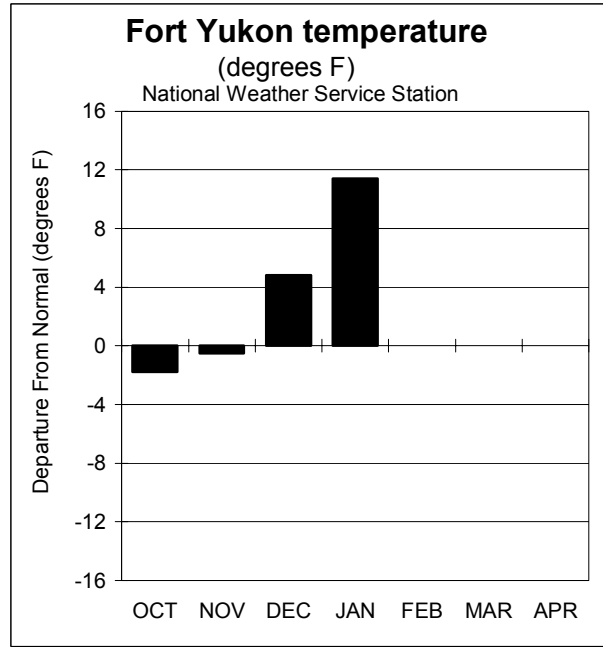
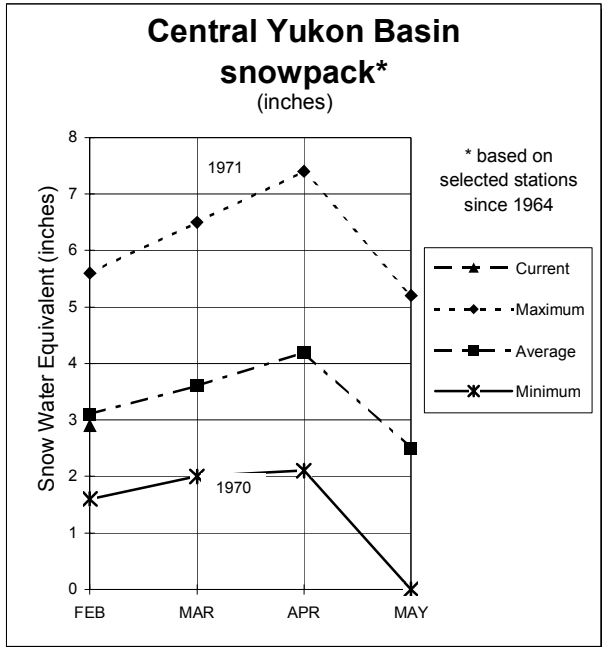
The precipitation reflects the snowpack with October being near normal. November was less than to much less than normal, December was less than to near normal, and January above normal. The exception is the Arctic North Slope where Barrow has received the least amount of precipitation in the last 25 years of measurement.

### **Temperature**

For North Central, South Central and Western Alaska the temperatures were below normal for October, November, December and above normal for January. In Southeast Alaska temperatures were below normal for October, but above for November, December, and January. The Arctic/North Slope was below normal in October and January, above normal in November and December.

# Central Yukon

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

For this very large basin, the snow water content varies from below normal to just above normal. The snow course, Borealis in the White Mountains is 62 percent of normal. Seven Mile snow course, seven miles north of the Yukon River on the Dalton Highway is 105 percent of normal. Mission Creek at Eagle is 81 percent of normal. New snow courses in the Yukon Charlie National Park and Preserve show snow depths varying from 16 to 18 inches. The Step Mountain snow course, northwest of Eagle, appears to be very wind blown.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Fairbanks: (907) 479-2657.

# Central Yukon Basin

## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Borealis	1330	No survey	--	---	14	2.9	--	---
Cathedral Creek	1800	12/02/01	8	0.8	New	---	--	---
Mission Creek	900	11/28/01	8	0.5	10	1.8	--	---
Step Mountain	2850	12/02/01	0	0.0	New	---	--	---
Tacoma Bluff	1450	12/12/01	12	1.2	New	---	--	---
Three Fingers	3350	12/02/01	10	1.0	New	---	--	---
<b>January</b>								
Cathedral Creek	1800	01/02/02	6	1.0	New	---	--	---
Copper Creek	2000	01/02/02	14	2.0	New	---	--	---
Mission Creek	900	12/31/01	10	1.8	19	3.0	15	2.6
Step Mountain	2850	01/02/02	0	0.0	New	---	--	---
Tacoma Bluff	1450	01/02/02	10	1.2	New	---	--	---
Three Fingers	3350	01/02/02	10	1.2	New	---	--	---
<b>February</b>								
Borealis	1330	1/31/02	14	2.5	18	3.0	25	4.0
Cathedral Creek	1800	1/31/02	16	2.2	New	---	--	---
Coal Creek	1000	1/31/02	17	2.1	New	---	--	---
Copper Creek	2000	1/31/02	18	2.7	New	---	--	---
Fossil	1400	2/01/02	17	2.3	18	3.0	--	---
Graphite Lake	600	No survey	--	---	16	2.6	--	---
Hess Creek	1000	2/04/02	21	3.4	23	5.5	22	3.9
Lower Beaver Creek	400	No survey	--	---	18	3.0	--	---
Mission Creek	900	1/31/02	14	2.5	18	3.2	15	3.1
Seven Mile	600	2/04/02	24	4.1	26	4.0	22	3.9
Step Mountain	2850	1/31/02	4	0.7	New	---	--	---
Tacoma Bluff	1450	1/31/02	18	2.4	New	---	--	---
Thirty Mile	1350	2/04/02	28	5.2	29	5.8	30	6.2
Three Fingers	3350	1/31/02	18	2.0	New	---	--	---
Vunzik Lake	500	No survey	--	---	13	2.0	--	---
Windy Gap	1900	2/01/02	15	2.6	22	4.0	--	---
Wolf	1300	No survey	--	---	19	3.0	--	---

## PRECIPITATION DATA

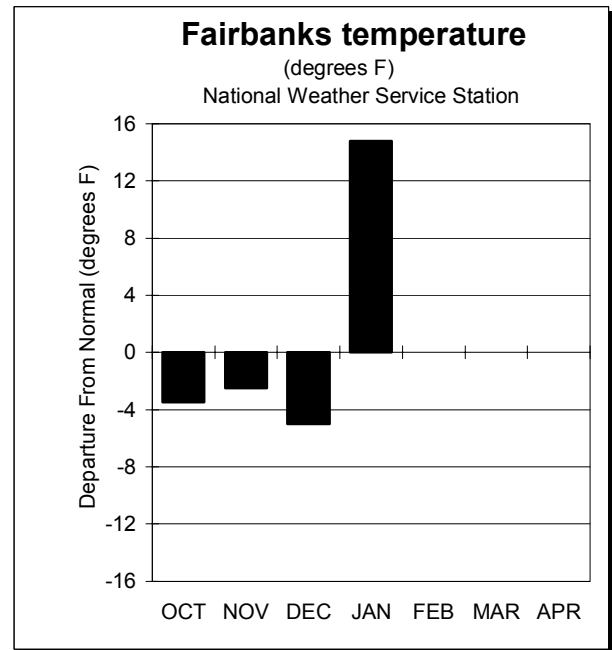
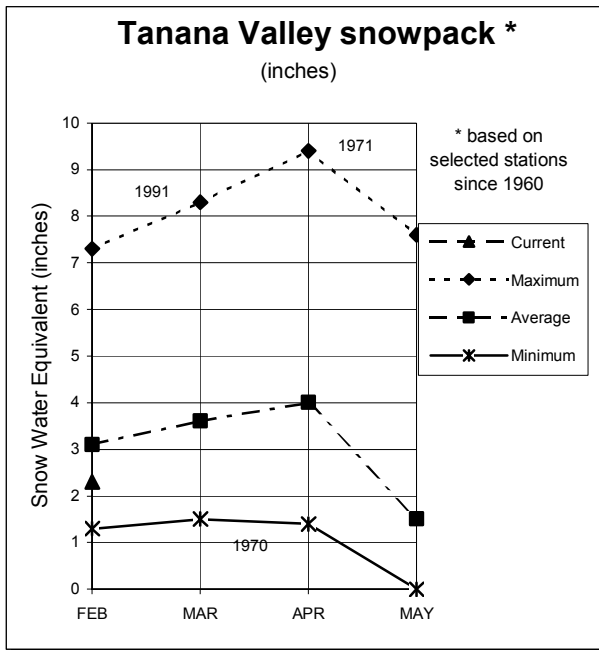
INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation	Date	This Year	Last Year	71-2000 Ave	% of Average
Atigun Pass**	4800	2/02/02	3.5	4.1	6.6	53
Chandalar Shelf**	3300	2/02/02	3.9	3.9	3.9	100
Fort Yukon	430	No report	---	2.6	---	--
Mission Creek	900	1/31/02	2.2	4.7	3.2	69

\*\*Wyoming Shielded Gauge

# Tanana Basin

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

The Tanana Valley snow water content varies from much below normal, 43 percent of normal at the Fairbanks Field Office, to 131 percent of normal at the Tok Junction snow course. The snowpack moves from below normal to near normal between Delta Junction and Tok with the Gerstle River snow course being 92 percent of normal. The Fielding Lake snow course at the headwaters of the Delta River is 55 percent of normal water content with the depth at 25 inches where normal is 37 inches.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Fairbanks: (907) 479-2657.

# Tanana Basin

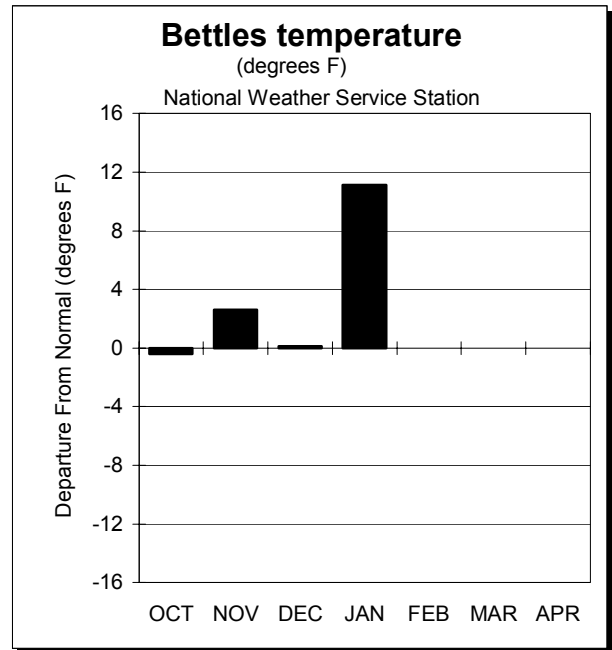
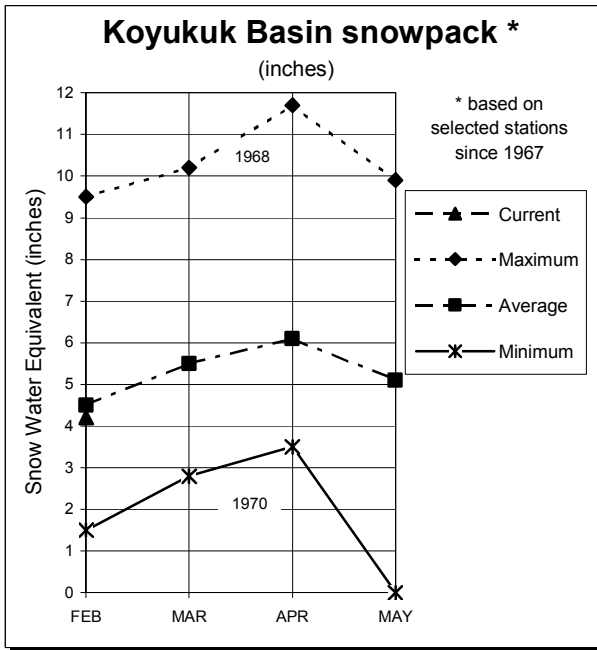
## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Bonanza Creek	1150	11/30/01	6	0.9	8	1.3	--	---
Caribou Creek	1250	12/01/01	4	0.4	11	1.6	21	3.4
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	12/01/01	4	0.4	13	1.6	20	3.2
Cleary Summit	2230	11/30/01	7	0.9	18	2.7	--	---
Colorado Creek	700	11/30/01	7	0.8	11	1.6	--	---
Edgar Creek	2400	12/12/01	11	1.2	9	1.7	--	---
Fairbanks Field Off	450	11/30/01	6	0.6	11	1.4	16	1.9
Faith Creek	1900	11/30/01	5	0.6	--	---	--	---
Fort Greely	1500	11/30/01	8	1.1	10	1.5	--	---
French Creek	1800	11/26/01	10	1.7	14	2.8	--	---
Gerstle River	1200	11/28/01	9	1.7	10	2.0	--	---
Gold King	1700	12/12/01	9	0.9	7	0.8	--	---
Granite Creek	1240	12/01/01	6	1.0	10	1.6	13	2.1
Jatahmund Lake	2180	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Kantishna	1550	11/30/01	7	0.5	--	---	--	---
Lake Minchumina	730	11/30/01	9	0.5	--	---	--	---
Paradise Hill	2200	11/30/01	13	2.1	12	2.0	--	---
Ptarmigan Airstrip	2400	12/13/01	8	0.8	6	0.7	--	---
Rock Creek Bottom	2250	11/29/01	9	0.8	10	1.4	--	---
Rock Creek Ridge	2600	11/29/01	8	0.8	10	1.5	--	---
Shaw Creek Flats	980	11/26/01	6	1.0	6	1.8	--	---
Upper Wood River	2400	12/12/01	13	1.3	10	1.4	--	---
<b>January</b>								
Bonanza Creek	1150	1/03/02	8	1.1	12	1.9	16	2.9
Caribou Creek	1250	01/01/02	6	0.7	10	1.8	17	3.0
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	01/01/02	5	0.6	11	1.6	17	3.0
Chisana	3320	12/29/01	9	1.4	16	3.6	--	---
Fairbanks Field Off	450	01/03/02	9	0.9	11	1.4	20	3.0
Kantishna	1550	01/04/02	8	0.9	--	---	--	---
Lake Minchumina	730	01/04/02	12	1.0	--	---	--	---
Lost Creek	3030	12/24/01	6	0.9	12	2.2	--	---
<b>February</b>								
Bonanza Creek	1150	2/01/02	11	1.8	12	2.4	21	4.1
Caribou Creek	1250	Delayed data	--	---	13	1.9	22	3.9
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	Delayed data	--	---	14	2.1	22	3.8
Cleary Summit	2230	1/30/02	17	2.2	20	3.3	27	5.4
Colorado Creek	700	1/30/02	18	2.1	14	1.9	21	3.8
Edgar Creek	2400	2/02/02	18	2.9	18	3.5	--	---
Fairbanks Field Off	450	1/31/02	13	1.5	15	1.8	21	3.5
Faith Creek	1900	1/30/02	15	1.9	17	2.3	24	3.9
Fielding Lake	3000	1/31/02	25	4.6	26	6.3	37	8.4
Fort Greely	1500	1/28/02	13	2.1	12	2.8	15	2.7
French Creek	1800	1/29/02	16	3.1	15	3.3	24	5.1
Gerstle River	1200	1/30/02	15	2.4	14	2.6	17	2.6
Gold King	1700	2/02/02	18	2.7	15	2.3	--	---
Granite Creek	1240	1/31/02	14	2.5	--	---	17	2.8
Jatahmund Lake	2180	1/31/02	18	2.6	16	3.0	--	---
Kantishna	1550	1/31/02	16	2.0	21	3.2	--	---
Lake Minchumina	730	1/31/02	15	1.5	--	---	19	3.2
Mentasta Pass	2430	1/30/02	25	3.4	21	4.1	24	4.8
Paradise Hill	2200	1/31/02	20	3.2	17	2.9	--	---
Ptarmigan Airstrip	2400	1/31/02	12	1.9	12	2.7	--	---
Rock Creek Bottom	2250	2/01/02	14	1.8	12	2.0	--	---
Rock Creek Ridge	2600	2/01/02	13	1.7	12	2.3	--	---
Shaw Creek Flats	980	1/29/02	10	1.7	9	1.8	15	2.6
Tok Junction	1650	1/30/02	24	3.4	17	3.0	17	2.6
Upper Wood River	2400	2/02/02	14	2.1	15	2.9	--	---



# Western Interior Basins

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

### Koyukuk

From the foothills of the Brooks Range south and west, the snow water content appears to be a little above normal with the Bonanza Forks snow course being 107 percent of normal. Disaster Creek is also above normal at 113 percent. Coldfoot has 21 inches of snow depth and 3.7 inches of snow water content, 72 percent of normal.

### Kuskokwim

The McGrath snow course is 114 percent of normal water content while the Lake Minchumina snow course, indicating the northern and eastern part of the basin is 47 percent of normal.

### Lower Yukon

The Innoko Inn snow course water content is 214 percent of last year, 3.0 inches of snow water compared to 1.4 inches for last year. The snow depths from the Innoko Wildlife Refuge snow courses appear to be 20 to 30 percent greater than last year.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Anchorage: (907) 271-2424.

## Western Interior Basins

### SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>Koyukuk - December</b>								
Bettles Field	640	No survey	--	---	20	1.8	20	3.1
Kaldoyeit	580	11/26/01	12	1.2	--	---	--	---
Kanuti-Chalatna	550	11/26/01	14	1.4	--	---	--	---
Kanuti-Kilolitna	550	11/26/01	15	1.5	--	---	--	---
Minnkokut	580	11/26/01	14	1.4	--	---	--	---
Nolitna	560	11/26/01	12	1.2	--	---	--	---
Tailholman	540	11/26/01	4	0.4	--	---	--	---
<b>Kuskokwim - December</b>								
McGrath	340	No survey	--	---	18	3.7	--	---
Purkeypile Mine	2030	11/30/01	13	2.0	--	---	--	---
Telaquana Lake	1550	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
<b>Koyukuk - February</b>								
Bettles Field	640	No survey	--	---	28	3.2	27	5.2
Bonanza Forks	900	2/04/02	24	4.6	22	4.3	21	4.3
Coldfoot	1040	Estimate	21	3.7	22	4.0	27	5.1
Disaster Creek	1550	2/05/02	20	3.4	18	3.0	18	3.0
Kaldoyeit	580	1/28/02	24	4.4	10	1.3	--	---
Kanuti-Chelatna	550	1/28/02	21	3.8	26	4.7	--	---
Kanuti-Kilolitna	550	1/28/02	29	5.4	19	2.8	--	---
Minnkokut	580	1/28/02	32	6.0	26	4.7	--	---
Nolitna	560	1/28/02	27	5.0	27	5.1	--	---
Tailholman	540	1/28/02	5	1.0	4	0.4	--	---
Table Mountain	2200	2/05/02	17	3.2	21	4.7	22	3.4
<b>Kuskokwim - February</b>								
Lake Minchumina	730	1/31/02	15	1.5	--	---	19	3.2
McGrath	340	2/04/02	24	5.0	18	4.0	26	4.4
Purkeypile Mine	2030	1/30/02	19	3.2	19	3.5	--	---
Telaquana Lake	1550	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Upper Twin Lakes	2000	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
<b>Lower Yukon - February</b>								
Grouch Creek	220	No survey	--	---	12	1.8	--	---
Holikachuk	100	1/31/02	39	8.2	27	6.2	--	---
Horsefly Creek	180	1/31/02	37	7.4	0	0.0	--	---
Innoko Cabin	200	2/06/02	22	3.0	15	1.4	--	---
McGrath	340	2/04/02	24	5.0	18	4.0	26	4.4
Menotl Creek	380	1/31/02	45	10.4	41	10.2	--	---
Middle Innoko	150	1/31/02	42	9.2	21	4.8	--	---
Upper Innoko	180	1/31/02	42	9.4	23	5.3	--	---
Wapoo Hills	220	1/31/02	36	7.6	17	3.7	--	---
Yankee Slough	100	1/31/02	40	8.6	34	8.2	--	---
Yetna River	120	No survey	--	---	24	5.3	--	---

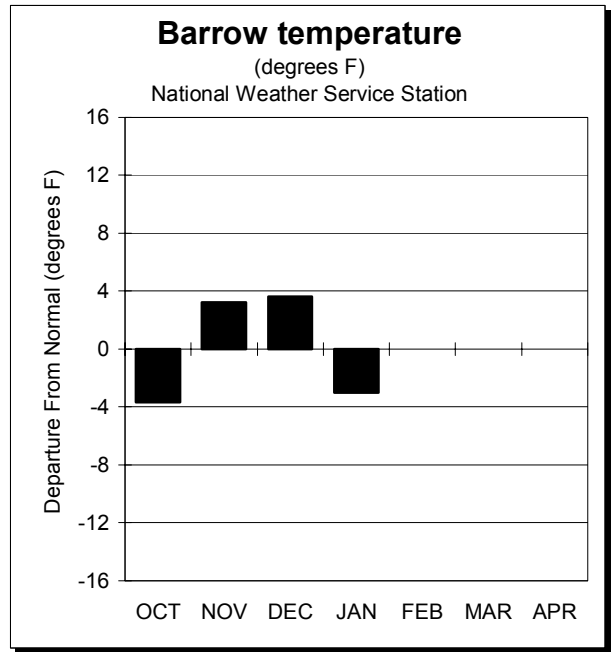
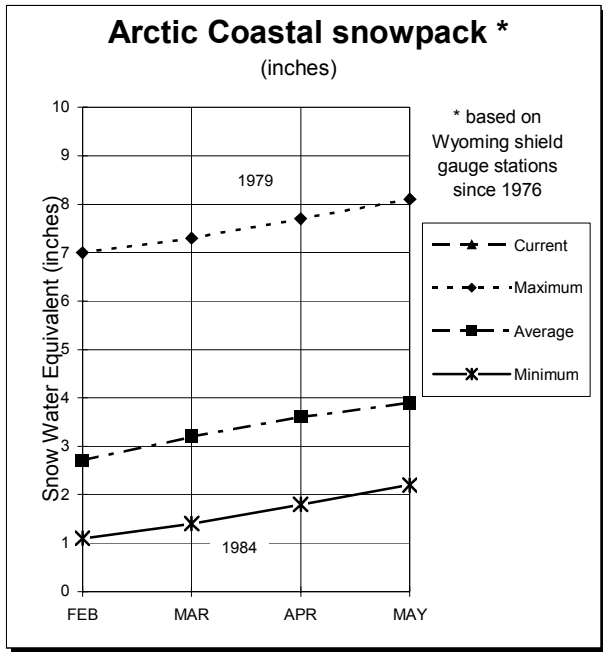
### PRECIPITATION DATA

INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation	Date	This Year	Last Year	71-2000 Ave	% of Average
Bettles Field	640	No Report	---	---	5.4	117
Coldfoot	1040	2/04/02	4.2	4.0	5.4	78
Gobblers Knob	2030	2/04/02	6.2	5.0	--	--

# Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

### Arctic

The Barrow nipher shielded precipitation gauge has received 1.0 inches of precipitation since October 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a record low for the gauge that has been operating since 1976.

### Kotzebue

The Kugarak Camp snow course was re-established this year after 10 years of no readings. This site is east of Kotzebue along the Kobuk River. The Red Dog precipitation gauge has received 2.6 inches since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 53 percent of normal

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Anchorage: (907) 271-2424.

# Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Kugaruk	225	11/20/01	4	0.4	New	---	--	---
<b>January</b>								
Kugaruk	225	12/22/01	18	3.0	New	---	--	---
<b>February</b>								
Kugaruk	225	2/02/02	19	3.5	New	---	--	---

## PRECIPITATION DATA

INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation	Date	This Year	Last Year	71-2000 Ave	% of Average
<b>Arctic</b>						
Atigun Camp	3400	2/02/02	1.8	1.4	3.9	46
Atigun Pass	4800	2/02/02	3.5	4.1	6.6	53
Barrow	25	2/06/02	1.0	1.6	2.2	45
Imnaviat Creek*	3050	1/31/02	2.3	2.2	2.9	79
Prudhoe Bay	30	No report	---	---	2.9	--
<b>Kotzebue Sound</b>						
Red Dog	950	1/31/02	2.6	2.5	4.9	53

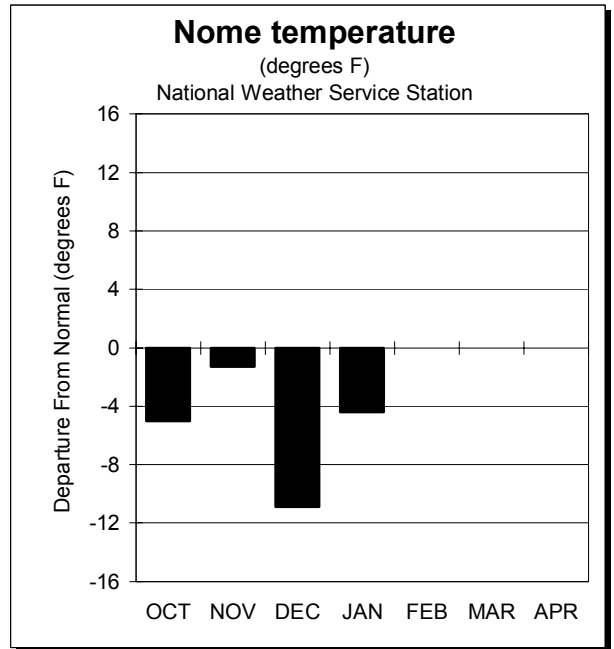
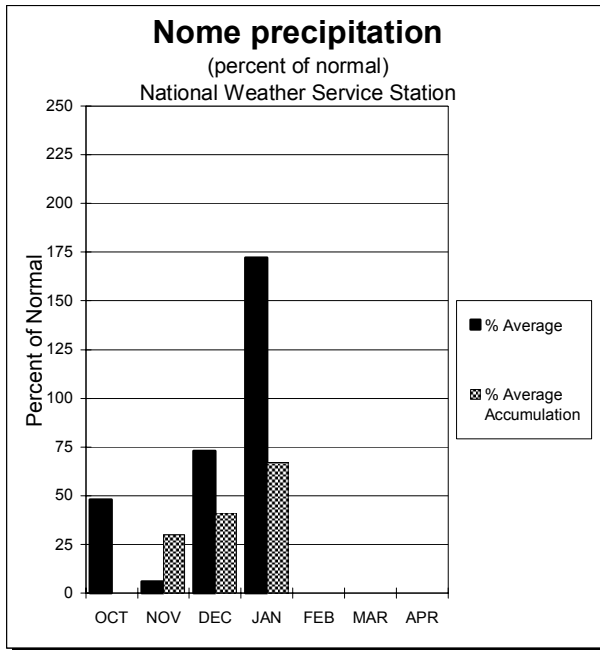
\*- Imnaviat Creek formally Toolik River

## WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

REGION / RIVER BASIN	# COURSES AVERAGED	THIS YEAR	AS LAST YEAR	PERCENT OF AVERAGE
Arctic Coast	1	62		45
Dalton Highway	2	96		50

# Norton Sound / Southwest Delta / Bristol Bay

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

### Norton Sound

Pargon Creek SNOTEL site, as of February 1<sup>st</sup> had 11 inches of snow depth and had received 2.4 inches of precipitation since October 1<sup>st</sup> 2001. This site is located in the Fish River Flats northeast of White Mountain. Last year it had 9 inches of snow were measured.

### Bristol Bay

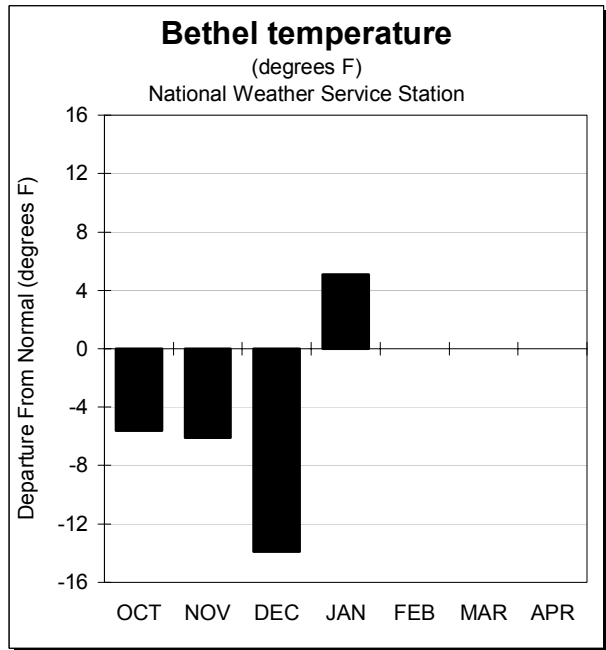
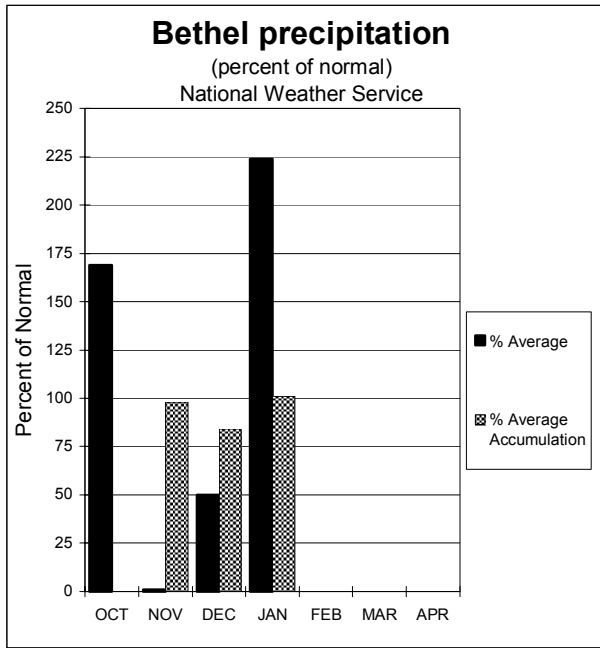
The Brooks Camp snow course had 6 inches of snow on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. This is probably 60 to 70 percent of normal. King Salmon has reported up to 10 inches of snow on the ground this winter with 5 inches reported at the end of January, according to the National Weather Service observer. No report of snow surveys this month from Lake Clark/ Port Alsworth surveyors.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Bethel: (907)543-7155.

# Norton Sound / Southwest Delta / Bristol Bay

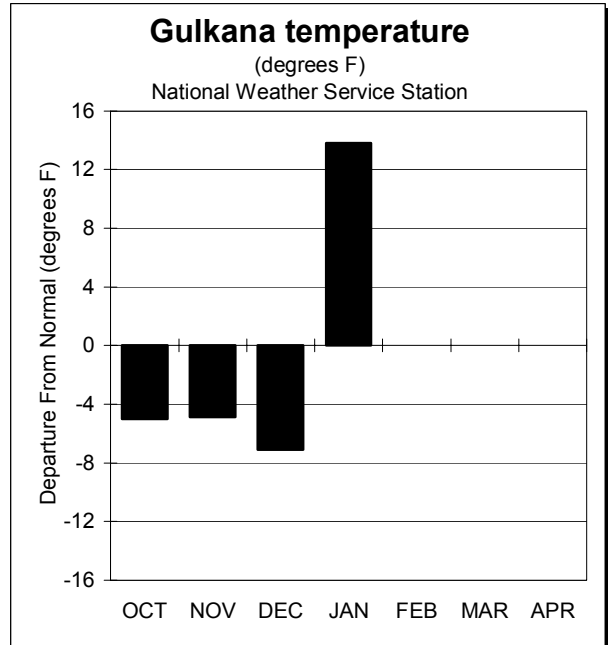
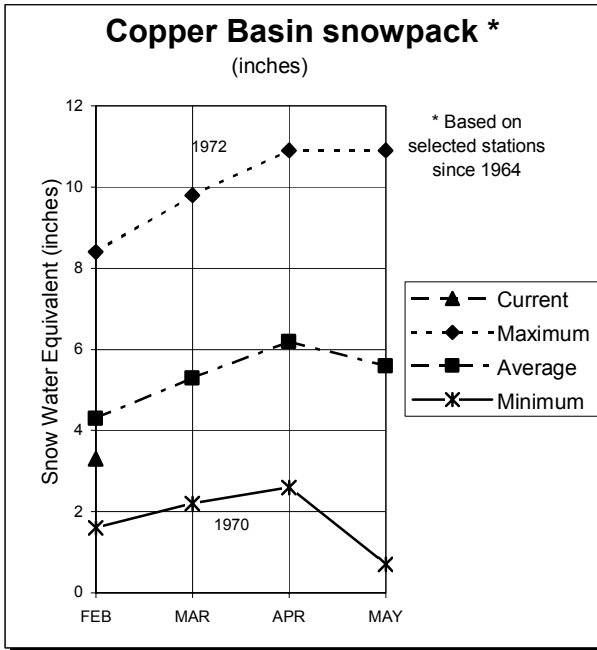
## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>Bristol Bay - December</b>								
Brooks Camp	150	No survey	--	---	--	---	---	---
Fishtrap Lake	1800	No survey	--	---	--	---	---	---
Port Alsworth	270	No survey	--	---	--	---	---	---
Three Forks	900	No survey	--	---	--	---	---	---
<b>Bristol Bay - February</b>								
Brooks Camp	150	1/28/02	6	1.8	--	---	---	---
Fishtrap Lake	1800	No survey	--	---	--	---	---	---
Port Alsworth	270	No survey	--	---	--	---	---	---



# Copper Basin

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

The basin appears to be in the 70 to 90 percent range of snow water content for most areas. The exception is to the south or the Chugach Mountains where Kenny Lake has 1 inch of snow water content (38 percent of normal) and St. Anne Lake has 1.3 inches of snow water (32 percent of normal).

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Delta Junction: (907)895-4241 or Anchorage: (907)271-2424.

# Copper Basin

## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Kenny Lake School	1300	11/29/01	6	1.0	--	---	--	---
Lake Louise	2400	11/30/01	11	1.5	16	2.8	--	---
Little Nelchina	2650	11/30/01	12	1.5	18	2.9	--	---
Tazlina	1220	11/29/01	9	2.0	--	---	--	---
Tolsona Creek	2000	11/30/01	9	1.4	17	2.7	--	---
Tsina River	1650	11/30/01	18	3.4	--	---	--	---
<b>January</b>								
Chokosna	1550	12/23/01	11	1.5	12	2.9	--	---
Dadina Lake	2160	01/02/02	15	2.0	16	2.7	19	3.0
Horsepasture Pass	4300	12/30/01	19	2.8	24	4.6	--	---
Kenny Lake School	1300	01/03/02	11	1.0	--	---	13	2.2
May Creek	3100	12/29/01	17	3.0	18	4.2	--	---
Monsoon Lake	3100	01/01/02	16	2.1	13	2.1	--	---
Sanford River	2280	01/02/02	18	2.5	15	2.5	18	3.2
St. Anne Lake	1990	12/30/01	13	1.7	18	3.2	--	---
Tazlina	1220	01/03/02	13	2.0	--	---	--	---
Tsina River	1650	01/03/02	27	4.8	--	---	--	---
Twin Lakes	2400	12/30/01	19	2.8	15	2.8	20	3.7
<b>February</b>								
Chistochina	2170	1/31/02	13	2.3	11	1.7	18	3.0
Dadina Lake	2160	2/09/02	19	3.2	25	4.2	24	4.1
Fielding Lake	3000	1/31/02	25	4.6	26	6.3	37	8.4
Haggard Creek	2540	1/31/02	22	4.2	23	4.1	24	4.5
Horsepasture Pass	4300	No survey	--	---	30	6.2	24	4.6
Kenny Lake School	1300	2/02/02	11	1.0	12	2.4	14	2.6
Lake Louise	2400	1/29/02	19	2.9	22	3.5	20	3.3
Little Nelchina	2650	1/29/02	19	2.6	25	4.5	--	---
Mentasta Pass	2430	1/30/02	25	3.4	21	4.1	24	4.8
Monsoon Lake	3100	1/31/02	26	4.6	17	2.9	25	4.7
Paxson	2650	1/31/02	23	4.6	22	4.1	28	5.5
Sanford River	2280	2/09/02	21	3.7	18	3.2	24	4.2
St. Anne Lake	1990	2/09/02	11	1.3	27	5.1	21	4.0
Tazlina	1220	2/02/02	16	1.8	11	2.1	--	---
Tolsona Creek	2000	1/29/02	16	2.5	22	4.1	19	3.2
Tsina River	1650	2/02/02	42	8.6	56	14.3	50	12.5
Twin Lakes	2400	2/09/02	18	3.1	27	5.4	26	4.9

## WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

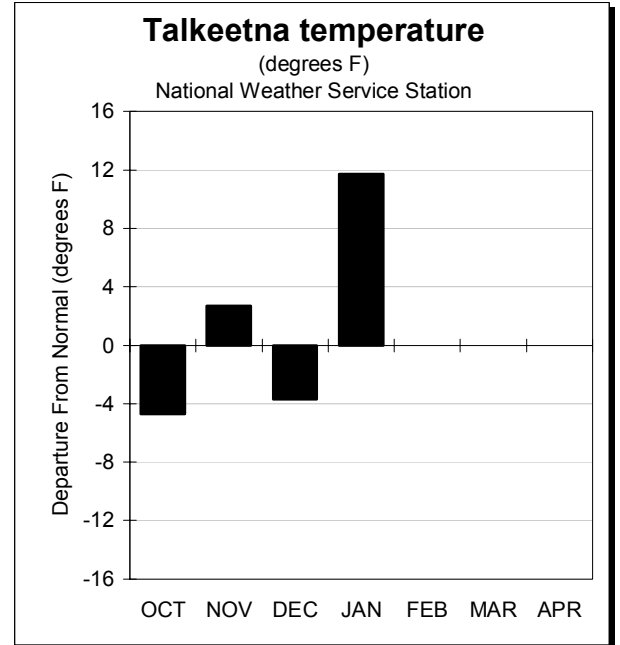
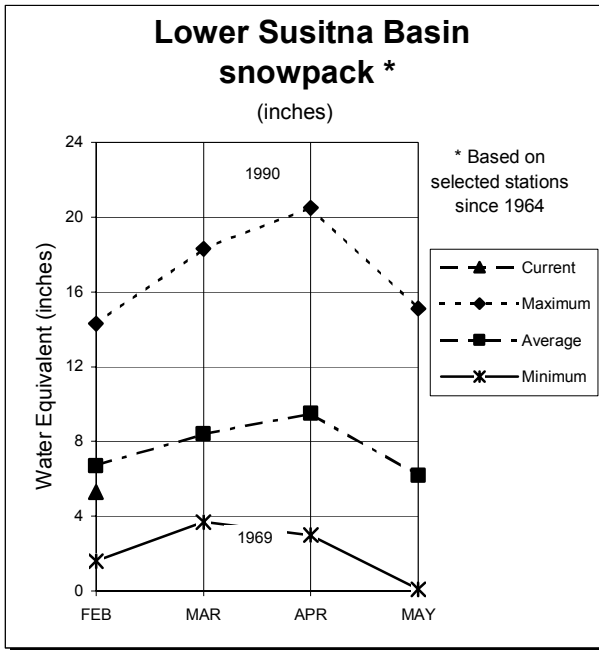
REGION / RIVER BASIN	# COURSES AVERAGED	THIS YEAR	AS LAST YEAR	PERCENT OF AVERAGE
Alaska Range	4	99		74
Basin Floor	4	93		91
Chugach Range	3	42		47
Talkeetna Mountains	1	59		76
Wrangell Mountains	2	93		83

\*At the foot of the Alaska Range.



# Matanuska - Susitna Basins

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

The Parks Highway snow course water contents vary from 77 percent of normal at Willow, to 50 percent of normal at Denali View to 64 percent of normal at the E. Fork Chulitna. The west side of the basin has Alexander Lake at 79 percent of normal water content, Skwentna at 72 percent and Chelatna Lake at 106 percent. Sheep Mountain snow course, up the Glenn Highway is 76 percent normal water content.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Wasilla: (907) 373-6490.

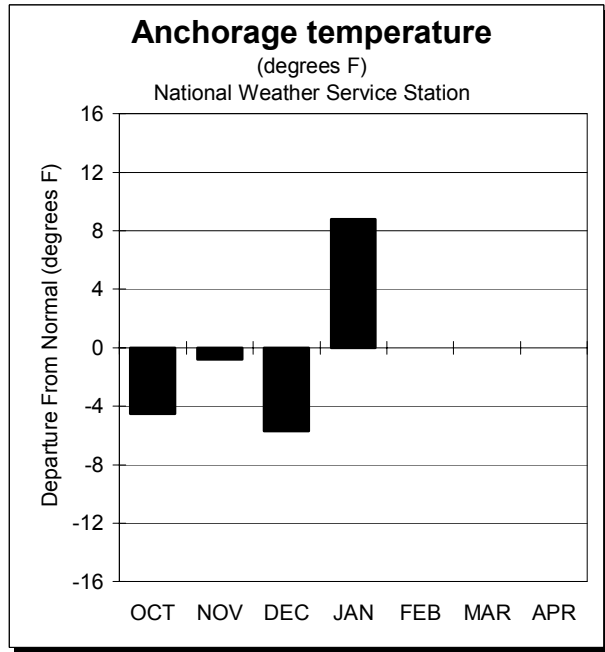
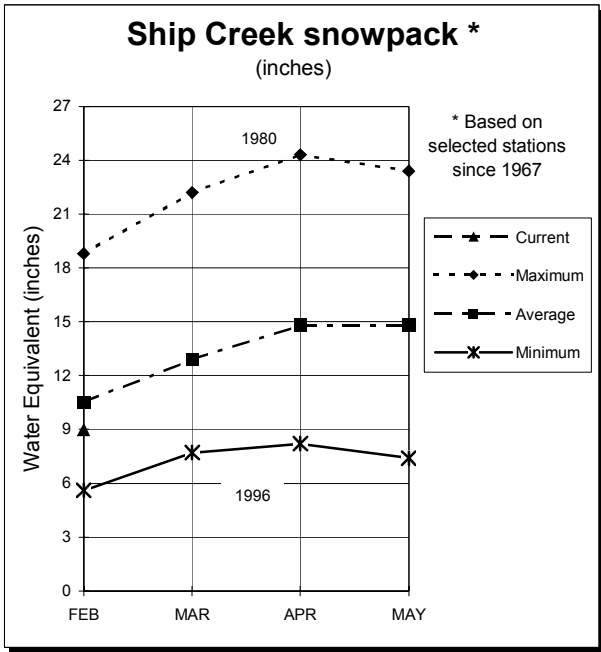
# Matanuska - Susitna Basins

## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Archangel Road	2200	11/28/01	13	2.1	13	2.8	--	---
Blueberry Hill	1200	11/08/01	8	0.7	42	8.7	--	---
Chelatna Lake	1650	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Denali View	700	11/28/01	8	0.5	34	6.9	--	---
Dutch Hills	3100	11/30/01	21	3.4	--	---	--	---
E. Fork Chulitna	1800	11/28/01	14	1.7	38	7.9	--	---
Fishhook Basin	3300	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Independence Mine	3550	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Lake Louise	2400	11/30/01	11	1.5	--	---	--	---
Little Susitna	1700	11/29/01	11	1.7	10	2.4	--	---
Moose Creek Ranch	450	11/30/01	7	1.1	--	---	--	---
Nugget Bench	2010	11/30/01	13	1.6	--	---	--	---
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	11/30/01	20	3.0	--	---	--	---
Sheep Mountain	2900	11/30/01	13	1.9	17	3.0	--	---
Susitna Valley High	500	11/28/01	7	0.6	11	2.0	21	4.0
Talkeetna	350	11/28/01	5	0.4	15	3.0	--	---
Tokositna Valley	850	11/30/01	21	2.9	--	---	--	---
Willow Airstrip	200	11/28/01	10	1.0	6	0.9	--	---
<b>January</b>								
Clearwater Lake	2650	01/01/02	26	3.6	20	3.6	20	3.4
Fishhook Basin	3300	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Fog Lakes	2120	12/30/01	11	1.5	13	2.1	--	---
Independence Mine	3550	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Monahan Flats	2710	12/30/01	14	1.7	19	3.4	--	---
Square Lake	2950	12/30/01	13	1.6	14	2.4	15	2.5
Tyone River	2500	12/30/01	19	2.6	15	2.6	--	---
<b>February</b>								
Alexander Lake	160	2/05/02	36	6.8	34	7.9	37	8.6
Archangel Road	2200	1/31/02	41	6.9	33	6.7	43	12.1
Blueberry Hill	1200	2/01/02	29	5.7	45	11.4	49	11.5
Chelatna Lake	1650	2/01/02	44	8.8	21	4.9	36	8.3
Clearwater Lake	2650	No survey	--	---	25	4.5	24	4.2
Denali View	700	2/01/02	26	4.8	38	9.5	42	9.6
Dutch Hills	3100	2/01/02	57	14.8	69	21.4	69	19.6
E. Fork Chulitna	1800	2/01/02	32	6.7	41	9.8	45	10.5
Fishhook Basin	3300	2/08/02	47	8.8	34	7.4	51	15.4
Fog Lakes	2120	1/31/02	18	2.9	15	2.6	25	4.5
Independence Mine	3550	2/04/02	49	10.8	42	9.0	61	18.1
Lake Louise	2400	1/29/02	19	2.9	22	3.5	20	3.3
Little Susitna	1700	1/31/02	39	6.8	27	5.2	37	9.6
Monahan Flat	2710	1/31/02	23	4.1	28	5.6	31	6.1
Moose Creek Ranch	450	1/29/02	20	3.0	--	---	--	---
Nugget Bench	2010	2/01/02	45	11.6	44	10.6	45	10.9
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	2/01/02	64	15.4	67	19.4	61	16.3
Sheep Mountain	2900	1/29/02	20	3.5	29	5.9	23	4.6
Skwentna	160	2/05/02	32	6.1	36	9.0	37	8.5
Square Lake	2950	No survey	--	---	20	3.4	19	3.2
Susitna Valley High	500	2/01/02	30	4.9	23	3.7	34	6.8
Talkeetna	350	2/01/02	24	3.8	24	4.8	28	6.2
Tokositna Valley	850	2/01/02	57	13.1	59	17.1	55	13.6
Tyone River	2500	1/31/02	23	4.1	20	3.2	--	---
Willow Airstrip	200	2/01/02	26	4.4	12	2.1	26	5.7

# Northern Cook Inlet

February 1, 2002



**SNOWCOVER:**

The two Anchorage Hillside snow courses measured right at normal water content the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, as did Mt. Alyeska, above midway, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. The Indian Pass SNOTEL site, in the headwaters of Ship Creek shows 73 percent of normal water content. The Point Mackenzie area measured 86 percent of normal and the trend probably is the same for the West side of Cook Inlet southwest to Tyonek.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office:  
Wasilla: (907) 373-6492 Anchorage: (907) 271-2424.

# Northern Cook Inlet

## SNOW PACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Anchorage Hillside	2080	11/28/01	17	3.6	5	0.9	--	---
Kincaid Park	250	11/30/01	9	1.2	4	0.6	--	---
Mt. Alyeska	1540	No survey	--	---	27	8.2	--	---
Point Mackenzie	200	12/03/01	11	1.5	4	0.7	--	---
Portage Valley	50	11/29/01	19	5.0	0	0.0	--	---
South Campbell Creek	1200	11/28/01	13	2.8	3	0.5	--	---
<b>January</b>								
Kincaid Park	250	01/02/02	12	2.9	2	0.8	--	---
Portage Valley	50	12/30/01	19	6.7	0	0.0	--	---
<b>February</b>								
Anchorage Hillside	2080	1/29/02	30	7.2	32	5.9	30	7.1
Indian Pass	2350	Estimate	42	12.3	60	20.9	57	16.8
Kincaid Park	250	2/04/02	16	3.6	12	2.5	---	---
Mt. Alyeska	1540	2/01/02	74	23.7	113	34.8	78	23.5
Point Mackenzie	200	2/01/02	21	3.7	8	1.4	19	4.3
Portage Valley	50	1/31/02	15	5.3	0	0.0	33	10.4
South Campbell Creek	1200	1/29/02	21	5.0	18	2.7	22	5.0

## PRECIPITATION DATA

INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

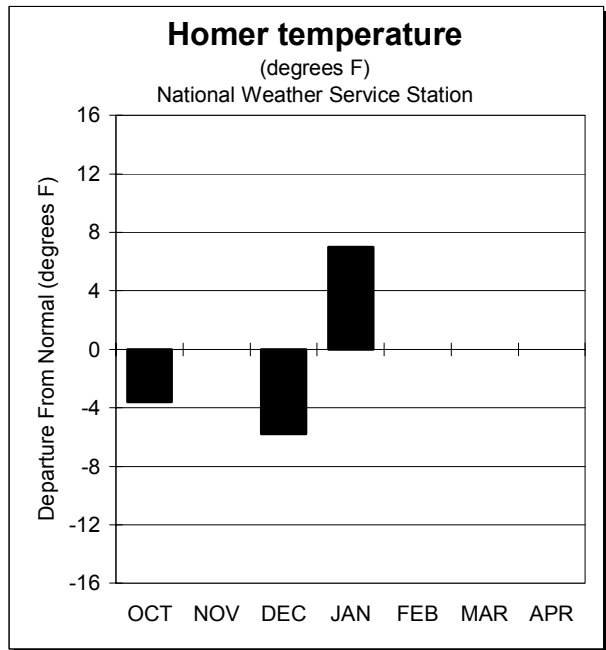
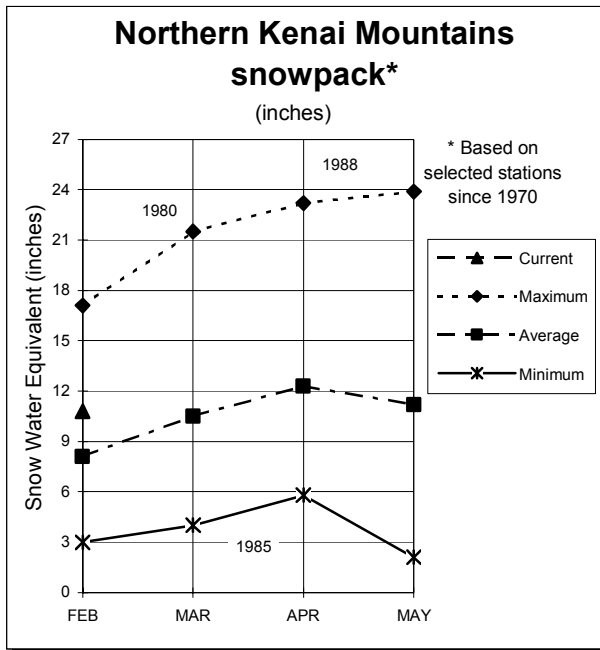
Precipitation Gauge	Elevation	Date	This Year	Last Year	71-2000 Ave	% of Average
Indian Pass	2350	1/31/02	15.3	19.4	17.3	88
Mt. Alyeska	1540	2/01/02	33.4	35.0	28.3	72
Point Mackenzie	200	1/22/02	2.7	4.0	5.5	49

## WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

REGION / RIVER BASIN	# COURSES AVERAGED	THIS YEAR	AS LAST YEAR	PERCENT OF AVERAGE
Campbell Creek	2		142	101
Ship Creek	1		59	73
Turnagain Arm	2		83	87

# Kenai Peninsula

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

The Northern Kenai Mountains, as well as the mountains bordering the Gulf of Alaska, have an above to much above normal snow water content. The Turnagain Pass snow course water content is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest measured in the 21 year record, 144 percent of normal. The Moose Pass snow course water content is 193 percent of normal. On the rim above Homer, Bridge Creek snow course is 136 percent of normal and out East End road McNeil Canyon is 127 percent of normal.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Homer: (907) 235-8177.

# Kenai Peninsula

## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Bertha Creek	950	11/30/01	19	4.3	--	---	--	---
Bridge Creek	1300	11/28/01	8	1.4	12	2.0	--	---
Cooper Lake	1200	11/30/01	15	3.0	12	2.8	34	7.5
Demonstration Forest	780	11/29/01	7	1.6	0	0.0	--	---
Eagle Lake	1400	11/28/01	9	2.2	--	---	--	---
Grouse Creek Divide	700	11/30/01	13	3.0	12	2.8	29	7.6
Jean Lake	620	11/30/01	6	1.0	0	0.0	--	---
Kenai Moose Pens	300	12/01/01	8	0.8	4	0.8	--	---
Kenai Summit	1390	12/01/01	16	2.3	--	---	--	---
McNeil Canyon	1320	11/28/01	9	1.9	0	0.0	21	3.9
Moose Pass	700	12/01/01	11	1.9	--	---	--	---
Nanwalek	500	No survey	--	---	0	0.0	--	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	11/29/01	11	3.4	23	8.6	--	---
Port Graham	300	11/30/01	1	0.5	0	0.0	--	---
Snug Harbor Road	500	11/30/01	7	1.0	0	0.0	--	---
Summit Creek	1400	11/30/01	13	2.1	--	---	23	5.6
<b>January</b>								
Bertha Creek	950	12/29/01	37	9.3	34	6.6	30	7.8
Cooper Lake	1200	1/02/02	30	9.0	20	5.3	34	7.5
Grouse Creek Divide	700	1/02/02	23	8.0	12	2.8	29	7.6
Jean Lake	620	No survey	--	---	0	0.0	--	---
Kenai Moose Pens	300	12/31/01	13	1.3	2	0.5	9	1.9
Kenai Summit	1390	12/29/01	32	5.7	34	7.7	32	6.9
Moose Pass	700	12/29/01	20	5.6	--	---	11	2.2
Snug Harbor Road	500	01/02/02	13	3.8	0	0.0	12	1.9
Summit Creek	1400	12/29/01	29	5.6	23	6.1	23	5.6
<b>February</b>								
Bertha Creek	950	1/29/02	47	12.5	55	16.1	43	11.6
Bridge Creek	1300	1/30/02	40	10.6	48	11.6	32	7.8
Cooper Lake	1200	2/01/02	51	12.5	53	12.8	45	12.0
Demonstration Forest	780	1/31/02	21	5.7	19	3.3	23	5.7
Eagle Lake	1400	1/31/02	49	12.4	59	14.9	32	8.1
Grandview	1100	Estimate	67	20.0	--	---	64	18.9
Grouse Creek Divide	700	1/31/02	41	13.8	38	9.3	41	11.5
Jean Lake	620	2/02/02	19	3.0	10	0.9	15	3.1
Kenai Moose Pens	300	1/31/02	19	5.2	5	1.0	15	3.3
Kenai Summit	1390	1/29/02	43	11.1	57	15.5	39	9.9
McNeil Canyon	1320	1/30/02	34	9.0	41	9.9	31	7.1
Moose Pass	700	1/29/02	25	8.9	20	5.6	18	4.6
Nanwalek	500	No survey	--	---	--	---	--	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	1/31/02	73	31.2	108	29.3	50	22.0
Port Graham	300	No survey	--	---	40	9.6	--	---
Snug Harbor Road	500	2/01/02	19	4.8	8	1.4	17	3.6
Summit Creek	1400	1/29/02	40	9.2	45	10.9	33	8.2
Turnagain Pass	1880	1/29/02	92	31.8	145	43.1	81	22.0

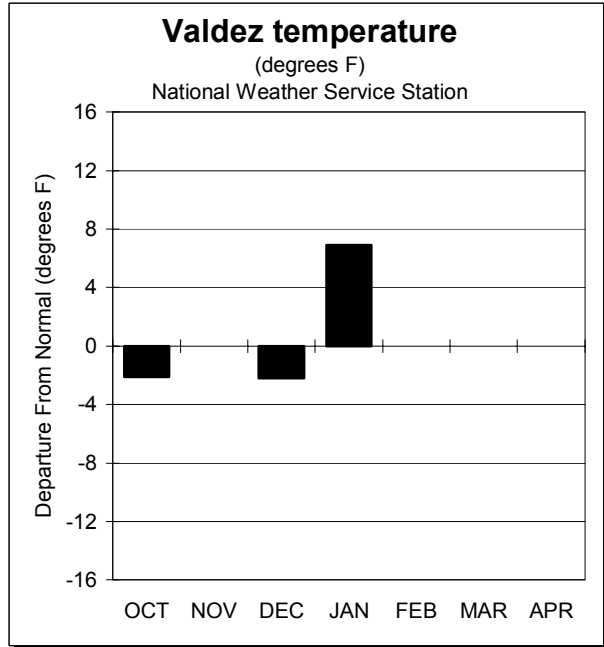
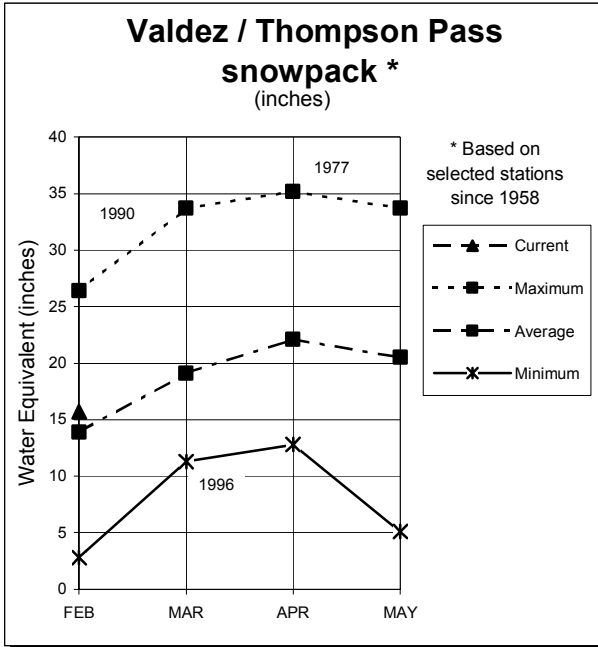
## PRECIPITATION DATA

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation	Date	INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1 <sup>ST</sup>			
			This Year	Last Year	71-2000 Ave	% of Average
Cooper Lake	1200	2/01/02	18.3	27.5	16.6	110
Grandview	1100	1/31/02	30.1	52.4	25.7	117
Grouse Creek Divide	700	1/31/02	29.7	54.7	24.2	123
Kenai Moose Pens	300	1/31/02	4.8	5.5	5.5	87
McNeil Canyon	1320	1/30/02	12.8	18.2	11.3	113
Middle Fork Bradley**	2300	Delayed	data	38.3	26.0	--
Nuka Glacier**	1250	Delayed	data	63.5	40.3	--
Summit Creek	1400	1/24/02	12.8	18.0	12.7	101
Turnagain Pass	1880	1/29/02	34.7	49.7	26.6	130

\*\*Wyoming Shielded gauge

# Western Gulf

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

The Sugarloaf Mountain snow course measured 118 percent of normal snow water content. The Valdez snow course was 92 percent, while Lowe River (mile 18) was right at normal. Worthington Glacier 113 percent and Tsina River at 62 percent of normal.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Homer: (907) 235-8177.

# Western Gulf

## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Grouse Creek Divide	700	11/30/01	13	3.0	2	0.4	29	7.6
Lowe River	600	11/30/01	15	2.0	--	---	--	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	11/29/01	11	3.5	--	---	--	---
Tsina River	1650	11/30/01	18	3.4	--	---	--	---
Valdez	50	11/30/01	8	1.0	--	---	--	---
Worthington Glacier	2100	11/30/01	24	4.4	--	---	--	---

## **January**

Grouse Creek Divide	700	01/02/02	23	8.0	12	2.9	29	7.6
Lowe River	600	01/03/02	36	7.2	--	---	--	---
Sugarloaf Mountain	530	12/29/01	34	7.9	49	12.3	--	---
Tsina River	1650	01/03/02	33	7.0	--	---	--	---
Valdez	50	01/03/02	27	4.8	--	---	--	---
Worthington Glacier	2100	01/03/02	49	10.8	--	---	--	---

## **February**

Exit Glacier	400	2/06/02	56	15.5	38	11.1	--	---
Grouse Creek Divide	700	1/31/02	41	13.8	38	9.3	41	11.5
Lowe River	600	2/02/02	45	11.7	44	11.2	46	11.8
Nuka Glacier	1250	1/31/02	73	31.8	108	29.3	61	24.2
Sugarloaf Mountain	530	1/29/02	70	21.4	89	22.3	65	18.2
Tsina River	1650	2/02/02	42	8.6	56	14.3	50	12.5
Valdez	50	2/02/02	42	10.9	55	12.3	45	11.9
Worthington Glacier	2100	2/02/02	61	18.8	80	22.4	62	16.6

## PRECIPITATION DATA

INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation	Date	This Year	Last Year	71-2000 Ave	% of Average
Grouse Creek Divide	700	1/31/02	29.7	54.7	24.2	123
Nuka Glacier**	1250	Delayed	data	63.5	40.3	158
Solomon Gulch*	36	1/31/02	26.4	37.4	27.2	97
Sugarloaf Mountain	530	1/29/02	26.6	38.8	29.9	89

\*\*Wyoming Shielded Gauge

\*Copper Valley Electric Association

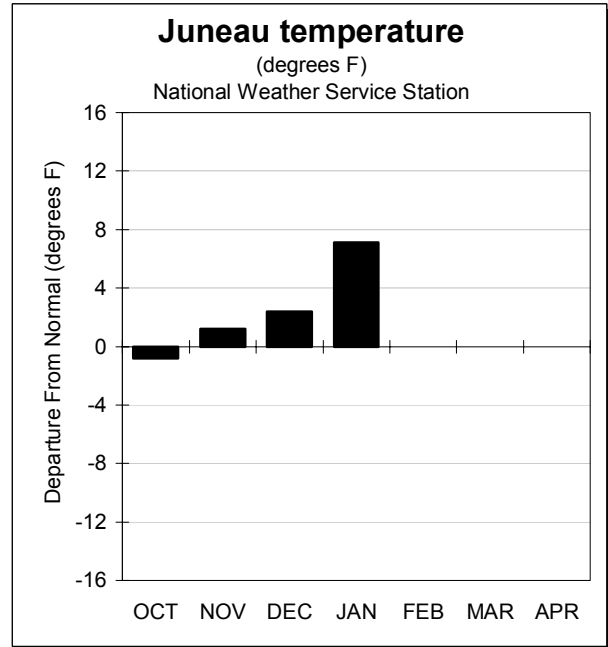
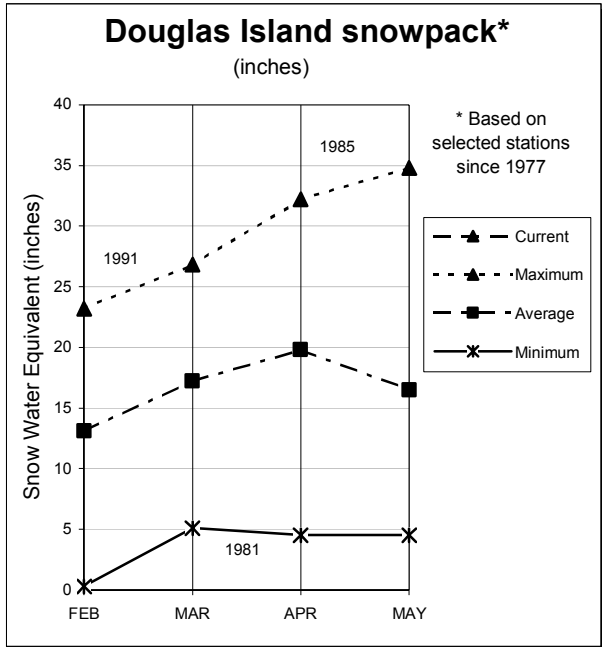
## WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

REGION / RIVER BASIN	# COURSES AVERAGED	THIS YEAR AS LAST YEAR	PERCENT OF AVERAGE
Lowe River (Valdez)	3	90	103



# Southeast

February 1, 2002



## SNOWCOVER:

The Petersburg snow courses are 124 percent of normal. The Long Lake SNOTEL site is reporting 107 inches of snow depth and 29.5 inches of water content. The Swan Lake snow courses near Ketchikan appear to be normal to above. The length of record has not permitted averages to be established.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Anchorage: (907) 271-2424.

# Southeast

## SNOWPACK DATA

SNOWCOURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVE.	
			SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT
<b>December</b>								
Cropley Lake	1650	11/30/01	21	6.9	--	---	53	15.9
Eagle Crest	1000	11/30/01	1	0.2	--	---	27	7.5
Fish Creek	500	11/30/01	0	0.0	--	---	6	1.5
Long Lake	1020	Estimate	28	10.4	10	2.8	--	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	11/29/01	14	4.0	19	3.9	--	---
Petersburg Reservoir	550	11/30/01	0	0.0	0	0.0	--	---
Petersburg Ridge	1650	11/30/01	21	8.9	0	0.0	--	---
<b>January</b>								
Cropley Lake	1650	12/30/01	39	11.9	--	---	--	---
Eagle Crest	1000	12/30/01	16	5.4	--	---	--	---
Fish Creek	500	12/30/01	3	0.5	--	---	--	---
Long Lake	1020	Estimate	11	18.3	32	7.4	--	---
			2					
Petersburg Reservoir	550	12/27/01	18	5.4	0	0.0	13	3.5
Petersburg Ridge	1650	12/28/01	42	13.4	13	3.5	45	12.2
<b>February</b>								
Cropley Lake	1650	No survey	--	---	--	---	58	18.4
Eagle Crest	1000	No survey	--	---	--	---	41	12.2
Fish Creek	500	No survey	--	---	--	---	20	5.0
Lake Grace Pass	1900	1/17/02	88	34.0	--	---	--	---
Long Lake	1020	Estimate	10	29.5	45	13.6	--	---
			7					
Lost Lake	425	1/17/02	21	7.3	--	---	--	---
Mint Creek Ridge	1900	1/17/02	71	25.0	--	---	--	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	1/28/02	54	14.9	79	17.6	--	---
Petersburg Reservoir	550	1/31/02	32	7.6	0	0.0	17	4.5
Petersburg Ridge	1650	1/30/02	67	19.0	31	9.3	57	16.9
Upper Swan Lake	1700	1/17/02	28	9.8	--	---	--	---

## PRECIPITATION DATA                      INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation	Date	This Year	Last Year	71-2000 Ave	% of Average
Long Lake	1020	2/02/02	65.5	79.5	--	---
Snettisham	25	1/31/01	---	75.6	81.6	93
Swan Lake	50	1/31/02	70.2	70.8	65.1	108

## WATERSHED SNOPACK ANALYSIS

REGION / RIVER BASIN	# COURSES AVERAGED	THIS YEAR	AS LAST YEAR	PERCENT OF AVERAGE
Douglas Island	No Survey	--		--
Petersburg	2	286		124

# Basin Outlook Reports and Federal - State - Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

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*For more water supply and resource management information, contact:*

**Rick McClure**  
**Data Collection Office Supervisor**  
**510 L Street, Suite 270**  
**Anchorage, AK 99501-1949**  
**(907) 271-2424**  
**rmcclure@ak.usda.gov**

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## *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 snowcourses 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.

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