

United States Department of Agriculture

**NRCS** Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

# ALASKA SNOW SURVEY REPORT



**MAY 1, 2006**

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Tongass National Forest

### Department of Commerce

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Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics

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**Issued by:**

Bruce I. Knight, Chief  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington, D.C.

**Released by:**

Bob Jones  
Acting State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Palmer, Alaska

**Published by:**

Rick McClure, DCO Supervisor  
James Montesi, Hydrologist  
Dan Kenney, Hydrologic Technician  
Snow, Water and Climate Staff  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Anchorage, Alaska

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## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

### **Snowpack**

Most of the snow course water contents stayed the same as last month or increased throughout Alaska and the Yukon Territories with the exception of a few low elevation or low snowpack snow courses which melted out. Nearly all of the basins in the Watershed Snowpack Analysis that were below average water content for April 1<sup>st</sup> increased to above average for May 1<sup>st</sup>. The exceptions are the Mid-Tanana Valley (Delta Junction), Dalton Highway (north of the Brooks Range), the Alaska Range in the Copper region, all the region basins in the Matanuska/Sustina, Ship Creek, Bradley Lake and all the region basins in Southeast.

### **Precipitation**

Southeast and Southwest Alaska received greater than normal precipitation for the month of April. According to the National Weather Service observer in southeast, Juneau received 3.73 inches, 134 percent of normal. In the southwest, Bethel received 1.61 inches of precipitation, 229 percent of normal. The rest of the reporting stations ranged from slightly below to slightly above normal.

### **Temperature**

The temperatures remained below normal in many areas of the state with the west coast reporting the largest difference in below normal temperatures. Nome was 4.1 degrees and Bethel was 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit (F) below average for the month of April. Most of the coastal areas, including Southeast were slightly below normal; Juneau was 0.6 degrees F below average. Average temperatures for the interior of the state were largely right around normal. Fairbanks was 0.3 degrees F below average and Eagle was 2.2 degrees F above average.

# STREAMFLOW

Streamflow forecasts of snowmelt runoff are as follows:

FORECAST POINT*	Percent of Ave. Flow	Period
Yukon River at Eagle .....	93	May-Jul
Yukon River near Stevens Village.....	94	May-Jul
Tanana River at Fairbanks.....	115	May-Jul
Tanana River at Nenana.....	108	May-Jul
Little Chena River near Fairbanks.....	106	May-Jul
Chena River near Two Rivers .....	110	May-Jul
Salcha near Salchaket .....	117	May-Jul
Sagvanirktok River near Pump Station 3 .....	99	May-Jul
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse.....	96	May-Jul
Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek .....	91	May-Jul
Gulkana River at Sourdough.....	92	May-Jul
Little Susitna River near Palmer.....	70	May-Jul
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna .....	84	May-Jul
Ship Creek near Anchorage.....	86	May-Jul
Kenai River at Cooper Landing .....	85	May-Jul
Gold Creek near Juneau.....	84	May-Jul

## SNOWMELT RUNOFF INDEX (SRI)

For streams that no longer have stream gauging stations.

FORECAST POINT	INDEX	Index Key:
Caribou Creek at Chatanika.....	.8	
Chulitna River near Talkeetna.....	-1.8	
Deshka River at mouth near Willow .....	-1.6	
Montana Creek at Parks Highway.....	-1.5	-2 to -3 much below average snowmelt runoff
Willow Creek near Willow.....	-0.9	
Campbell Creek near Spenard.....	-0.9	
Indian Creek at Indian .....	-1.9	
Bird Creek at Bird Creek .....	-1.9	-1 to -2 below average snowmelt runoff
Six Mile Creek near Hope .....	1.2	
Resurrection Creek near Hope .....	2.2	-1 to +1 average snowmelt runoff
Anchor River near Anchor Point.....	-0.2	
Deep Creek near Ninilchik .....	-0.5	
Ninilchik River near Ninilchik.....	-0.4	+1 to +2 above average snowmelt runoff
Fritz Creek near Homer .....	0	
Skagway River at Skagway.....	-0.3	+2 to +3 much above average snowmelt runoff

\* See regional summaries for the forecast period and the actual forecasted flow volumes.

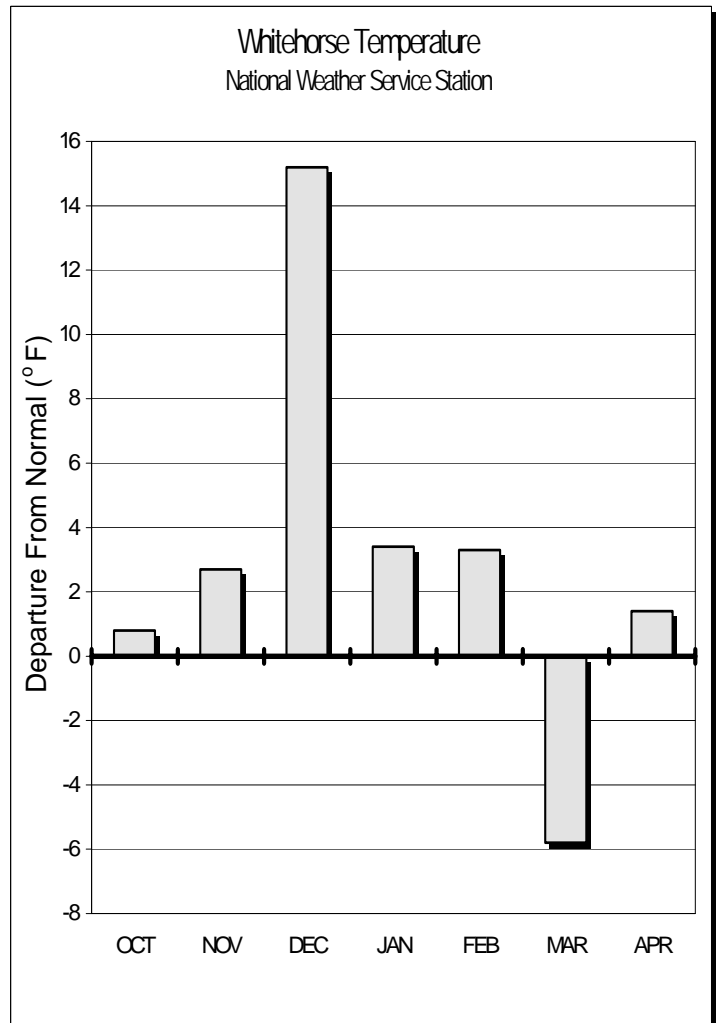
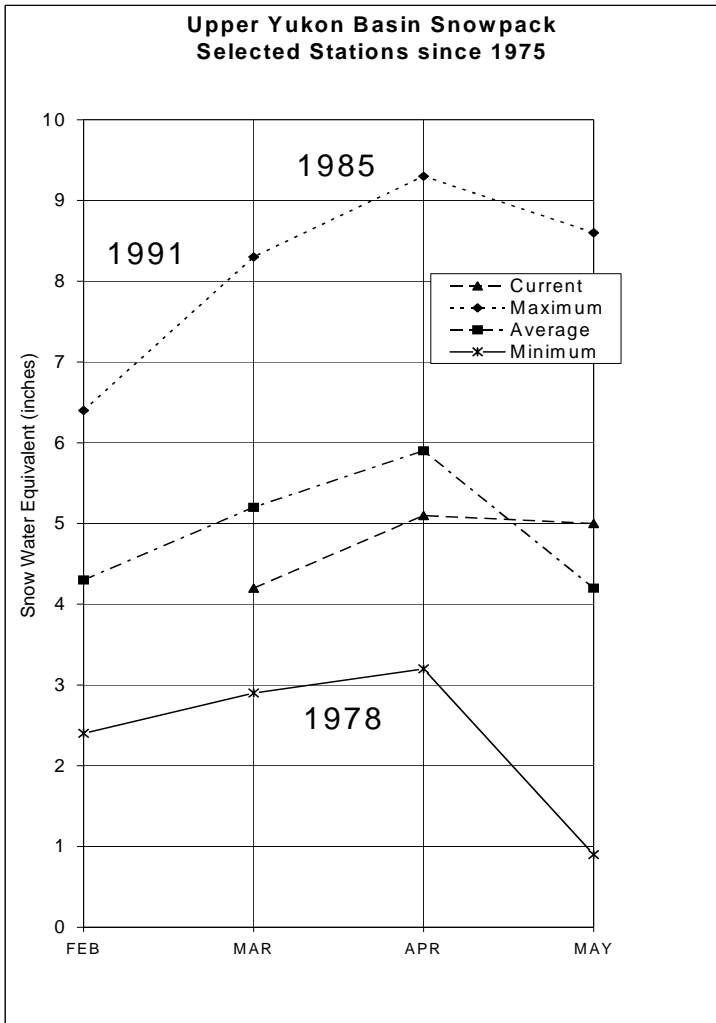
## HOW FORECASTS ARE MADE

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 the water content in the snow at selected manual snow courses and automated SNOTEL sites are used in the runoff estimates. In addition, 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: uncertain knowledge of future weather conditions, uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and 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 flows (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger flows (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 uncertainty there is in the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known. This accuracy 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, such as the 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 determine the chances of receiving more or less water for their specific streamflow need.

# UPPER YUKON BASIN\*



## Current Basin Conditions

Most snow course water contents in the Yukon Territories remained the same or increased from last month, with the exception of three low elevation or low snowpack snow courses which melted out. Calumet snow course in the Stewart/Pelly River Basin increased 10 inches of snow depth and 3.5 inches of water content. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, the snow at Calumet was 45 inches deep and held 10.8 inches of water content, and is 138 percent of normal. The Dawson area snow course snow water contents increased significantly from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> and are 164 percent of normal; last month they were 99 percent of normal. The Beaver Creek snow course is 200 percent of normal water content. The Yukon River volume flow forecast for the May through July period has gone up 13 percent from last month to 93 percent of normal.

\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Anchorage.



## Upper Yukon Basin

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Arrowhead Lake	3675	No Survey			38	11.2	29	7.9
Atlin	2395	4/29/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	2.0
Beaver Creek	2150	4/27/06	11	2.2	0	0.0	4	1.1
Burns Lake	3650	4/27/06	28	8.2	29	10.3	25	8.3
Burwash Airstrip	2660	4/27/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Calumet	4300	5/01/06	45	10.8	42	10.4	33	7.8
Casino Creek	3495	4/27/06	24	4.8	12	3.7	20	4.6
Chair Mountain	3500	4/27/06	9	2.0	0	0.0	---	---
Duke River	4300	No Survey			11	2.9	15	3.1
Edwards Lake	2720	4/26/06	21	5.4	33	7.9	22	6.0
Finlayson Airstrip	3240	4/27/06	9	2.1	8	2.9	9	2.6
Fuller Lake	3695	4/26/06	21	5.5	32	9.9	28	8.1
Grizzly Creek	3200	4/25/06	33	8.2	23	7.6	21	5.2
Hoole River	3400	4/27/06	14	3.5	20	5.5	11	3.0
Jordan Lake	3050	4/27/06	16	3.8	15	4.5	11	2.9
King Solomon Dome	3540	4/25/06	33	7.8	17	4.8	14	3.8
Log Cabin (B.C.)	2900	4/26/06	37	12.6	52	14.7	38	14.2
MacIntosh	3805	4/27/06	13	3.0	0	0.0	8	1.9
Mayo Airport	1770	5/01/06	0	0.0	11	3.2	2	0.6
Meadow Creek	4050	4/27/06	37	9.4	41	12.1	37	10.6
Midnight Dome	2805	4/25/06	29	6.4	23	7.8	19	4.7
Montana Mountain	3350	4/27/06	21	5.2	21	6.1	16	4.2
Morley Lake	2700	4/28/06	12	3.4	14	4.5	9	2.7
Mount Nansen	3350	4/27/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.5
Mt. Berdoe	3395	4/27/06	16	3.5	0	0.0	10	2.4
Mt. McIntyre B	3600	4/28/06	27	6.5	24	7.2	19	4.8
Pelly Farm	1550	4/25/06	3	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.3
Plata Airstrip	2725	4/26/06	18	6.8	26	9.4	18	5.5
Rackla Lake	3410	4/26/06	30	7.5	35	10.6	31	8.5
Russell Lake	3480	4/26/06	32	7.7	34	11.0	25	7.4
Satasha Lake	3530	4/27/06	11	2.5	0	0.0	6	1.9
Tagish	3540	4/28/06	28	6.9	24	7.2	15	4.2
Twin Creeks	2950	4/26/06	22	7.2	20	7.1	20	5.7
White River	2700	No Survey			---	---	---	---
Whitehorse Airport	2300	4/28/06	6	1.5	0	0.0	4	1.0
Williams Creek	3000	4/27/06	15	2.4	0	0.0	9	1.9
Withers Lake	3200	4/26/06	39	11.0	43	14.6	30	9.1

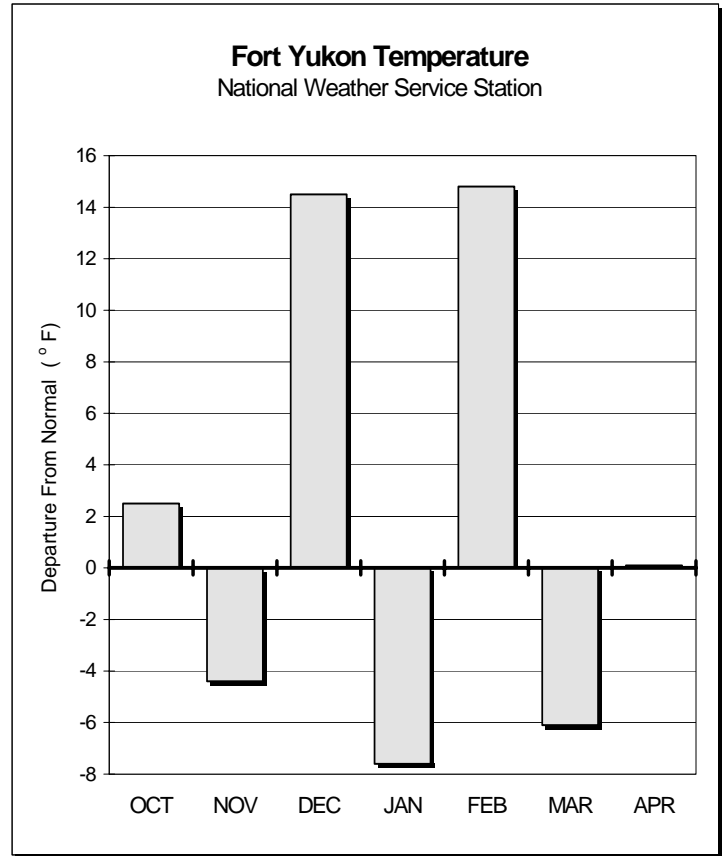
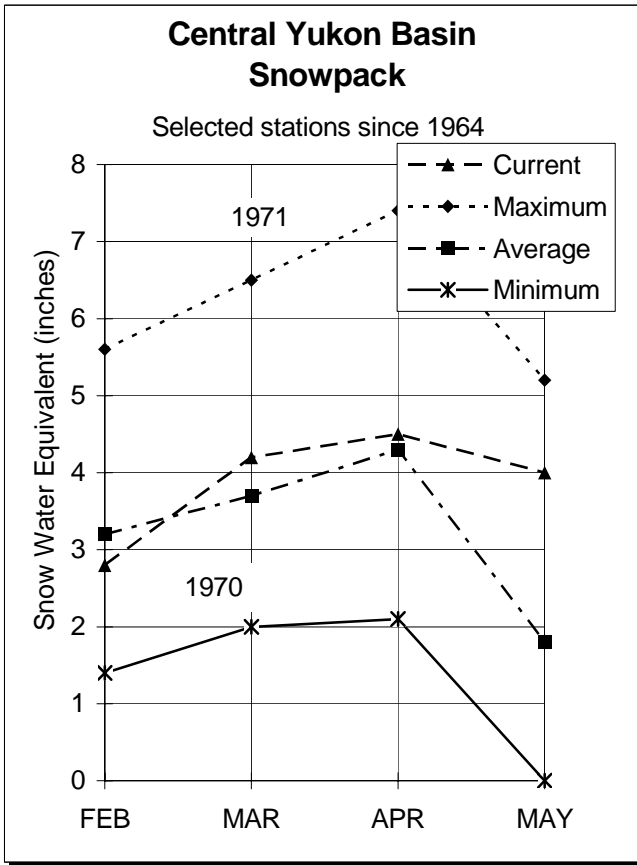
### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Yukon River At Eagle	May-Jul	32900	30500	93	35100	25900

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Above Whitehorse/ Tetlin	10	92	107
Dawson	3	111	164
Stewart/ Pelly	13	75	105
White River	8	486	127

## CENTRAL YUKON BASIN\*



### Current Basin Conditions

The water content percent of average increased significantly from April to May in the two Central Yukon basins where snow course data is measured and reported. The Yukon Flats is estimated to be 196 percent of normal and the Porcupine River basin in the Yukon Territories is 174 percent of normal.

The White Mountains and the Forty Mile basins are around 150 percent of normal.

Two snow courses in the Porcupine River basin, Eagle Plains and Riff's Ridges have a new record snow water content for May 1<sup>st</sup>. For Eagle Plains the previous record water content was 8.4 inches measured in 1990, the record begins in 1985. For Riff's the previous record was 8.1 inches of water content measured in 2001.

The forecasted flow for the Yukon River at Stevens Village went up 5 percent to 94 percent of average for the May through July time period.

\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Fairbanks.

## Central Yukon Basin

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Cathedral Creek	1800	No Report			0	0.0	---	---
Copper Creek	2000	No Report			0	0.0	---	---
Cresent Creek	2600	No Report			0	0.0	---	---
Eagle Plains	2330	4/27/06	34	8.5	20	5.9	20	4.8
Eagle River	1115	4/27/06	26	6.5	18	6.2	17	4.0
Fort Yukon	430	4/30/06	15	3.8	0	0.0	20	3.8
Graphite Lake	600	4/26/06	8	2.8	0	0.0		
Hess Creek	1000	4/27/06	20	5.0	21	6.6	9	2.5
Lower Beaver Creek	400	4/29/06	24	6.0	12	4.0	---	---
Mission Creek	900	5/04/06	6	2.1	0	0.0	2	0.5
Old Crow	980	5/02/06	26	5.6	23	3.8	14	3.3
Riff's Ridge	2130	4/27/06	34	8.4	17	3.4	19	4.6
Seven Mile	600	4/27/06	22	6.0	26	8.2	12	3.1
Step Mountain	2850	No Report			0	0.0	---	---
Tacoma Bluff	1450	No Report			0	0.0	---	---
Thirty Mile	1350	4/27/06	24	5.7	36	11.3	26	6.7
Three Fingers	3350	No Report			0	0.0	---	---
Vunzik Lake	500	5/2/06	9	3.0	6	2.0	---	---

### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Yukon River near Stevens Village	May-Jul	46800	44100	94	54950	37440

### PRECIPITATION DATA

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

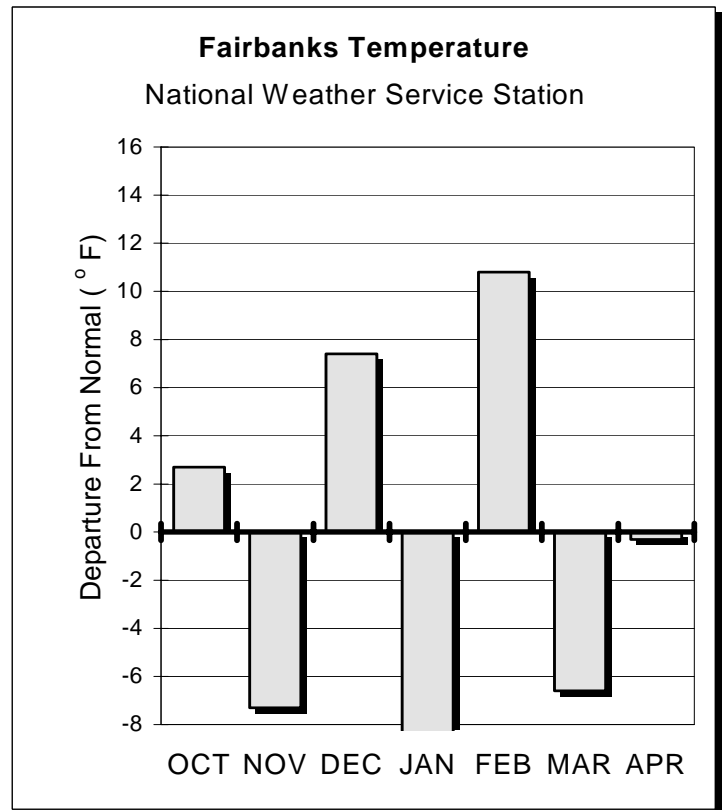
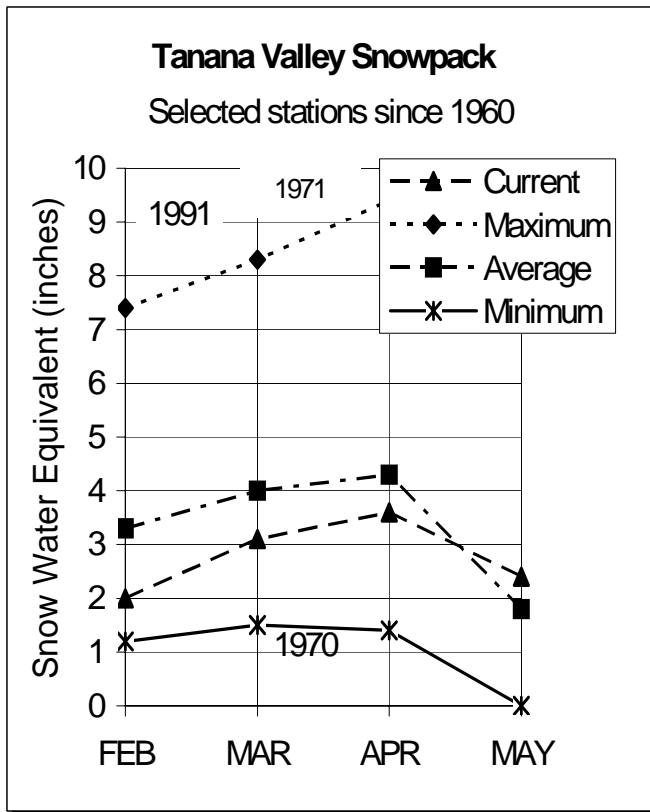
Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (feet)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Atigun Pass**	4800	4/30/06	7.2	8.2	7.0	103
Chandalar Shelf**	3300	4/30/06	5.9	6.6	5.3	111
Eagle Summit	3650	4/30/06	7.4	6.0	6.5	114
Fort Yukon	430	4/30/06	3.5	4.4	---	---
Mission Creek	900	5/04/06	5.6	6.8	5.8	97

\*\*Wyoming shielded gauge

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Forty Mile	No Report		
Porcupine (Y.T.)	4	150	174
White Mountains	No Report		
Yukon Flats	2	119	196

# TANANA BASIN\*



## Current Basin Conditions

Four out of the five basins have above average snow water content for May 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the opposite of last month. The Upper Tanana Valley near Tok is 208 percent of normal. Tok snow course has 12 inches of snow depth and 3.0 inches of water content, and an average snowpack at Tok is only 3 inches of snow depth and .9 inches of water content. Granite Creek SNOTEL site, at Mile 1410 near Delta Junction, had no snow as of April 30<sup>th</sup> and this is the only area in the Tanana that is still below normal water content.

The Chena River near Two Rivers volume flow forecast for the May through July period 280,000 acre-feet, 110 percent of average.

\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Fairbanks or Delta Junction.

# Tanana Basin

## SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Bonanza Creek	1150	5/02/06	14	3.8	0	0.0	11	2.8
Caribou Creek	1250	5/02/06	5	1.4	0	0.0	6	1.7
Caribou Snow Pillow	900	5/02/06	9	2.7	0	0.0	6	1.7
Cleary Summit	2230	4/28/06	31	7.0	19	6.1	22	5.9
Colorado Creek	700	4/27/06	15	3.7	0	0.0	9	2.3
Fairbanks FO	450	4/29/06	8	3.1	1	0.2	3	0.8
Faith Creek	1900	4/28/06	19	5.0	4	1.1	11	2.7
Fielding Lake	3000	4/27/06	41	9.9	48	16.2	39	12.0
Fort Greely	1500	4/27/06	9	2.0	0	0.0	3	0.9
French Creek	1800	4/27/06	18	3.8	19	6.4	14	4.1
Gerstle River	1200	4/28/06	9	1.8	7	1.2	6	1.5
Granite Creek	1240	4/30/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.8
Jatahmund Lake	2180	4/26/06	6	1.5	0	0.0	---	---
Kantishna	1550	4/28/06	12	2.0	9	3.0	15	3.1
Lake Minchumina	730	4/28/06	11	1.8	4	1.3	5	1.3
Little Chena Bottom	1460	4/29/06	16	3.9	4	0.8	9	3.0
Little Chena Ridge	2000	4/30/06	20	5.3	0	0.0	16	4.5
Mentasta Pass	2430	4/27/06	20	5.2	29	6.9	16	4.8
Monument Creek	1850	4/30/06	19	5.9	0	0.0	14	3.5
Mt. Ryan	2800	4/30/06	32	7.2	9	2.9	24	6.3
Munson Ridge	3100	4/30/06	38	9.0	29	10.3	36	9.7
Paradise Hill	2200	5/01/06	9	2.9	2	0.9	0	0.0
Rock Creek Bottom	2250	5/01/06	14	3.8	8	2.2	8	2.2
Rock Creek Ridge	2600	5/01/06	18	3.8	10	2.9	14	4.9
Shaw Creek Flats	980	4/27/06	2	0.5	0	0.0	3	0.8
Stampede	1800	4/29/06	13	2.6	4	1.3	---	---
Teuchet Creek	1640	4/30/06	15	4.8	0	0.0	8	2.1
Tok Junction	1650	4/27/06	12	3.0	4	0.9	3	0.9
Upper Chena	3000	4/29/06	28	6.9	23	7.9	25	7.5
Upper Chena Pillow	2850	4/29/06	30	7.4	17	5.9	22	6.9

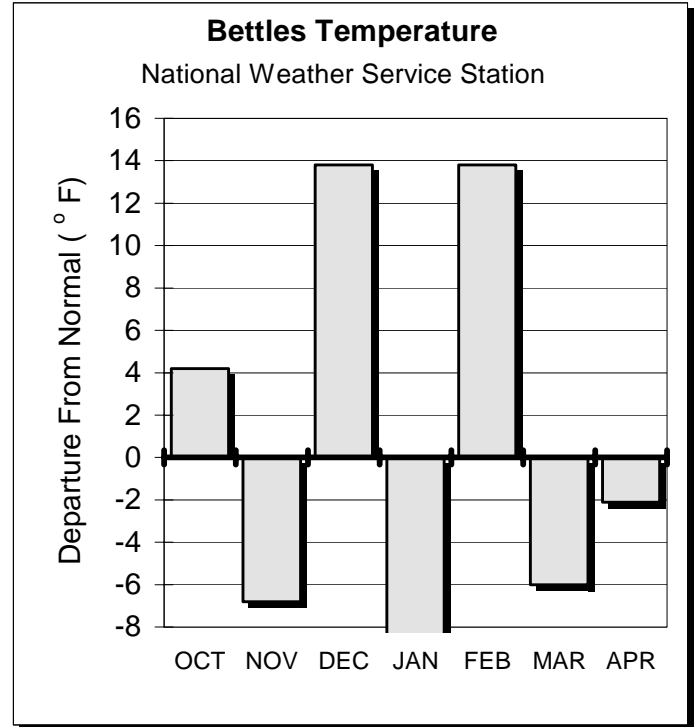
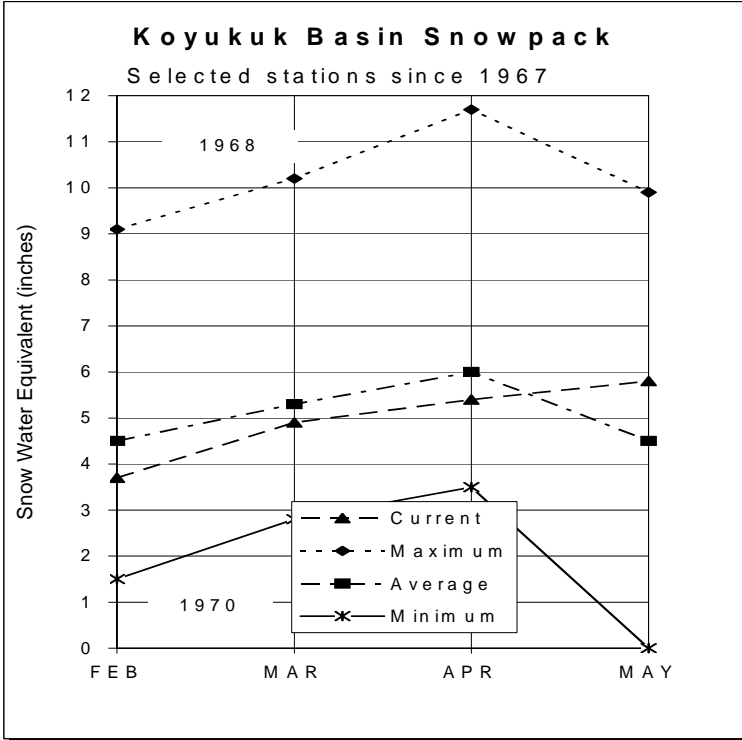
## STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Tanana River at Fairbanks	May-Jul	6680	7690	115	8580	6800
Little Chena R. near Fairbanks	May-Jul	72	76	106	101	51
Chena River near Two Rivers	May-Jul	255	280	110	355	205
Salcha River near Salchaket	May-Jul	595	695	117	870	521
Tanana River at Nenana	May-Jul	8470	9130	108	10470	7790

## WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Chatanika	4	224	134
Chena Basin	11	156	125
Lower Tanana Valley	8	143	110
Mid Tanana Valley (Delta Junction)	5	82	83
Upper Tanana Valley (Tok)	5	153	208

## WESTERN INTERIOR BASINS\*



### Current Basin Conditions

#### Koyukuk

The Nine snow courses of the Koyukuk basin average 147 percent. Disaster Creek snow course, north of Coldfoot, is reporting 158 percent of normal water content for May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Kuskokwim

In the Kuskokwim, the Purkeypile Mine snow course water content is 224 percent of normal with 27 inches of snow and 5.6 inches of water content.

The McGrath snow course estimated water content is 5.6 inches with a depth of 18 inches. The forecasted volume flow for the Kuskokwim at Crooked Creek for the May through July time period is 91 percent of average at 9,550,000 acre-feet.

#### Lower Yukon

No surveys were reported from the Nowitna or the Innoko National Wildlife Refuges this month. However, it is suspected that the snow course water contents remained the same or increased similarly as they did in the Kanuti NWR. This would result in well above average water contents, around 150 percent of normal.

\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Anchorage.

## Western Interior Basins

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
<b>Koyukuk</b>								
Bettles Field	640	5/2/06	30	7.1	25	10.4	13	3.4
Bonanza Forks	1200	4/27/06	24	6.1	31	9.7	16	4.1
Cloverleaf	170	No Report			23	7.0	---	---
Coldfoot	1040	4/30/06	29	8.1	37	10.5	21	5.3
Disaster Creek	1550	4/28/06	22	4.1	16	4.0	11	2.6
JR Slough	160	No Report			27	8.2	---	---
Kaldoyeit	750	5/01/06	13	4.4	8	2.7	---	---
Kanuti-Chelatna	670	5/01/06	19	6.2	25	8.0	---	---
Kanuti-Kilolitna	550	5/01/06	13	4.7	16	5.0	---	---
Minnkokut	580	5/01/06	27	7.5	26	8.6	---	---
Ninemile Island	140	No Report			32	10.0	---	---
Nolitna	560	5/01/06	14	5.0	26	8.0	---	---
Pike Trap Lake	130	No Report			0	0.0		
Squirrel Creek	150	No Report			30	9.5	---	---
Table Mountain	2200	4/28/06	24	5.0	25	6.2	19	4.3
Taiholman	540	5/01/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
<b>Kuskokwim</b>								
Lake Minchumina	730	4/28/06	11	1.8	4	1.3	5	1.3
McGrath	340	4/30/06	18	5.6*	24	8.2	9	2.8
Purkeypile Mine Estimate *	2025	4/28/06	27	5.6	9	3.0	10	2.5
<b>Lower Yukon</b>								
Grouch Creek	220	No Survey			24	9.0	---	---
Holikachuk	100	No Survey			21	8.0	---	---
Horsefly Creek	180	No Survey			0	0.0	---	---
Innoko Cabin	200	No Survey			---	---	---	---
Menotl Creek	380	No Survey			22	8.5	---	---
Middle Innoko	150	No Survey			15	6.0	---	---
Telaquana Lake	1550	No Survey			---	---	---	---
Upper Innoko	180	No Survey			21	8.5	---	---
Wapoo Hills	220	No Survey			28	10.5	---	---
Yankee Slough	100	No Survey			26	9.0	---	---
Yetna River	120	No Survey			13	5.0	---	---

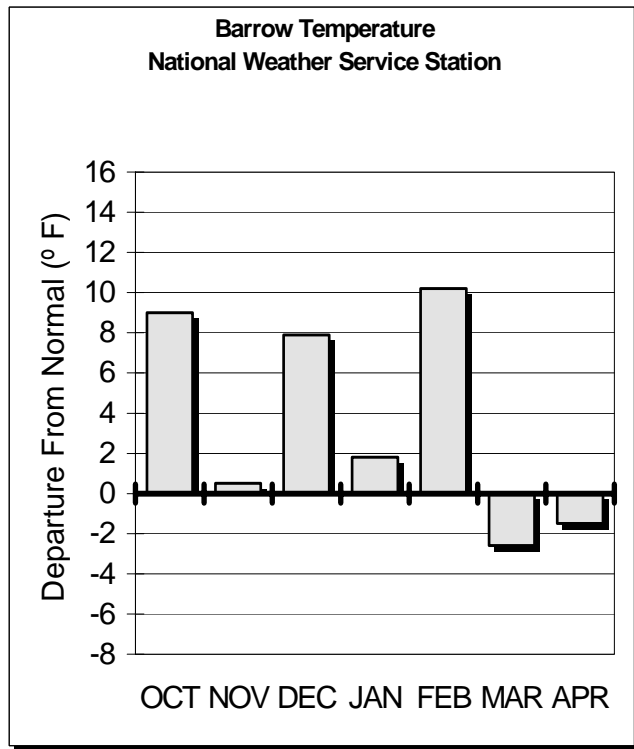
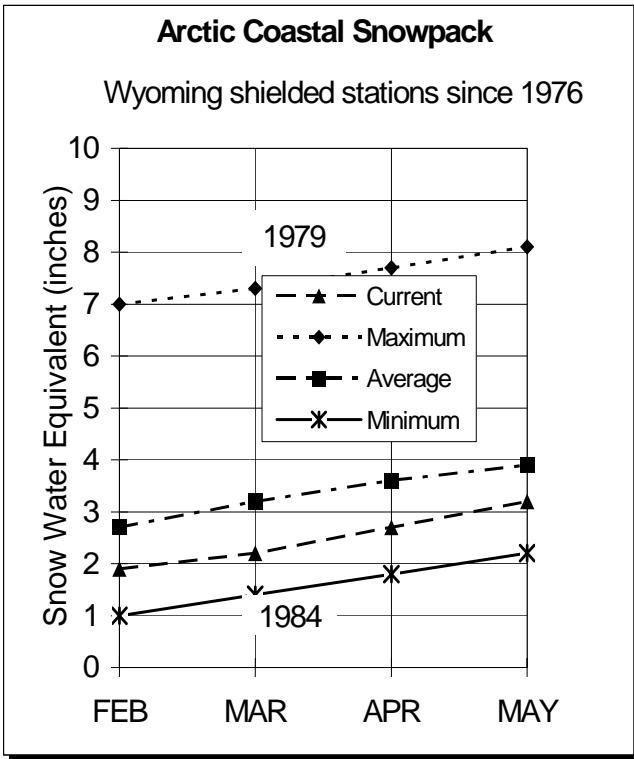
### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Kuskokwim River at Crooked Creek	May-Jul	9550	8710	91	11680	5740

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Koyukuk	9	80	147
Upper Kuskokwim	3	104	197
Lower Yukon	No Report		

# ARCTIC AND KOTZEBUE SOUND\*



## Current Basin Conditions

### Arctic

The Barrow Nipher-shielded precipitation gauge has received 3.2 inches since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 103 percent of normal.

The Atigun Camp Wyoming-shielded precipitation gauge, just north of Atigun Pass has caught 3.0 inches of precipitation since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, 103 percent of normal.

There is no report from the Prudhoe Bay or Sagwon Wyoming-shielded gauges.

### Kotzebue

The Red Dog Mine snow course measurement on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April had 23 inches of snow depth and 5.6 inches of water content. The water content is 74 percent of normal.

The Red Dog Mine Wyoming precipitation gauge has received 5.0 inches of water content since October 1<sup>st</sup>, which is right at normal. The Kivalina precipitation is suspected to be an under catch due to the use of a heated tipping bucket precipitation gauge through the winter.

\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Anchorage.



## Arctic and Kotzebue Sound

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Red Dog	950	4/22/06	23	5.6	38	12.0	29	7.6

### PRECIPITATION DATA

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

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (feet)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
<b>Arctic</b>						
Atigun Camp	3400	4/30/06	3.0	2.6	3.0	100
Atigun Pass	4800	4/30/06	7.2	8.2	7.0	103
Barrow	25	5/01/06	3.2	2.2	3.1	103
Imnaviat Creek	3050	4/30/06	1.3	2.6	3.4	38
Prudhoe Bay	30	No Report		4.7	4.2	
<b>Kotzebue Sound</b>						
Kivalina	50	4/30/06	0.8	3.0	---	---
Red Dog**	950	4/30/06	5.0	6.8	5.1	100

\*\* Wyoming Shielded Gauge

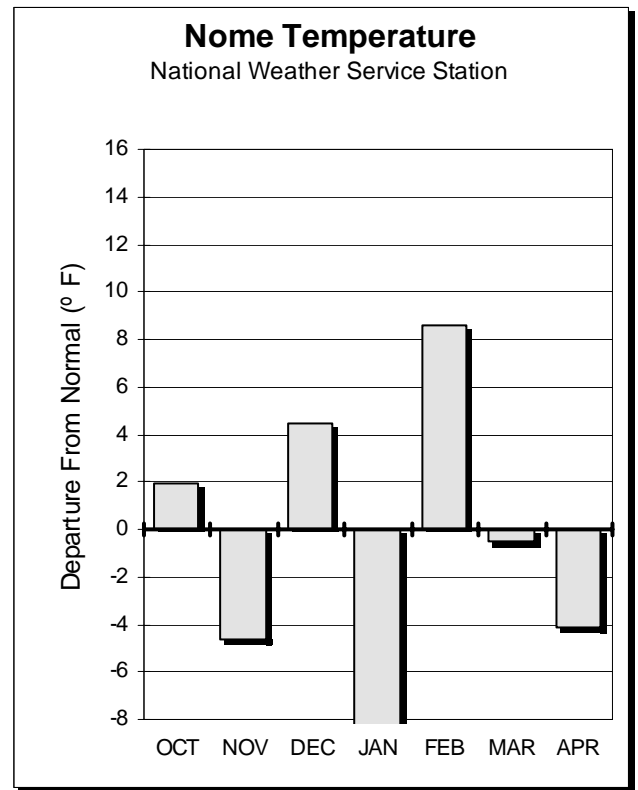
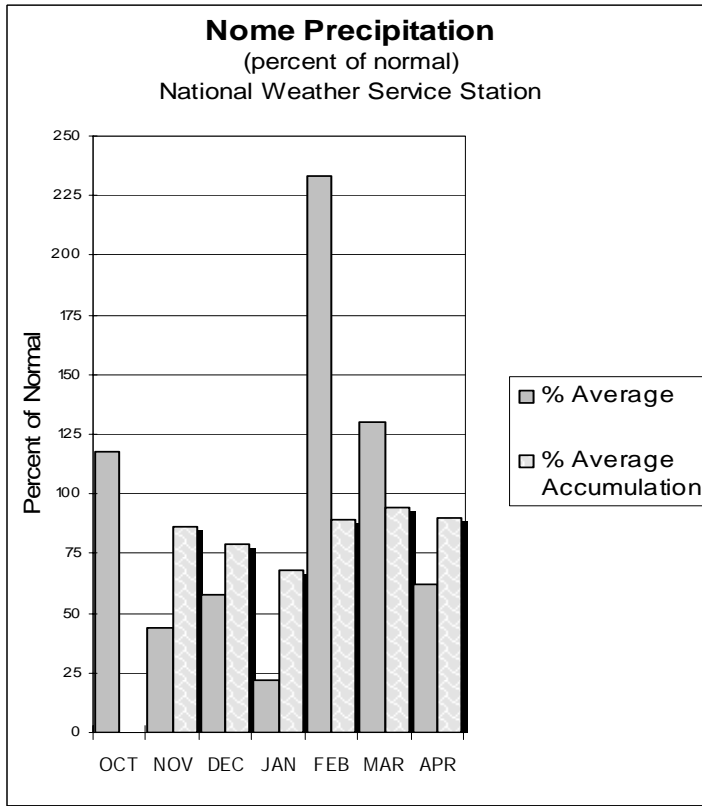
### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Sagvanirktok River near Pump Station 3	May- Jul	685	680	99	810	550
Kuparuk River near Deadhorse	May- Jul	795	760	96	1010	510

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Arctic Coast	1	145	103
Dalton Highway	3	86	86

## NORTON SOUND/SOUTHWEST DELTA/BRISTOL BAY\*



Nome February departure from normal is 0° F.

### Current Basin Conditions

#### Norton Sound

The Johnson's Camp SNOTEL site continued to receive snow through April and increased from 15 inches of snow depth on March 31<sup>st</sup> to 21 inches of snow depth on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Southwest Delta/Bristol Bay

There is no report from the Port Alsworth snow course or the snow courses in Katmai National Park at Brooks Camp or Three Forks.

\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Anchorage.

# NORTON SOUND/SOUTHWEST DELTA/BRISTOL BAY\*

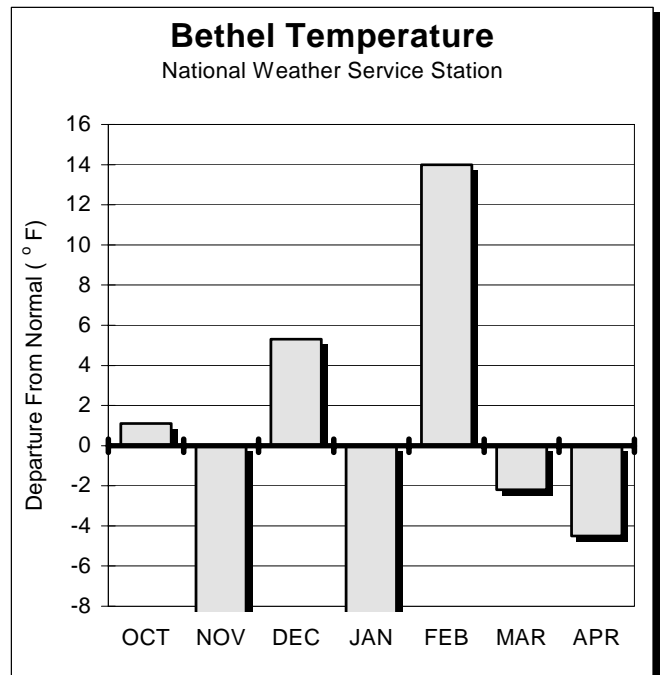
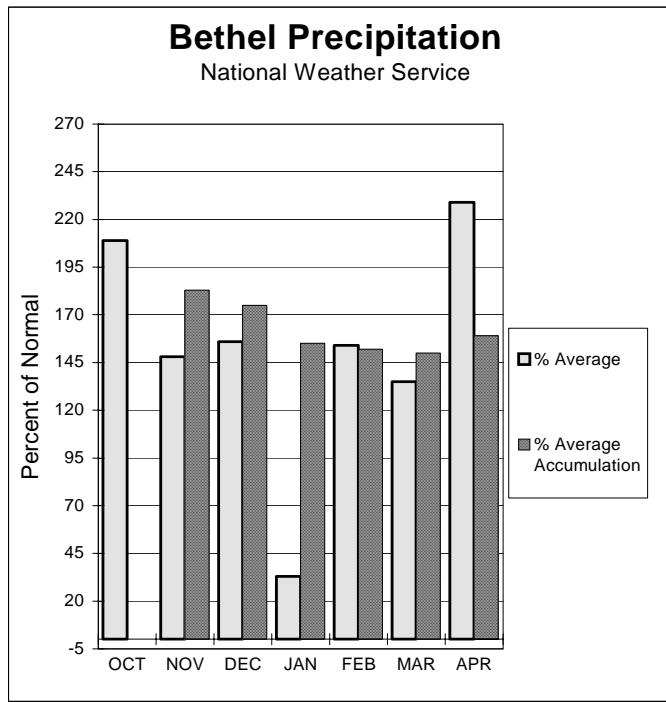
## SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
<b>Bristol Bay</b>								
Port Alsworth	270	No Report			0	0.0	0	0.0
Upper Twin Lakes	2000	No Report			0	0.0	---	---

## PRECIPITATION DATA

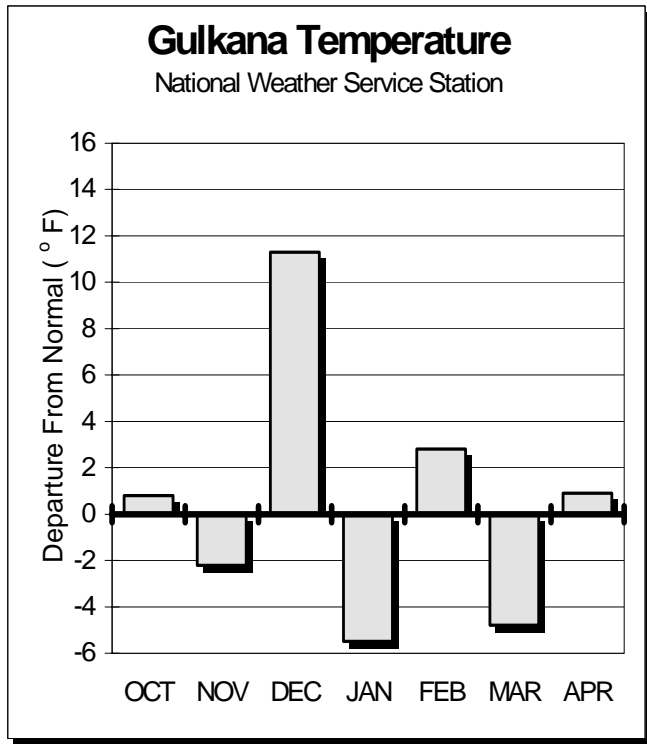
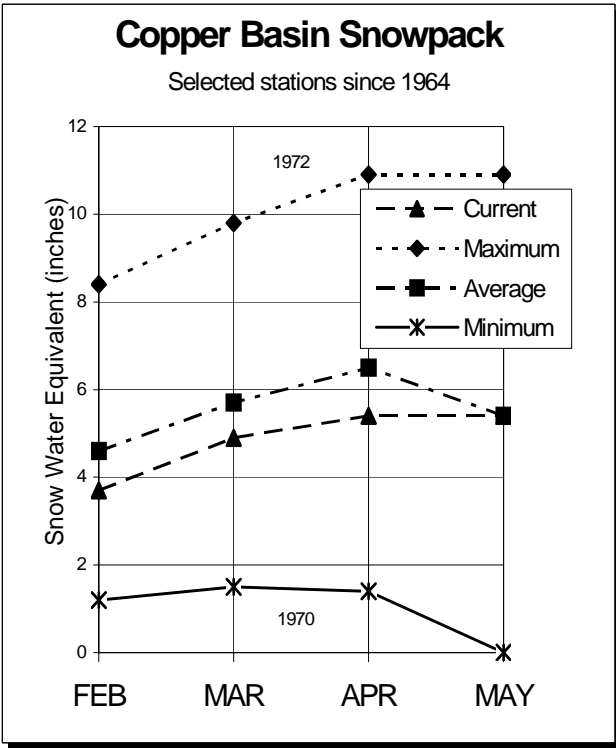
INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (feet)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Pargon Creek	100	No Report		6.1	---	---
Rocky Point	500	4/30/06	2.7	5.8	---	---



\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Anchorage.

# COPPER BASIN\*



## Current Basin Conditions

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, two of the three reporting basins are above normal, whereas last month none of these basins were above normal. The snowpack at Kenny Lake is 5 inches deep and has 2.1 inches of water content. Normally, the snowpack at this site would only be 3 inches deep and have 0.9 inches of water content. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Chistochina snow course measured 13 inches of snow depth and 2.7 inches of water content. Normal is 4 inches of depth and 1.2 inches of water content.

The Gulkana River volume flow forecast for the May-July period is 92 percent of normal at 410,000 acre-feet of water.

\* For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Copper River, Delta Junction or Anchorage.

## Copper Basin

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Chistochina	1950	4/27/06	13	2.7	0	0.0	4	1.2
Chokosna	1550	No Survey			---	---	---	---
Haggard Creek	2540	4/27/06	23	4.4	10	3.3	18	5.2
Kenny Lake School	1300	5/01/06	5	2.1	0	0.0	3	0.9
Lake Louise	2400	No Survey			---	---	12	2.9
Little Nelchina	2650	No Survey			---	---	13	3.6
Long Glacier	4820	5/01/06	36	10.3	33	12.5	---	---
Mentasta Pass	2430	4/27/06	20	5.2	29	6.9	16	4.8
Paxson	2650	4/27/06	31	7.4	23	6.5	22	6.9
Tazlina	1225	5/01/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	---	---
Tebay Lake	1930	5/01/06	73	25.2	33	13.0	---	---
Tolsona Creek	2000	No Survey			---	---	5	2.1
Tsaina River	1650	5/01/06	55	17.4	35	13.0	41	14.6
Upper Tsaina	1750	4/30/06	66	20.9	36	14.0	---	---
Worthington Glacier	2100	5/01/06	79	27.0	62	25.5	61	24.6

### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Gulkana River at Sourdough	May-Jul	445	410	92	475	345

### PRECIPITATION DATA

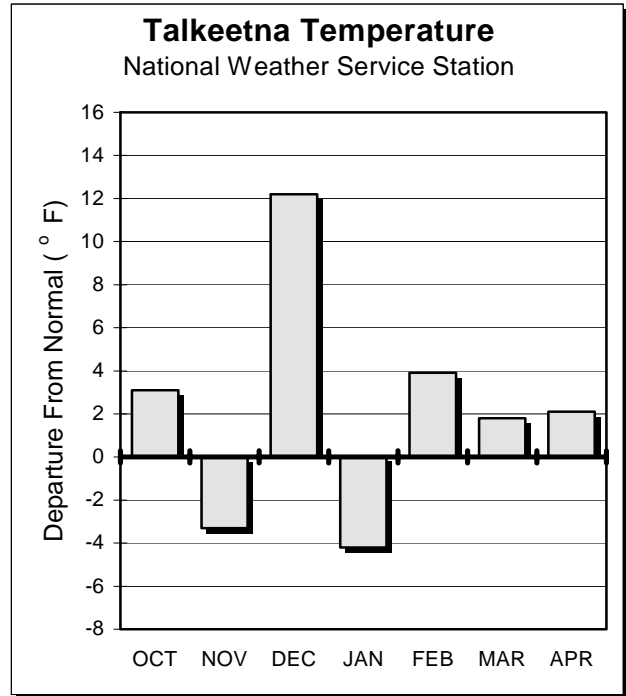
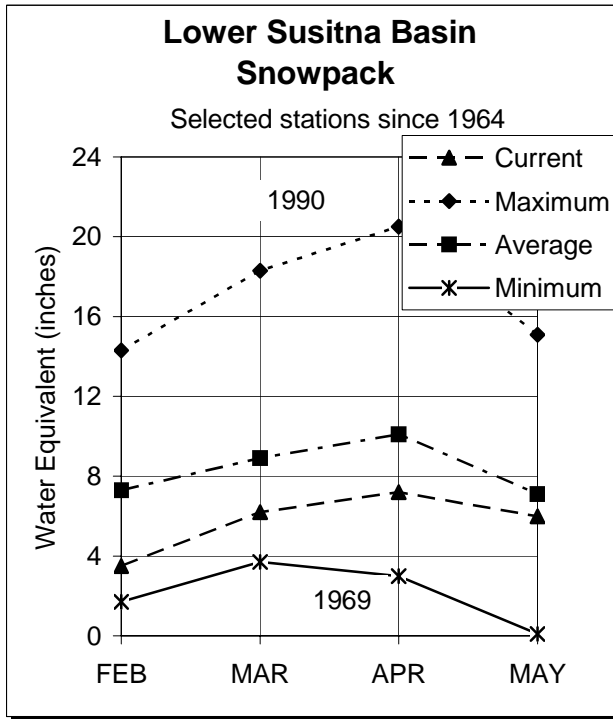
INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (ft.)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Upper Tsaina	1750	4/30/06	28.6	29.8	---	---

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Alaska Range	3	76	95
Basin Floor	2	215	111
Chugach Range	3	121	116
Talkeetna Mountains	No Report		

## MATANUSKA - SUSITNA BASINS\*



### Current Basin Conditions

The four basins all remain below average for the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and 3 of them are at only 48 percent of last year.

The Little Susitna River basin is 73 percent of normal snow water content. The forecasted flow for the Little Susitna River for the May through July period is 70 percent of average, 59,000 acre-feet of water.

The Susitna Valley High SNOTEL site has received 9.9 inches of precipitation since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 74 percent of normal and 43 percent of last year.

The Snowmelt Runoff Index for the Chulitna River near Talkeetna is minus1.8 and the Deshka is minus1.6.

\* For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wasilla.

## Matanuska - Susitna Basins

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Archangel Road	2200	4/27/06	42	12.1	50	19.8	37	14.9
Blueberry Hill	1200	4/27/06	40	11.6	67	27.1	43	17.4
Chelatna Lake	1450	4/29/06	38	10.5	45	18.5	33	10.9
Denali View	700	4/27/06	30	8.8	54	24.7	30	12.3
Dunkle Hills	2700	4/29/06	36	10.5	72	27.0	---	---
Dutch Hills	3100	4/29/06	75	22.0	112	45.0	74	28.7
E. Fork Chulitna	1800	4/27/06	43	11.3	72	27.7	44	15.7
Eldridge Glacier	3400	4/29/06	16	4.5	33	13.5	---	---
Fishhook Basin	3300	4/27/06	52	14.1	93	37.2	61	22.1
Halfway Slough	350	4/27/06	0	0.0	3	2.3	---	---
Independence Mine	3550	4/27/06	60	17.2	100	40.2	65	27.1
Lake Louise	2400	No Survey			---	---	12	2.9
Little Susitna	1700	4/27/06	33	10.2	32	13.1	22	9.2
Moose Creek Ranch	450	4/28/06	0	0.0	2	1.2	---	---
Nugget Bench	2010	4/29/06	47	13.2	45	20.0	46	15.3
Point Mackenzie	250	4/30/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.8
Ramsdyke Creek	2220	4/29/06	57	18.0	93	38.5	57	21.9
Sheep Mountain	2900	No Survey			---	---	14	3.9
Susitna Valley High	375	4/30/06	14	6.1	25	8.7	14	5.7
Talkeetna Airport	350	4/28/06	11	2.7	22	7.6	16	5.4
Tokositna Valley	850	4/29/06	48	16.0	68	31.0	43	17.0
West Fork Yentna	950	No Report			60	24.5	---	---
Willow Airstrip	200	4/28/06	10	2.3	12	4.3	13	4.1

### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Little Susitna River near Palmer	May-Jul	84	59	70	79	45.1
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna	May-Jul	1590	1330	84	1570	1090

### PRECIPITATION DATA

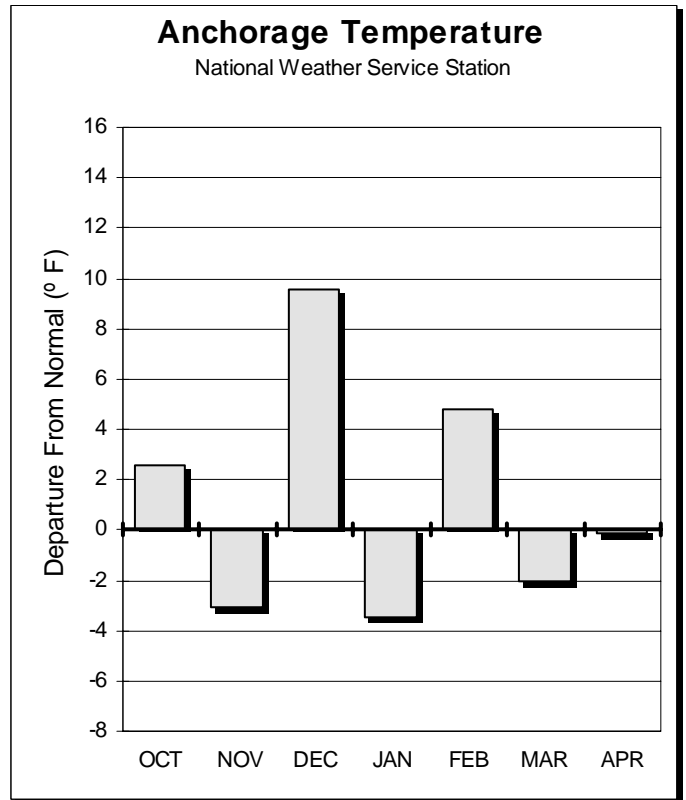
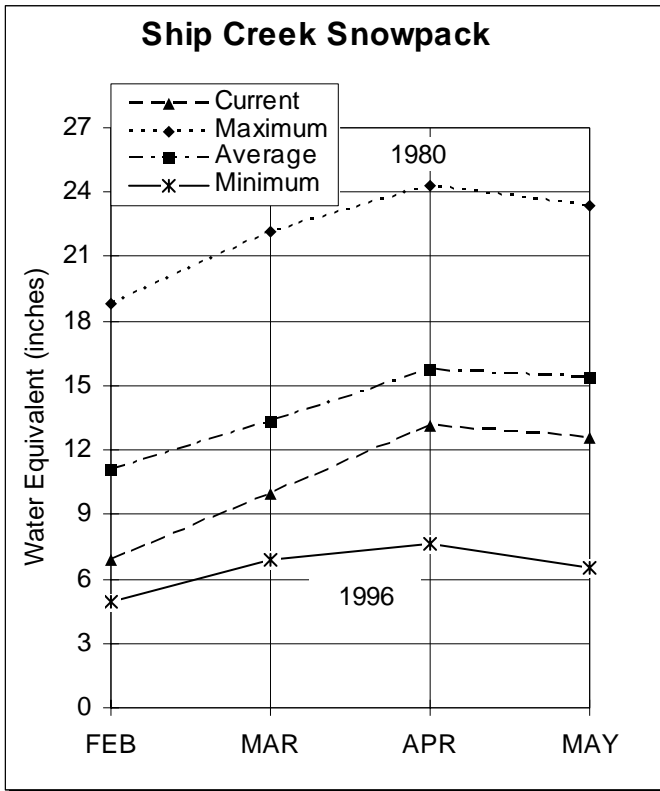
INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (ft.)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Independence Mine	3550	4/27/06	15.9	50.7	29.1	55
Susitna Valley High	375	4/30/06	9.9	23.2	13.3	74

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Lower Susitna	3	48	73
Matanuska/Little Susitna	5	48	72
Peters Hills	5	48	82
Upper Susitna	2	42	69

# NORTHERN COOK INLET\*



## Current Basin Conditions

The Ship Creek basin is 94 percent of average with Indian Pass SNOTEL site reporting 20.9 inches of water content, 79 percent of normal.

The Indian Creek and Bird Creek have a Snowmelt Runoff Index of minus 1.9, below average. The snow courses on the west side of Cook Inlet were not measured this month, but the snow water content probably remains the same or more as of the April 1<sup>st</sup> surveys.

The forecasted volume flow for Ship Creek is 49,000 acre-feet of water, which is 86 percent of normal for the May through July time period.

\* For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wasilla or Anchorage.



## Northern Cook Inlet

### SNOW PACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Anchorage Hillside	2080	4/30/06	33	10.9	26	9.9	29	9.9
Indian Pass	2350	4/30/06	63	20.9	62	27.9	72	26.5
Kincaid Park	250	5/01/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Moraine	2100	4/30/06	25	8.0	6	2.9	---	---
Point Mackenzie	200	4/30/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.8
Portage Valley	50	5/01/06	28	13.5	0	0.0	19	9.2
South Campbell Creek	1200	5/01/06	13	4.2	0	0.0	13	4.3

### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Ship Creek near Anchorage	May-Jul	57	49	86	57	41

### PRECIPITATION DATA

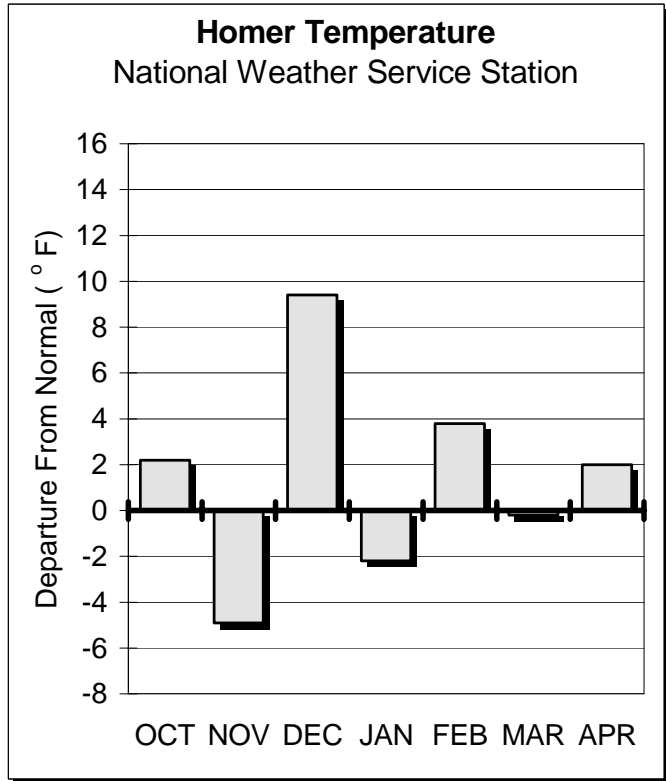
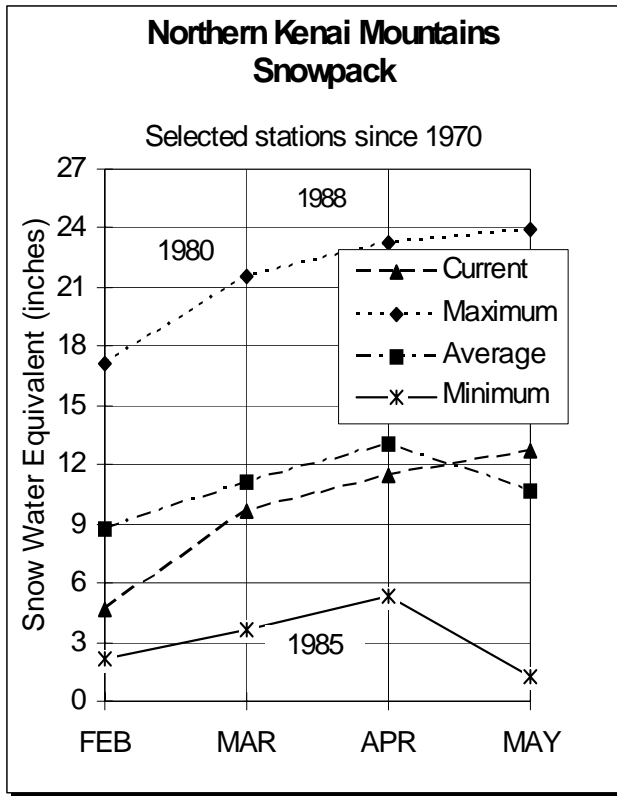
#### INCHES ACCUMULATED SINCE OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (feet)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Indian Pass	2350	4/30/06	22.9	33.1	27.9	82
Moraine	2100	4/30/06	11.4	11.8	---	---
Mt. Alyeska	1540	No Report		54.9	45.3	---
Point Mackenzie	200	4/30/06	6.4	12.7	8.6	74

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Campbell Creek	3	152	106
Ship Creek	3	99	94
Turnagain Arm	2	174	118

## KENAI PENINSULA\*



### Current Basin Conditions

The Kenai Summit snow course received two inches of water content through April and now has 15.9 inches, 139 percent of normal. The Moose Pass snow course has 4.8 inches of water content, whereas normal is 2.5 inches. The Resurrection Creek Snowmelt Runoff Index (SRI) increased significantly over April to a plus 2.2, and the Sixmile SRI also increased to a plus 1.2. The Kenai Summit snow course has a big influence on both of these basin indexes.

The Bridge Creek snow course has 12.3 inches of water content which is right at 100 percent of normal. The Anchor River Divide SNOTEL site reported 38 inches of snow depth and 12.1 inches of water content, normal is 29 inches of depth and 10.2 inches of water content.

Across Kachemak Bay, the Port Graham SNOTEL site is reporting 38 inches of snow depth and 13.4 inches of water content.

The Kenai River volume flow forecast for the May through July time period is 85 percent of normal, 755,000 acre-feet.

\* For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Homer.

## Kenai Peninsula

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Anchor River Divide	1650	4/30/06	38	12.1*	10	3.6	29	10.2
Bertha Creek	950	4/28/06	57	17.4	---	---	49	18.2
Bridge Creek	1300	5/01/06	40	12.3	0.0	0.0	37	12.3
Cooper Lake	1200	4/30/06	40	12.9*	23	8.0	34	12.3
Demonstration Forest	780	5/01/06	14	5.2	0	0.0	21	7.4
Grandview	1100	4/30/06	100	38.3*	40	19.1	77	26.3
Grouse Creek Divide	700	4/30/06	30	10.6	10	3.7	44	16.6
Jean Lake	620	5/01/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.5
Kenai Moose Pens	300	4/30/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Kenai Summit	1390	4/28/06	46	15.9	---	---	30	11.4
McNeil Canyon	1320	4/30/06	24	10.8*	0	0.0	21	7.8
Moose Pass	700	4/28/06	13	4.8	0	0.0	7	2.5
Nuka Glacier	1250	4/30/06	86	29.3*	71	31.0	93	42.4
Port Graham	300	4/30/06	38	13.4*	0	0.0	---	---
Snug Harbor Road	500	5/01/06	4	1.5	0	0.0	12	2.5
Summit Creek	1400	4/30/06	36	11.5	18	6.1	14	6.7
Turnagain Pass	1880	4/30/06	109	44.9*	65	33.5	95	40.1
Estimate *								

### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	30- Yr Average (1000AF)	50 Percentile	% of Average	Max (1000AF)	Min (1000AF)
Kenai River at Cooper Landing	May-Jul	890	755	85	862	648

### PRECIPITATION DATA

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

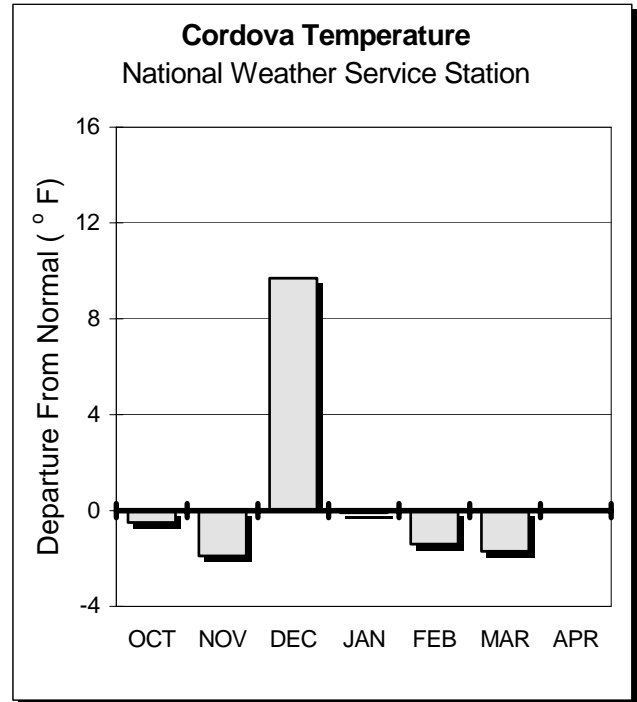
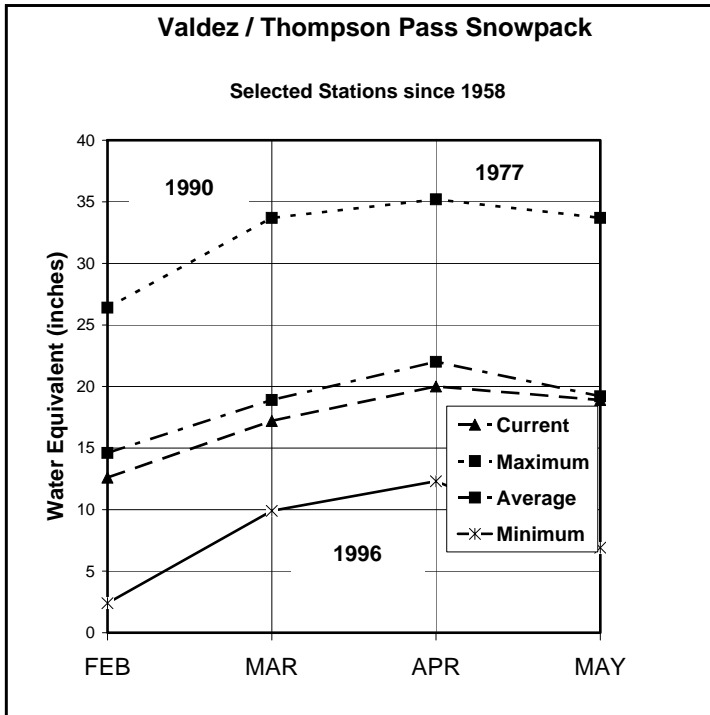
Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (feet)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Anchor River Divide	1650	4/30/06	17.3	22.3	19.2	90
Cooper Lake	1200	4/30/06	21.3	29.1	25.1	85
Grandview	1100	4/30/06	51.6	36.6	43.1	120
Grouse Creek Divide	700	5/01/06	34.5	48.5	39.8	87
Kachemak Creek	1660	4/30/06	41.8	41.7	---	---
Kenai Moose Pens	300	4/30/06	9.0	6.7	9.2	98
McNeil Canyon	1320	4/30/06	14.5	16.9	17.2	84
Middle Fork Bradley**	2300	4/30/06	31.1	38.1	37.3	83
Nuka Glacier**	1250	4/30/06	52.7	62.1	61.1	86
Port Graham	300	4/30/06	48.1	58.9	---	---
Summit Creek	1400	4/30/06	14.0	15.1	17.7	79
Turnagain Pass	1880	4/30/06	43.4	36.4	45.8	95

\*\*Wyoming shielded gauge

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Bradley Lake	1	94	69
Ninilchik Dome	3	172	112
Northern Kenai Mountains	9	158	105
Northern Kenai Flats	1	100	0

## WESTERN GULF\*



### Current Basin Conditions

The Valdez area snow courses are about average at 99 percent, up 8 percent from last month.

The Sugarloaf Mountain precipitation gauge, above the Solomon Gulch Hydro-electric power plant, has received 46.0 inches since October 1<sup>st</sup> and is 96 percent of normal.

The Mt. Eyak SNOTEL site, above Cordova, has 62 inches of snow depth with an estimated water content of 20.1 inches, an increase of 4.6 inches water content since the first of April.

\* For more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Copper Center.

## Western Gulf

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Exit Glacier	400	5/06/06	16	6.6	---	---	32	13.3
Grouse Creek Divide	700	4/30/06	30	10.6	10	3.7	44	16.6
Lowe River	425	5/01/06	26	9.7	26	9.4	30	12.0
Mt. Eyak	1405	4/30/06	62	20.1*	New		---	---
Nuka Glacier	1250	4/30/06	86	27.5	71	31.0	93	42.4
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	4/24/06	82	26.4	84	31.3	67	27.6
Tsaina River	1650	5/01/06	55	17.4	35	13.0	41	14.6
Upper Tsaina River	1750	4/30/06	66	20.9	36	14.0	---	---
Valdez	50	5/01/06	35	12.6	39	16.5	33	12.6
Worthington Glacier Estimate *	2100	5/01/06	79	27.0	62	25.5	61	24.6

### PRECIPITATION DATA

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

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (feet)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Grouse Creek Divide	700	4/30/06	34.5	48.5	39.8	87
Nuka Glacier**	1250	4/30/06	52.7	62.1	61.1	86
Solomon Gulch*	30	No report		55.5	44.4	
Sugarloaf Mountain	550	4/24/06	46.0	62.5	47.9	96
Upper Tsaina River	1750	4/30/06	28.6	29.8	---	---

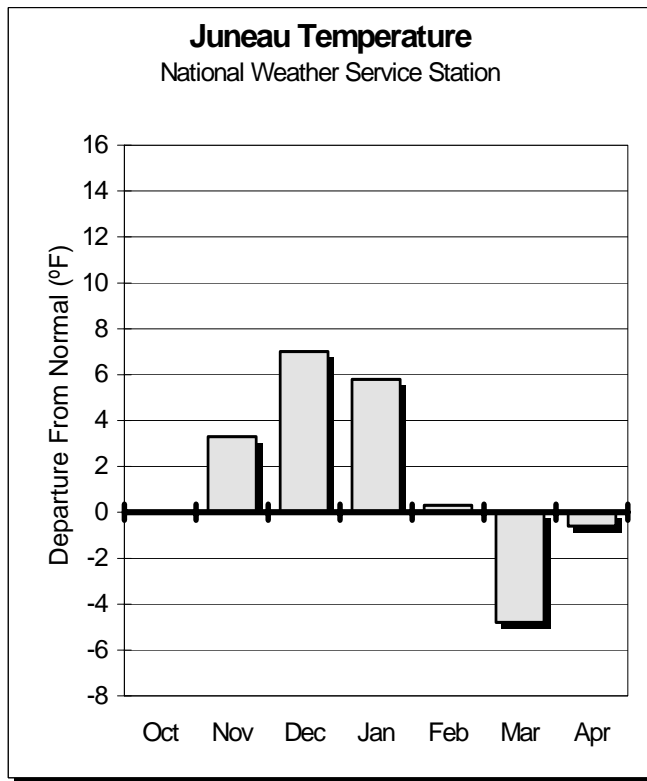
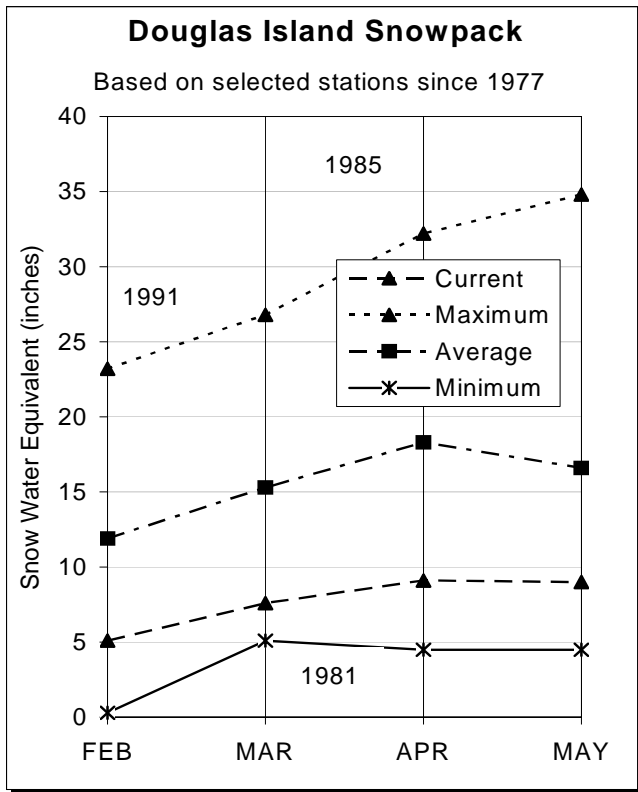
\*\*Wyoming shielded gauge

\*Copper Valley Electric Association

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Low River (Valdez)	4	92	99

## SOUTHEAST\*



### Snowcover:

The Petersburg Reservoir snow course has melted out, normally the snowpack there is 6 inches deep with 2.3 inches of water content. The Petersburg Ridge snow course has 57 inches of snow and 22.4 inches of water content, normal is 51 inches of snow depth with 22.1 inches of water content.

Cropley Lake on Douglas Island has 46 inches of snow depth with 19.2 inches of water content, normal is 73 inches of snow depth with 32.8 inches of water content. This is 58 percent of normal water content.

The volume flow forecast for Gold Creek, near Juneau is 84 percent of normal for the May through July time period.

\* For further information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Anchorage.

## Southeast

### SNOWPACK DATA

Snow Course	Elev. (feet)	Date	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR		1971-2000 AVERAGE	
			Snow Depth	Water Content	Sow Depth	Water Content	Snow Depth	Water Content
Cropley Lake	1650	4/28/06	46	19.2	44	20.4	73	32.8
Eagle Crest	1200	No Survey			7	3.2	37	15.7
Fish Creek	500	4/28/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.3
Long Lake	850	4/18/06	70	29.1	70	30.9	---	---
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	5/01/06	41	13.3	45	18.9	46	18.9
Petersburg Reservoir	550	4/28/06	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	2.3
Petersburg Ridge	1650	4/28/06	57	22.4	10	3.6	51	22.1
Speel River	280	4/30/06	39	16.8	---	---	59	26.1

### STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	30- YR AVERAGE (1000AF)	50 PERCENTILE	% OF AVERAGE	MAX (kaf)	MIN (kaf)
Gold Creek near Juneau	May-Jul	31	26	84	33	22

### PRECIPITATION DATA

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

Precipitation Gauge	Elevation (feet)	Date	This Year	Last Year	1971-2000 Ave	% of Average
Long Lake	850	4/18/06	112.0	118.3	---	
Moore Creek Bridge	2250	5/01/06	35.6	27.7	26.6	134
Snettisham	25	4/30/06	115.4	147.4	112.5	103
Swan Lake	50	4/30/06	128.1	125.9	91.1	141

### WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

Region / River Basin	No. of Courses Averaged	Percent of Last Year	Percent of Average
Douglas Island	2	94	56
Long Lake	1	94	---
Petersburg	2	622	93

For further information contact:

NRCS Alaska web site: [www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/](http://www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/)

Alaska Meteor Burst Communication System (AMBCS) web site: [www.ambcs.org](http://www.ambcs.org)

NRCS Anchorage Support Staff

510 L Street, Suite 270

Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1949

Telephone (907) 271-2424, Extension 113;

Facsimile (907) 271-3951; or e-mail: [Richard.McClure@ak.usda.gov](mailto:Richard.McClure@ak.usda.gov)

Copper Center Field Office

Joanne Kuykendall, Resource Conservationist

Telephone: (907) 822-4484

Facsimile: (907) 822-4489

e-mail: [Joanne.Kuykendall@ak.usda.gov](mailto:Joanne.Kuykendall@ak.usda.gov)

Delta Junction Field Office

Catherine Hadley, District Conservationist

Telephone (907) 895-4241 x 103

Facsimile: (907) 895-5003

e-mail: [Catherine.Hadley@ak.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Hadley@ak.usda.gov)

Fairbanks Field Office

Jim Helm, District Conservationist

Telephone (907) 479-3159 x 110

Facsimile: (907) 479-6998

e-mail: [Jim.Helm@ak.usda.gov](mailto:Jim.Helm@ak.usda.gov)

Homer Field Office

Mark Kinney, District Conservationist

Telephone (907) 235-8177 x 103

Facsimile: (907) 235-2364

e-mail: [Mark.Kinney@ak.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.Kinney@ak.usda.gov)

Mat-Su Field Office

Casey Sheley, District Conservationist

Telephone (907) 373-6492 x 101

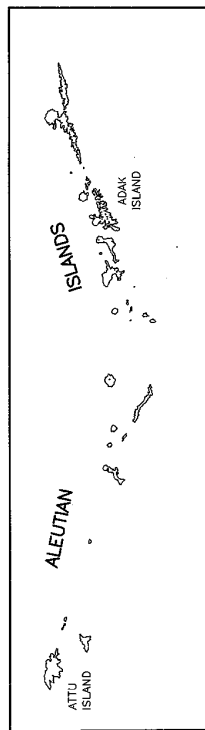
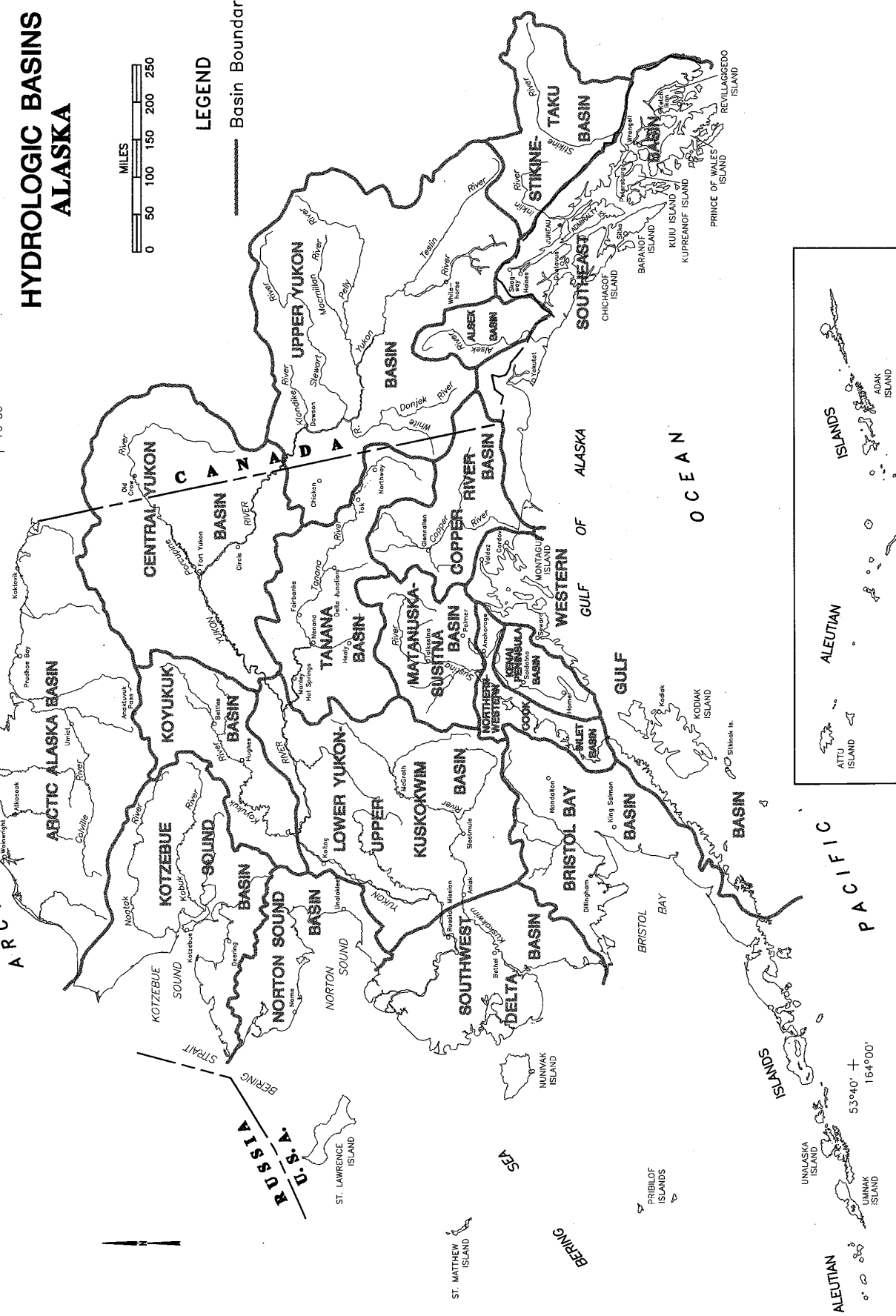
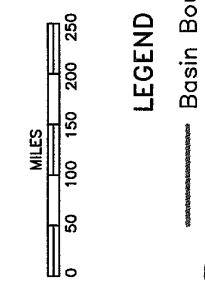
Facsimile: (907) 373-7192

e-mail: [Casey.Sheley@ak.usda.gov](mailto:Casey.Sheley@ak.usda.gov)

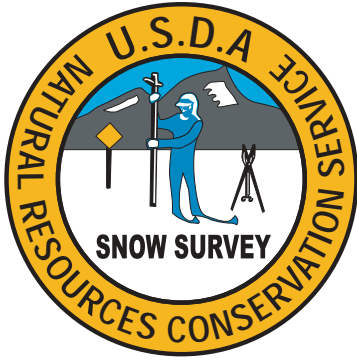


# HYDROLOGIC BASINS ALASKA

137°00'  
+ 70°00'



SOURCE: U.S.G.S. HYDROLOGIC UNIT MAP, 1987, AND TIGER/LINE CENSUS FILES, 1990. INFORMATION FROM SCS FIELD PERSONNEL. MAP PREPARED USING AUTOMATED MAP CONSTRUCTION, LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATE SYSTEM CALCULATED BY THE APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE. NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS CENTER, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, 1993.



510 L Street, Suite 270  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1949



**Alaska  
Snow Survey Report**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Anchorage, AK

