



Weather and Climate



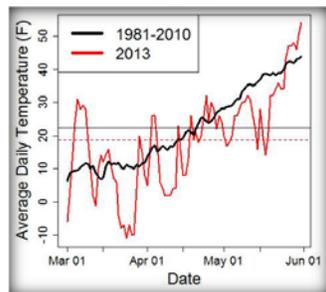
Bering Land Bridge Spring 2013 Weather Summary

Was Spring 2013 Normal?

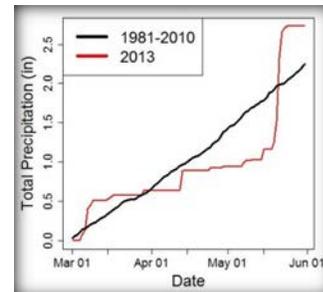
It was a cold spring...3.9° F colder than normal. May was almost 6 °F colder than normal with two record low temperatures set during the month. The first 40°F day in Nome was recorded on May 25th, for a total of 224 days below 40°F. The total snowfall for March, April and May was 24.4 inches, 130% of normal. The total for the year was still below normal due to the lack of snow during the early season.

In Nome, March temperatures were cool and the snowfall totals were close to normal. The average temperature for March was 1.8° F cooler than normal. Temperatures soared above normal for just a few days at the beginning of the month, but were much cooler than normal during the third week of the month. The total snowfall for the month was 9.1 inches, 0.2 inches more than normal. April temperatures were cold with a monthly average of 16.3° F, 4.2° F below the 1981-2010 normal. April was also drier than normal with 4.5 inches of total snowfall; normal is 7.5 inches for the month. May was cold and snowy. The average monthly temperature was 5.7 degrees colder than normal, with two record low temperatures set on May 14 and May 17 both with daily minimum temperatures of 8° F. Although most of May was cold, there were unseasonably warm temperatures during the last week of May with temperatures that were on average ~ 10 degrees warmer than normal. A total of 10.4 inches of snow fell in May, normal is 2.3 inches of snow. The late season snow brought the snow depth (amount of snow on the ground) up above normal for the spring; however the total snowfall for the 2012-1013 snow season was 65.7 inches, which is ~ 86% of normal.

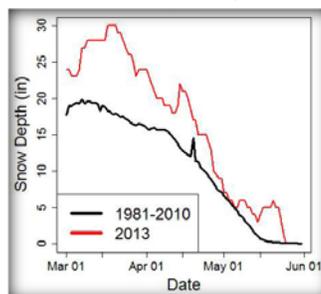
Nome – Average Air Temperatures



Nome – Cumulative Precipitation



Nome – Snow Depth



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Nome Weather Records:

Climate Normal Period 1981 – 2010

Climate Record Period 1906 – 2013

Temperature

Spring 2013	Average Monthly Temp °F	1981-2010 Normal °F	Departure from Normal °F	Monthly High °F / Date	Monthly Low °F / Date
March	8.5	10.3	-1.8	33 / Mar 29	-21 / Mar 11
April	16.3	20.5	-4.2	38 / Apr 24	-8 / Apr 4
May	31.1	36.8	-5.7	67 / May 18	8 / May 4

Spring Season Temperature Departure from Normal: -3.9°F

Precipitation

Spring 2013	Total Monthly Precip in.	1981-2010 Normal in.	Departure from Normal in.	Greatest 24 –hr total in. / Date	# Days with >=0.01 in. water
March	0.64	0.65	-0.01	0.28 / Mar 7	9
April	0.30	0.76	-0.46	0.24 / Apr 13	4
May	1.79	0.86	+0.93	0.81 / May 21	11

Spring Season Departure from Normal: +0.15 inches

Snowfall

Spring 2013	Total Monthly Snowfall in.	1981-2010 Normal in.	Departure from Normal in.	Greatest 24 –hr snowfall total in. / Date	Cumulative snowfall since 1-July in.	Normal Snowfall from July 1 in.
March	9.1	8.9	+0.2	2.8 / Mar 7	50.4	66.2
April	4.5	7.5	-3.0	3.3 / Apr 13	54.9	74.0
May	10.8	2.3	+8.5	4.2 / May 21	65.7	76.2

We now have additional NPS climate stations in Bering Land Bridge that complement the long-term record available from the National Weather Service station in Nome. The new NPS stations will provide critical data along a north south transect across the Seward Peninsula that will help characterize the climate gradients and patterns affecting resources in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.



In summer of 2013, the Ella Creek station will have real-time data available.

Bering Land Bridge Spring 2013 Weather Summary

Arctic Network RAWS weather summaries Spring 2013:

Park	Site	Elev. Ft.	Average Temp °F			Spring 2013 Avg Temp °F	Extremes °F		Peak Wind mph	High T- Low T °F *
			Mar	Apr	May	High	Low			
BELA	Devil Mountain	285	2.7	11.6	17.6	10.6	44	-23	47	67
	Serpentine	518	4.5	11.0	26.7	14.1	56	-26	42	82
	Quartz Creek	321	4.9	13.0	30.3	16.1	62	-28	47	90

* Difference between the high and low temperature for the season. Air temperature data was missing from Hoo Doo Hills, so the data were not compiled.

Interesting notes from RAWS stations:

- The peak wind gust measured at Hoo Doo Hills was a brisk 69 mph on May 21.
- The coolest spring temperatures on the Seward Peninsula were found at Devil Mountain, which is in the northern area of the preserve.
- There was an impressive temperature spread at Quartz Creek with a 90 degree difference between the coldest day of spring and the warmest day of spring.
- In May, the interior sites were much warmer than Devil Mountain which sits close to the northern coast.



A clear summer day at Devil Mountain climate station.

Connecting Further

New paper published – [The First Decade of the New Century: A Cooling Trend for Most of Alaska](#)

Previous weather summaries and other climate monitoring documents on the [Arctic Network web portal](#)

Access near real-time data from [Western Regional Climate Center](#) and [MesoWest](#)

Check out the Jul-Aug-Sep weather outlook from the [NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#)

Statewide summary of weather highlights in the latest [Alaska Climate Dispatch](#) from the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy

[Map](#) of projected temperature and precipitation changes for Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

Please Note: The summarized data are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control. Therefore, these data are subject to revision.

For more information contact:

Pam Sousanes or Ken Hill
 Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Network
pam_sousanes@nps.gov; kenneth_hill@nps.gov
 907.455.0677 907.455.0678