



Weather & Climate Summary Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Winter 2015-2016

Eagle Winter Weather

December was warmer and drier than normal. The average temperature for December was 1.5°F compared to a normal of -4.0°F. The low temperature for the month was -35°F on Christmas Day. A warm blast of weather arrived during the last three days of the year and on New Year's Eve (day) a record high temperature of 35°F above zero was recorded; a 70°F difference in a week. Snowfall was just under normal at 10.6 inches for the month; normal is 12 inches. Total precipitation (water equivalent) was 77% of normal.

The warmth persisted into January with temperatures well above normal for the first week of the year. The first six days of the month were the warmest on record for Eagle, with record high temperatures on January 2nd (39°F) and 3rd (38°F). The average temperature for the month was 7.7°F compared to a normal monthly average of -9.5°F. Temperatures climbed above freezing on five days out of the month. Overall it was the seventh warmest January since records began in 1918. It was drier than normal with a total of 5 inches of snow (0.25 inches of water content); normal is 8.0 (with 0.53 inches of water equivalent).

The winter warmth continued into February; the average monthly temperature was 10.3°F warmer than normal at 6.6°F. There was a short cool spell mid-month where minimum temperatures were ~ -30°F, but the majority of the month was warmer than normal. The last week was very warm with temperatures climbing above freezing. A total of 6.5 inches of snow fell during the month (81% of normal). The total precipitation (water equivalent) was only 57% of normal.

The average winter temperature at Eagle was 5.3°F, which is 11.1°F warmer than the 1981-2010 normal. It was the 2nd warmest winter since continuous records began in 1947. The total winter precipitation was only 1.05 inches, 62% of

normal. The snowfall total for the winter months was 22.1 inches; 79% of normal. The winter of 2015-2016 ranked as the 19th driest in terms of total snowfall for the winter months (Figures 1 and 2; Table 1, 2, and 3).

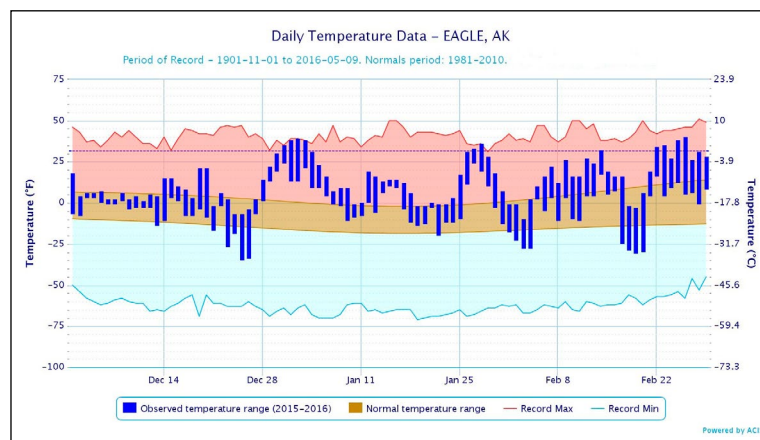


Figure 1. Winter 2015-2016 daily temperatures at Eagle showing **record maximum** (red), **record minimum** (blue), **normal** (brown) and **observed** range (blue bars).

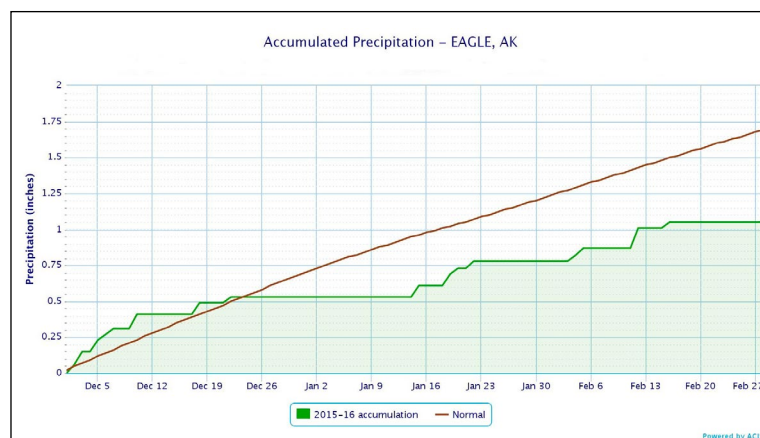


Figure 2. Winter **2015-2016** accumulated precipitation at Eagle (green) compared to **normal** (brown line).

Table 1. Temperature: Winter 2015-2016 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1981-2010 normal.

Winter 2015-2016	Average Monthly Temp °F	1981-2010 Normal °F	Departure from Normal °F	Monthly High °F / Date	Monthly Low °F / Date
December	1.5	-4.0	+5.5	*35 / Dec. 31	-35 / Dec. 25
January	7.7	-9.5	+17.2	*39 / Jan. 2	-20 / Jan. 22
February	6.6	-3.7	+10.3	40 / Feb. 26	-31 / Feb. 19

* Record High temperature; Winter Season Temperature Departure from Normal: +11.1°F

Table 2. Precipitation: Winter 2015-2016 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Winter 2015-2016	Total Monthly Precip. in.	1981-2010 Normal in.	Departure from Normal in.	Greatest 24 -hr. total in. / Date	# Days with >=0.01 in. water
December	0.53	0.69	-0.16	0.10 / Dec. 10	8
January	0.25	0.53	-0.28	0.08 / Jan. 15, 19	4
February	0.27	0.47	-0.20	0.14 / Feb. 12	4

Winter Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: -0.64 inches (62% of normal)

Table 3. Snowfall: Winter 2015-2016 monthly snowfall totals compared to normal.

Winter 2015-2016	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.
December	10.6	12.0	-1.4	3.0 / Dec. 18	38.2
January	5.0	8.0	-3.0	2.0 / Jan. 19	43.2
February	6.5	8.0	-1.5	4.0 / Feb. 12	49.7

NPS Climate Monitoring Stations: Yukon-Charley National Preserve

NPS climate stations in Yukon-Charley Rivers complement the long-term record available from the National Weather Service station at Eagle (Figure 3).

Featured Station: Coal Creek

Coal Creek site is a classic continental interior climate location at an elevation of 958' (Figure 4). The site is very cold in the winter and very warm in the summer. The station sits on the edge of an old fire burn in a mixed spruce and deciduous forest approximately 5 km south of the Yukon River. The site is in a well-protected valley, with light winds. The period of record mean annual air temperature is 23.6°F. The lowest temperature recorded thus far is -58.0° on 1/29/2012 and the highest is 93.0°F on 7/29/2009. The maximum snow depth recorded at the site is 28 inches.

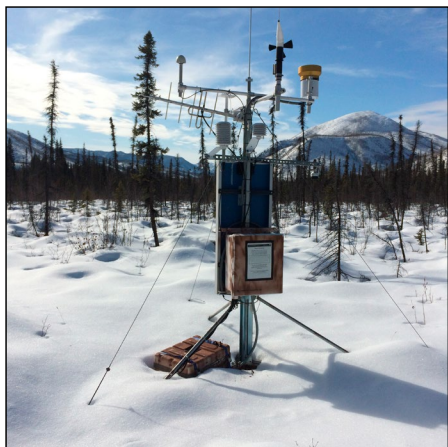


Figure 4. Coal Creek climate station

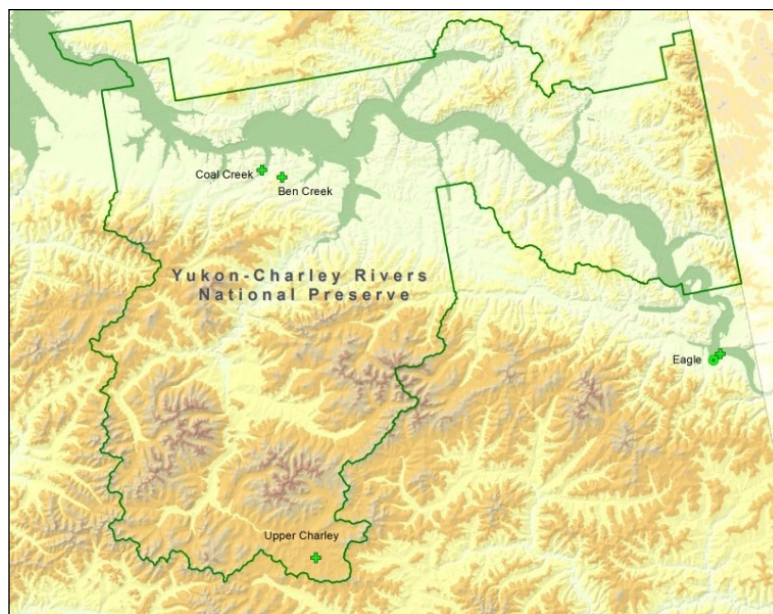


Figure 3. NPS Climate stations in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

More Information

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