



Weather & Climate Summary Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Winter 2015-2016



Nome Winter Weather

December was warmer and drier than normal in Nome. The average temperature for December was 11.5° F compared to a normal of 9.5° F. The low temperature for the month was -17° F on December 23. A warm, wet storm blasted through Nome December 28-31 with a record breaking high temperature of 38° F on December 30 and gusts up to 49 mph. Overall, 0.78 inches of precipitation was recorded in December which is 72% of normal.

Warm, dry conditions continued into January. The average temperature for the month was 20.2° F compared to a normal monthly mean of 5.2° F. All but two days in January were warmer than normal and overall it was the eighth warmest January since records began in 1907. Monthly precipitation totaled 0.53 inches; normal is 0.94 inches. Most precipitation came during the first week and last week of the month.

Just like January, it was the eighth warmest February since 1907. The first ten days of the month experienced temperatures 10 to 20 degrees warmer than normal. A cool period February 11-16 brought temperatures as low as -15° F. Warm temperatures returned the last week of the month with a monthly high of 37° F on February 26. Precipitation was recorded on 6 days in February. Precipitation (water equivalent) was again below normal at 0.50 inches, and snowfall totaled 7.6 inches (normal is 12.2 inches).

The average winter temperature at Nome was 15.9° F which is 8.6° F warmer than the 1981-2010 normal. It was the 5th warmest winter on record. Since 1907, five of the ten warmest winters have been since the year 2000. The total winter precipitation was 1.81 inches, 61% of normal. The winter or 2015-2016 ranked as the 22nd driest winter on record. (Figures 1 and 2; Table 1, 2, and 3).

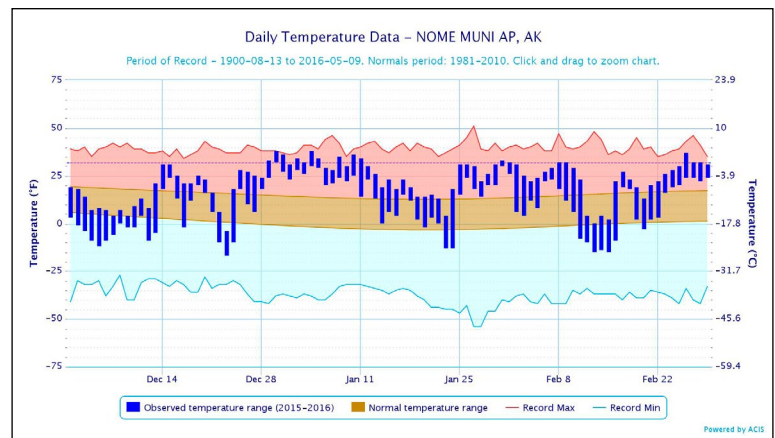


Figure 1. Winter 2015-2016 daily temperatures at Nome showing **record maximum** (red), **record minimum** (blue), **normal** (brown) and **2016 observed** range (blue bars).

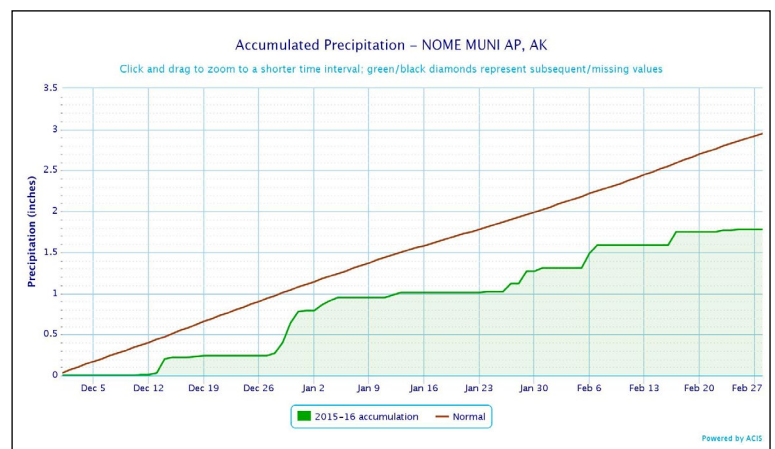


Figure 2. Winter **2015-2016** accumulated precipitation at Nome (green) compared to **normal** (brown line).

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	11.5	9.5	+2.0	38 / Dec. 30	-17 / Dec. 23
January	20.2	5.2	+15.0	38 / Jan. 4	-13 / Jan. 23 & 24
February	16.1	7.4	+8.7	37 / Feb. 26	-15 / Feb. 13 & 15

Winter Season Temperature Departure from Normal: +8.6°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	0.78	1.08	-0.30	0.24 / Dec. 30	10
January	0.53	0.94	-0.41	0.15 / Jan. 29	10
February	0.50	0.93	-0.43	0.18 / Feb. 6	6

Winter Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: -1.14 inches (61% 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	8.3	14.5	-6.2	2.3 / Dec 14	26.5
January	8.2	12.7	-4.5	2.5 / Jan. 29	34.7
February	7.6	12.2	-4.6	2.8 / Feb. 6	42.3

Climate Monitoring in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

NPS climate stations in Bering Land Bridge complement the long-term record from the National Weather Service station in Nome. NPS stations are located at Serpentine Hot Springs, Midnight Mountain, Devil Mountain, and Ella Creek (Figure 3). Near real-time observations are available through the National Weather service at this [hyperlink](#).

Featured Station: Ella Creek

Ella Creek is located in the Bendeleben Mountains on the southeast edge of BELA and at an elevation of 2318 feet. The landscape is a broad, flat-top expanse with little vegetation and is representative of the higher elevation mountainous terrain on the Seward Peninsula. Since the installation of the station in 2012, temperatures have ranged from -31.2°F to 79.5°F with a mean annual air temperature of 23.2°F. Inversions are common in winter months. Winds are persistent with wind events commonly exceeding 60 mph; a peak gust of 92 mph was recorded in 2013.

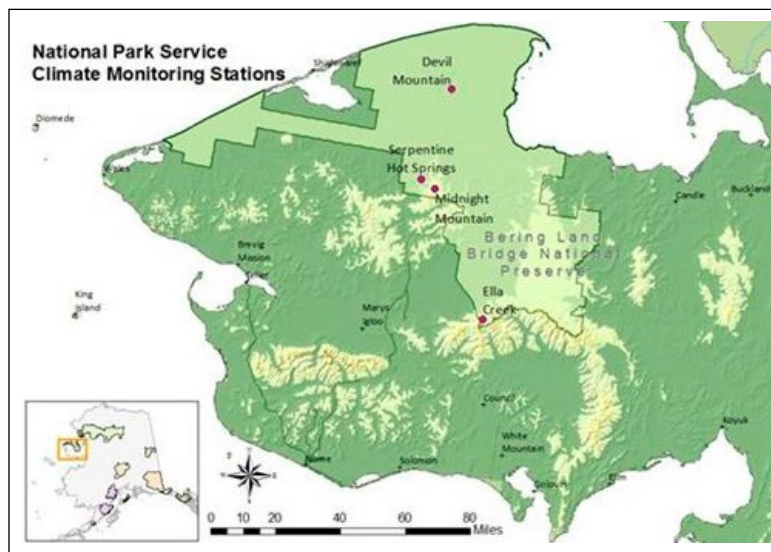


Figure 3. NPS Climate stations in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

More Information

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[Current weather in BELA](#)