



Weather & Climate Summary Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Summer 2017

Eagle Summer Weather

The summer of 2017 was warmer than normal and the rainfall totals were just about normal. The average summer temperature was 59.6°F, 2.3°F warmer than normal and the 8th warmest summer on record. A total of 5.84 inches of rain fell between June 1 and August 31, which is only 0.15 inches less than normal (see Figures 1 and 2; Table 1, and 2).

June was warmer than normal with a monthly average temperature of 59.1°F, which is 1.2°F warmer than normal. The warmest temperatures were around solstice; the high temperature for the month was 84°F recorded on June 23. Although the month was warm overall, there were two new record daily low temperatures in June: 31°F on June 13 and 33°F on June 14. There was very little rain during the first three weeks of June. Most of the accumulation for the month occurred between June 24 and 25 when a total of 1.5 inches fell in a 48-hour period. That was enough to push the total rainfall for June just above normal with 1.72 inches (105% of normal).

July was warmer than normal and just about normal in terms of rainfall. The monthly average temperature was 2.8°F warmer than normal at 63.2°F. It was the 6th warmest July on record. The high temperature for the month was 89°F on July 9. The total rainfall for the month was 2.46 inches; normal is 2.43 inches.

The temperatures for August were also warmer than normal. The average monthly temperature of 56.6°F was 3.0°F above the 1981-2010 normal. August was drier than normal with a rainfall total of 1.66 inches, which is 86% of normal.

Summer light in Yukon-Charley Rivers, photo by Ken Hill.

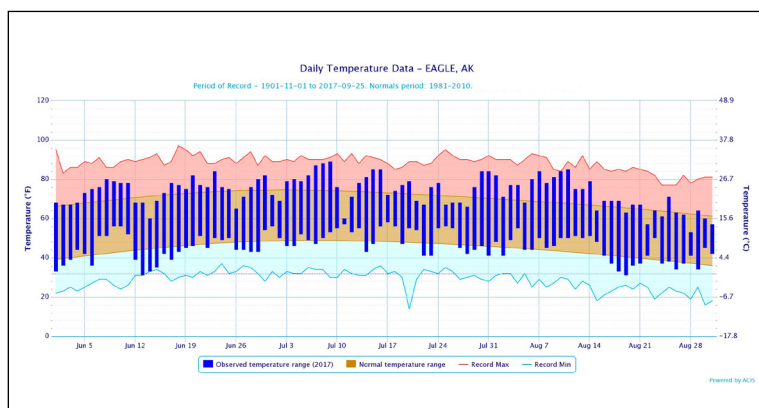


Figure 1. Summer 2017 daily temperatures at Eagle showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars).

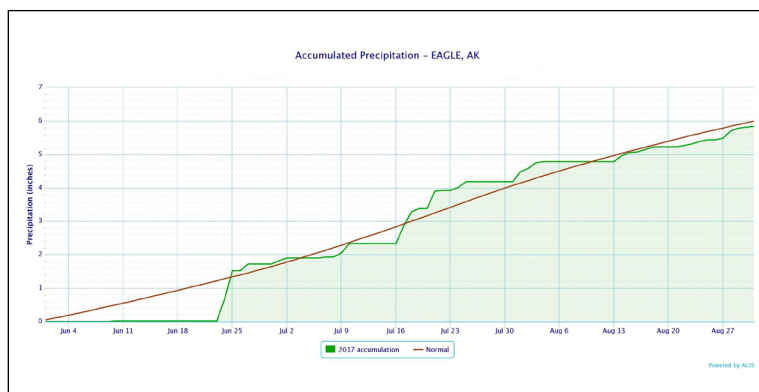


Figure 2. Summer 2017 accumulated precipitation at Eagle (green) compared to normal (brown line).

Table 1. Temperature: Summer 2017 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1981-2010 normal.

Summer 2017	Average Monthly Temp °F	1981-2010 Normal °F	Departure from Normal °F	Monthly High °F / Date	Monthly Low °F / Date
June	59.1	57.9	+1.2	84 / Jun 23	31* / Jun 13
July	63.2	60.4	+2.8	89 / Jul 9	41 / Jul 22, 23, 31
August	56.6	53.6	+3.0	85 / Aug 11	31 / Aug 19

Summer Season Temperature Departure from Normal: +2.3°F; *Record daily low

Table 2. Precipitation: Summer 2017 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Summer 2017	Total Monthly Precip. in.	1981-2010 Normal in.	Departure from Normal in.	Greatest 24 -hr. total in. / Date	# Days with >=0.01 in. water
June	1.72	1.64	+0.08	0.84 / Jun 26	4
July	2.46	2.43	+0.03	0.53 / Jul 17	12
August	1.66	1.92	-0.26	0.30 / Aug 1	18

Summer Season Departure from Normal: -0.15 inches (97% of normal)

Climate Monitoring in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park and Preserve

The NPS climate stations in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (YUCH) have been in operation for over a decade. The Coal Creek and Upper Charley stations complement long-term records available from the National Weather Service station in Eagle. There is also a fire RAWs that has been in operation for several decades at Ben Creek.

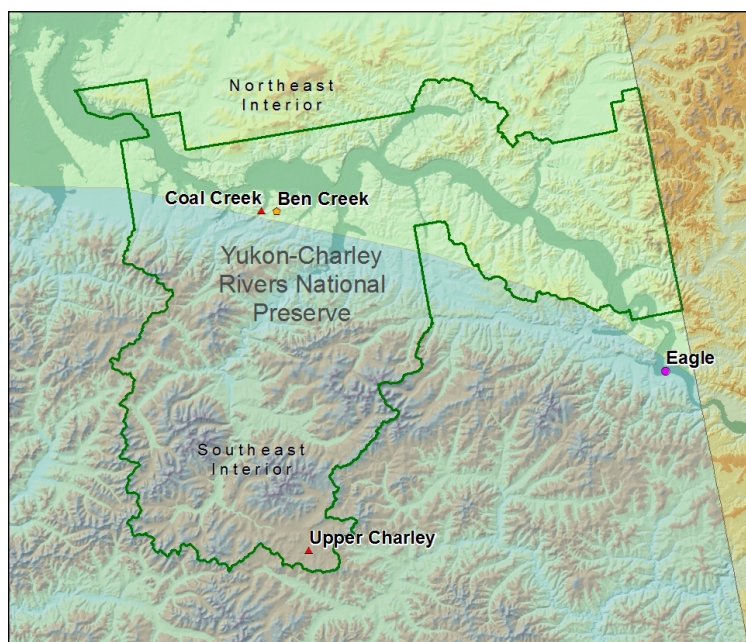


Figure 3. Map of climate stations in Yukon-Charley Rivers and the Northeast Interior and Southeast Interior Alaska climate divisions (shaded portions).

Summer temperatures in YUCH

The 2017 summer temperatures at Coal Creek and Eagle are quite similar, which is to be expected given that they are both located near the Yukon River at approximately the same elevation (Eagle 850' and Coal Creek 870'). The new

climate divisions place Coal Creek and Eagle right along the boundary of the Northeast Interior and Southeast Interior climate divisions, while the Upper Charley site is entirely within the Southeast Interior climate zone. The Northeast Interior climate division has the most continental climate in the state (farthest from ocean influences) with the lowest precipitation totals and the largest seasonal temperature range. However, the temperature comparison between the park sites is influenced more by elevation than distance to the coast. The Upper Charley site is located in the mountains at an elevation of 3,654'; the summer seasonal temperature is, on average, about 7°F cooler than at either Coal Creek or Eagle (Figure 4).

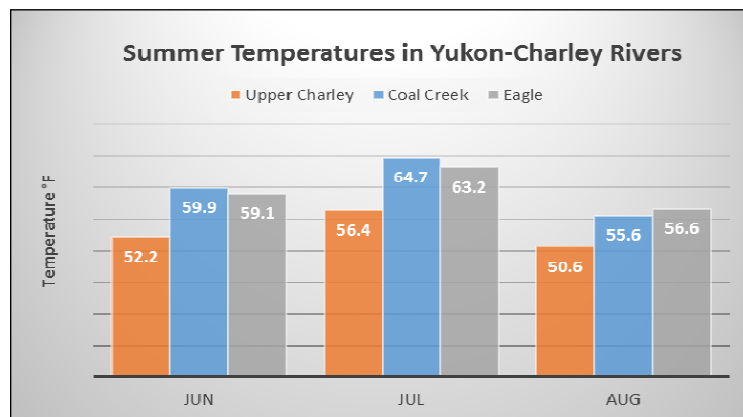


Figure 4. 2017 Average summer temperatures in YUCH.

More Information

Pam Sousanes; pam_sousanes@nps.gov; ph 907-455-0677

Ken Hill; kenneth_hill@nps.gov; ph 907-455-0678

<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/cakn>

[Current Weather in Yukon-Charley Rivers](#)