

Central Alaska Network

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alaska Region
Inventory & Monitoring Program



Denali NP & PRES • Wrangell-St. Elias NP & PRES • Yukon-Charley Rivers N PRES

Winter 2019-2020

Weather & Climate Summary Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Winter 2019-2020

The Yukon River winding through Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. NPS photo.

Eagle Winter Weather 2019-2020

The average winter temperature at Eagle was -5.5°F cooler than normal at -11.3°F . How unusual to report cooler than normal temperatures! The total winter precipitation was 1.56 inches, 92% of normal. The snowfall total for the winter months was 28 inches, which is exactly the long-term average for Eagle. January was the snowiest month with ~ 16 inches of snow (Figures 1 and 2; Table 1, 2, and 3).

December was just a tad warmer than normal with little snow accumulation. The average temperature for December was -3.3°F compared to a normal of -4.0°F . The first day of the month and the last day of the month were the two warmest days. There was no snow recorded in December until

Christmas Day! Between December 25-28 a total of 6.5 inches of snow fell and that was it for the month. The water content of the snow was 0.41 inches, which is about 59% of normal. Thanks to abundant snow in November there was over a foot of snow on the ground for all of December.

It was a cold January. The average temperature was a chilly -22.5°F , normal is -9.5°F . This doesn't even come close to the coldest January; January 2020 ranked as the 18th coldest (out of 91 years). The temperature bottomed out at -53°F on January 9th and 10th. Snowfall was more plentiful in January with a total of 16 inches falling, twice as much as normal. The water content was 0.90 inches, 170% of normal.

The cool trend continued into February and the month ended up -4.2°F cooler than the 1981-2010 normal. The daily temperatures for February look like a roller coaster starting out cool, then warming up through the 10th, then plunging back down mid-month, rising again the third week, and ending on a chilly note with minimum temperatures of -46°F and -42°F the last two days of February. There was a total of 5.5 inches of snow for February, normal is 8.0 inches; the water content of the snow was 0.25 inches, which is 53% of normal.

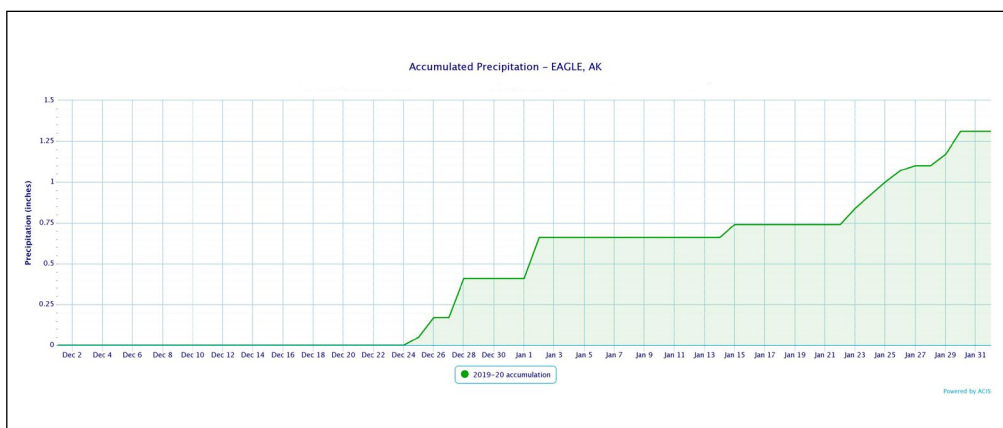
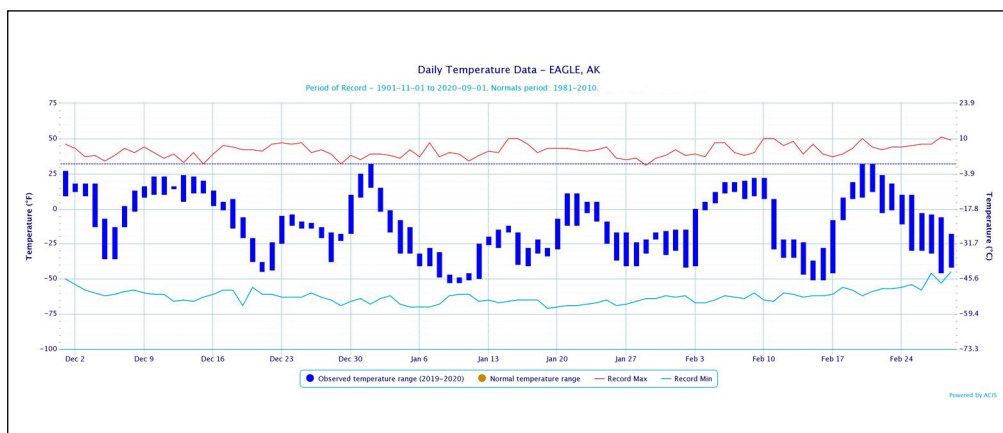


Figure 1 (top left). Winter 2019-2020 daily temperatures at Eagle showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue) and observed range (blue bars).

Figure 2 (bottom left). Winter 2019-2020 accumulated precipitation at Eagle (green).

Table 1. Temperature: Winter 2019-2020 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1981-2010 normal.

Winter 2019-2020	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1981-2010 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Monthly High (°F / Date)	Monthly Low (°F / Date)
December	-3.3	-4.0	+0.7	27 / Dec 1	-45 / Dec 21
January	-22.5	-9.5	-13.0	32 / Jan 1	-53 / Jan 9, 10
February	-7.9	-3.7	-4.2	32 / Feb 20, 21	-51 / Feb 15, 16

Winter Season Temperature Departure from Normal: -5.5°F.

Table 2. Precipitation: Winter 2019-2020 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Winter 2019-2020	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	0.41	0.69	-0.28	0.24 / Dec 28	3
January	0.90	0.53	+0.37	0.25 / Jan 2	6
February	0.25	0.47	-0.22	0.10 / Feb 27	4

Winter Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: -0.13 inches (93% of normal).

Table 3. Snowfall: Winter 2019-2020 monthly snowfall totals compared to normal.

Winter 2019-2020	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	6.5	12.0	-5.5	3.0 / Dec 28	44.0
January	16.0	8.0	8.0	3.0 / Jan 30	60.0
February	5.5	8.0	-2.5	2.5 / Feb 5	65.5

Winter in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

It was the 2nd coldest winter season on record at the Coal Creek climate station (2005-2020). The seasonal average temperature of -15.1°F was about 12°F colder than it was last winter (Figure 3). January was cold statewide, and Coal Creek was no exception. It was the 2nd coldest January with an average temperature of -23.5°F.

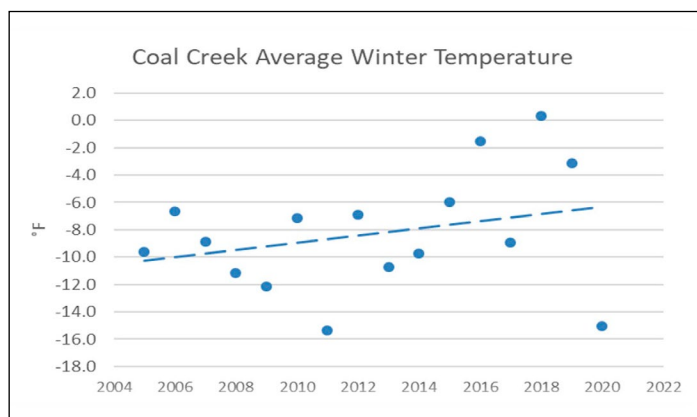


Figure 3. Average winter temperatures at the Coal Creek climate station in Yukon-Charley Rivers NP.

At the end of February there was 25 inches of snow on the ground at the Coal Creek weather station and 20 inches at the Upper Charley site.

The winter of 2020 was cooler than normal statewide, except for the southern coastal areas (Figure 4).

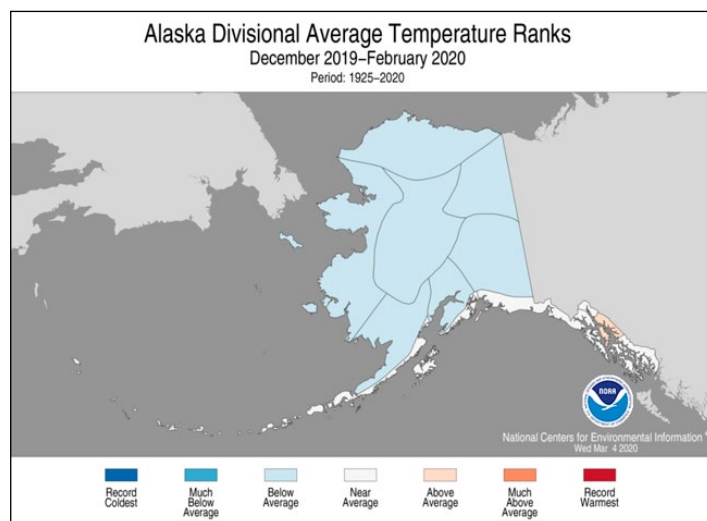


Figure 4. Much of the state was cooler than normal (light blue shading) for the 2020 winter season. Graph courtesy of NCEI.

More Information

Pam_Sousanes@nps.gov;
ph 907-455-0677

Kenneth_Hill@nps.gov;
ph 907-455-0678

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Data disclaimer: Please note that the near-real time data used to generate these reports is subject to change. QA/QC data from the NPS CAKN climate stations are available at [NPS Data Store](#)

