



Bering Land Bridge N Pres. • Cape Krusenstern NM
Gates of the Arctic NP & Pres. • Kobuk Valley NP • Noatak N Pres.

Fall 2019

Weather & Climate Summary Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Fall 2019

NPS photo, Neal Herbert.

Nome Fall Weather 2019

It was another warm fall in Nome, 3.6°F above normal and the 12th warmest on record. September was warm and wet compared to normal. October was especially wet with 4.42 inches of precipitation. Only 1935 had a wetter October. Despite below-normal precipitation in November, the fall season still ended up as the 4th wettest on record in Nome.

The average temperature for September was 2.7 °F warmer than normal. On the 13th and 15th of the month the high temperature was 62 °F, both daily records going back over 100 years. Relatively dry, cool, weather came the third week of September. Almost an inch (0.98 inches) of rain fell on September 29, a record for the day. Precipitation totaled 4.33 inches for the month, 177% of normal.

It was a warm and wet October in Nome. Almost 2 inches of rain fell in the first 10 days, more than double the expected normal. A wet snow event occurred October 18-19 with over 7 inches of snow containing 0.72 inches of water equivalent. October 26-27 was also particularly wet, with 1.63 inches in two days. Almost all of this came as rain, with a high of 43 °F and a low of 34 °F on the 27th. An unprecedented 4 inches of precipitation fell during the last week of the month. It was the wettest October since 1935. The temperatures never really cooled off in October 2019, and the month ended up +4.4 °F warmer than normal.

Above normal temperatures continued into November with an average monthly anomaly of 3.7 °F above normal. The warmest days of the month (compared to normal) occurred during the second week of November. Lack of snow cover led to strange conditions, including reports of blowing dust on November 14 with N-NE gusts to 41 mph. Normal to below-normal temperatures the last two weeks of the month helped with the onset of the Bering Sea freeze-up season which began on November 19th. This was the earliest start to freeze-up since 2012, but still much later than the historical

average. The last week of the month saw a pattern shift with strong south winds and 0.34 inches of precipitation. Total precipitation for the month was only 30% of average (Figures 1 and 2; Table 1 and 2).

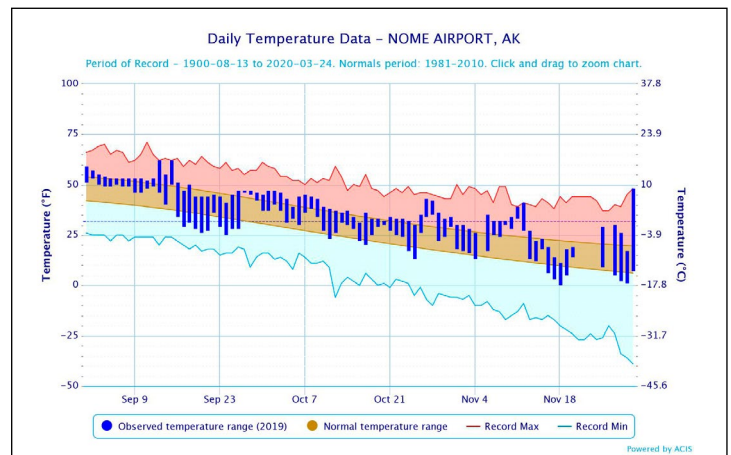


Figure 1 (top left). Fall 2019 daily temperatures at Nome showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars).

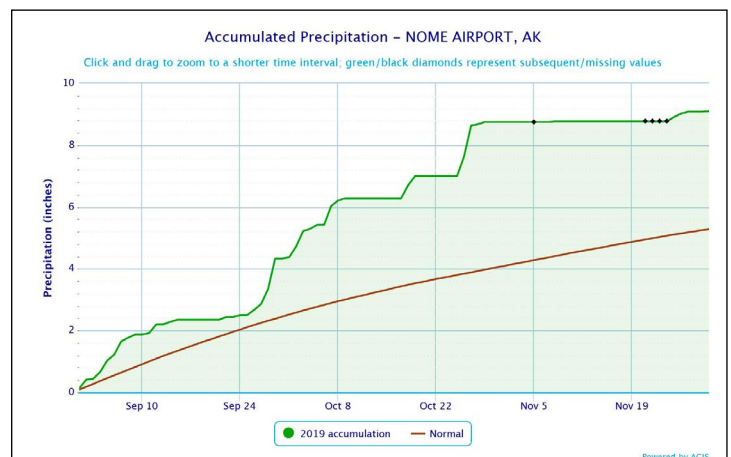


Figure 2 (left). Fall 2019 accumulated precipitation (green) at Nome compared to normal (brown line).

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

Fall 2019	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1981-2010 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Monthly High (°F / Date)	Monthly Low (°F / Date)
September	45.5	42.8	+2.7	62 / Sep. 13*, 15*	25 / Sep. 25
October	33.1	28.7	+4.4	47 / Oct. 1, 2	13 / Oct. 25
November	20.6	16.9	+3.7	41 / Nov. 12*	0 / Nov. 18

Fall Season Temperature Departure from Normal: +3.6°F. *Daily record.

Table 2. Precipitation: Fall 2019 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Fall 2019	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1981-2010 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)	Greatest 24 -hr. total (in. / Date)	# Days with >=0.01 in. water
September	4.33	2.45	+1.88	0.98* / Sep. 29	19
October	4.42	1.61	+2.81	0.99* / Oct. 27	14
November	0.36	1.22	-0.86	0.14 / Nov. 25	6

Fall Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: +3.83 inches (173% of normal). *Daily record.

Serpentine Hot Springs Fall Warmth

Fall season temperatures have increased since we started year-round measurements at Serpentine Hot Springs in 2011 (Figure 3). The fall of 2018 was the warmest on record and 2019 was right at average for the 9-year record.

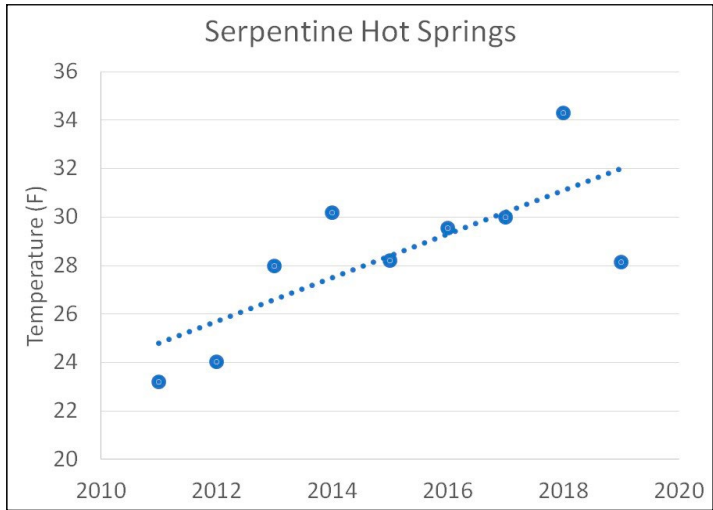


Figure 3. Fall temperatures at Serpentine Hot Springs 2011-2019.

Statewide Trend in Fall Temperatures

The statewide trend over the past 50 years shows warming over the entire state with the greatest increases in fall temperatures in the central interior, west coast, and north slope regions of Alaska (Figure 4). The decline in sea ice over the past several years has been a factor in the recent statewide warming trend.

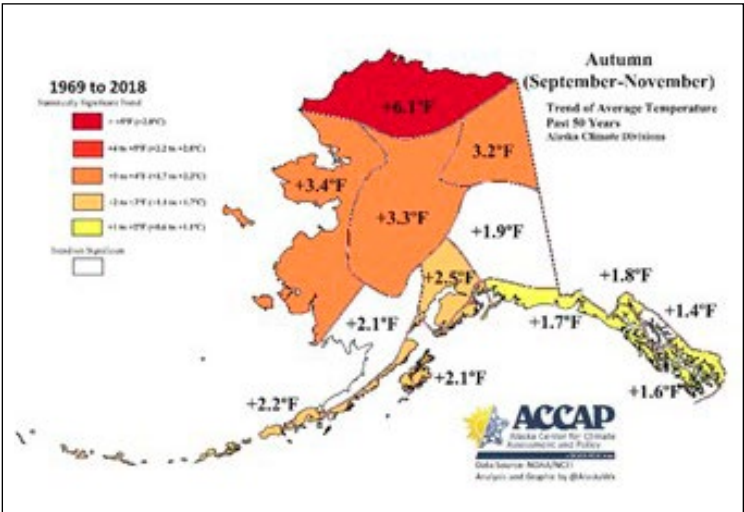
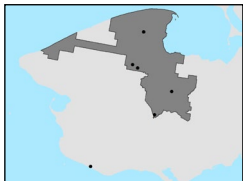


Figure 4. Fall temperature trends over the past 50 years across Alaska. Analysis and graphic by Rick Thoman @AlaskaWx.

More Information

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

Kenneth.Hill@nps.gov;
ph 907-455-0678



[Current Weather in Bering Land Bridge N Pres.](#)

<https://www.nps.gov/im/arcn/climate.htm>

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](#)