



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

Fall 2023

Weather & Climate Summary Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Fall 2023

Fall colors, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. NPS Photo/Pam Sousanes

Nome Fall Weather Summary 2023

Overall, the fall season in Nome was slightly warmer than normal and wetter than normal. The average temperature for the 2023 fall season was 31.1°F, a half a degree above normal. The monthly temperatures were more variable. September and October were cooler than normal while November was warmer than normal. Fall precipitation was 2.64 inches above normal with a total of 7.95 inches (Table 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2).

September

September was cool and rainy. The average monthly temperature was 3.1°F cooler than normal at 40.0°F. The total precipitation for September was 3.36 inches, which is 152% or normal. More than half of that precipitation fell as rain in the first week of the month. On September 4th an inch of rain fell, which is a new daily record.

October

October was also cool and rainy. The first three weeks were cooler than normal, but after October 21 the pattern shifted. During the last week of the month the daily temperatures increased. They were much warmer than normal and were warmer than the first half of the month. The average monthly temperature ended up 1.2°F cooler than normal. The total precipitation for the month was 2.75 inches, normal is 1.84 inches. Most of that was ushered in with the warm, wet weather pattern the last week of the month.

November

November was warmer than normal with near normal

precipitation. The average monthly temperature was 5.9°F warmer than normal at 24.1°F. Like October the warmest departures from normal were during the last week. On November 24th the daily high temperature hit 40°F. The average daily temperature that day ended up 20°F warmer than normal. November precipitation totaled 1.84 inches, which is 145% of normal.

Table 1. Nome fall 2023 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1991-2020 normal.

Fall 2023	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1991-2020 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
September	40.0	43.1	-3.1
October	29.2	30.4	-1.2
November	24.1	18.2	+5.9

Fall Temperature Departure from normal: 0.5°F

Table 2. Nome fall 2023 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal

Fall 2023	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1991-2020 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
September	3.36	2.20	+1.16
October	2.75	1.84	+0.91
November	1.84	1.27	+0.57

Fall Precipitation Departure from normal: +2.64 in. (150% of normal).

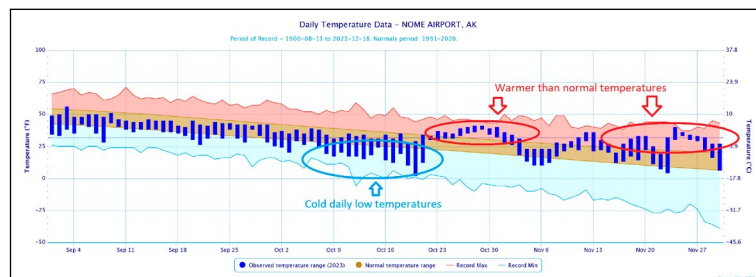


Figure 1. Fall 2023 daily temperatures at Nome showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). Data from: <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>.

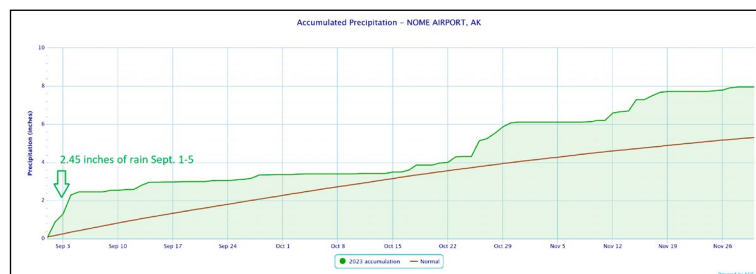


Figure 2. Fall 2023 accumulated precipitation at Nome (green) compared to normal (brown line). Data from: <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

2023: Another Wet Year

September 30th marked the end of the 2023 water year. It was the 6th wettest year on record in Nome with 23.90 inches of precipitation between October 1 and September 30. The 1991-2020 normal is 17.22 inches. Much of the northern Seward

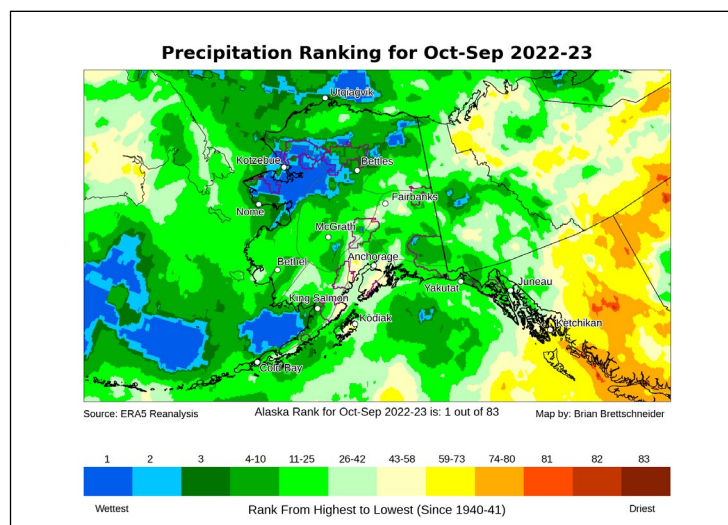


Figure 3. Statewide precipitation ranking map (back to 1940) for the 2023 water year (October 1 – September 30). Map courtesy of Brian Brettschneider. Dark blue shading indicates the wettest year on record.

Peninsula, including Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, was much wetter than normal this past year and in some areas it was the wettest year since 1940 (dark blue areas on Figure 3). Four of the last five years have been much wetter than normal.

Arctic Network Climate Stations

We monitor weather and climate in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve to help understand seasonal weather patterns and shifting climate averages (Figure 3).

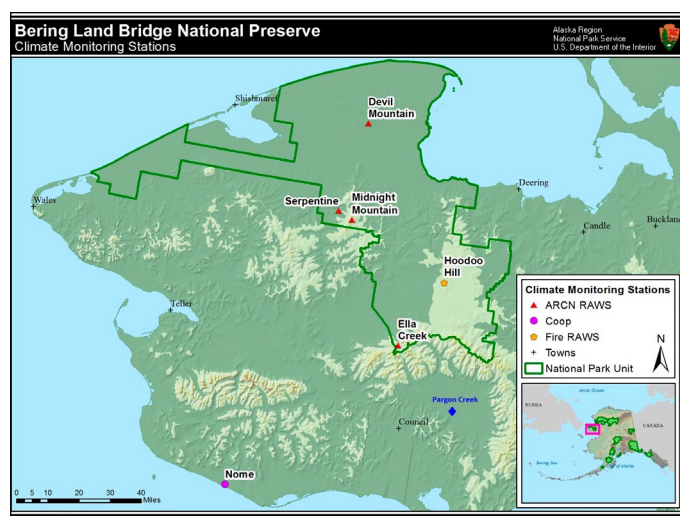


Figure 4. Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Network climate stations in Bering Land Bridge NP.

The climate station at Serpentine Hot Springs measured 3.4 inches of liquid precipitation in September. That is a large amount of water for Serpentine in September. Normally we only look at June, July, and August precipitation when air temperatures are reliably above freezing. But given that the temperatures were mostly above 32°F and that it was a wet September in Nome that number was likely a good indication that it was a rainy, wet September at Serpentine. This followed the wettest summer on record at this site

Fall of 2023 was about 0.5°F warmer than average at Serpentine with records going back to 2012 (Figure 5). Like Nome, September and October were cooler than average while November was warmer than average. The average November temperature at this site is 15.4°F, this November was about 5°F warmer than average.

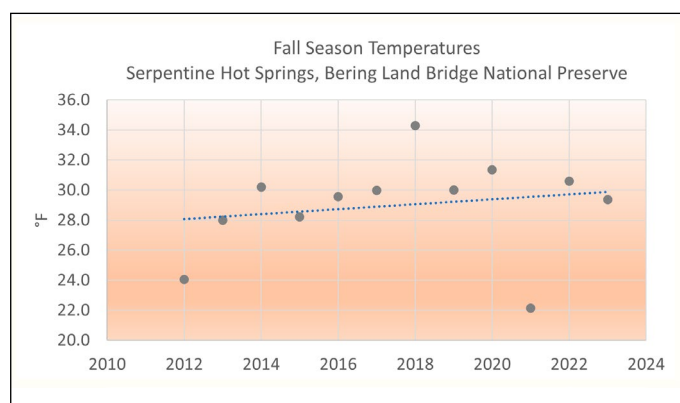


Figure 5. Fall season average temperatures at the Serpentine Hot Springs climate station in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve 2012-2023.

More Information

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[Latest weather conditions in Bering Land Bridge N.P.](#)

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 ARCN climate stations are available at [NPS Data Store](#)