



Weather & Climate Summary Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve Fall 2024

Mt. Blackburn and the upper Kennicott Glacier in fall. NPS Photo/Ken Hill

Gulkana Fall Season 2024

Fall 2024 was cooler and drier than normal in Gulkana. The fall season (Sep-Oct-Nov) was -1.1°F cooler than the 1991-2020 average with a cool November. November was also the driest month of the season with less than half the normal precipitation. The total fall precipitation was 2.64 inches, normal is 3.27 inches (Table 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2).

September

September was slightly warmer and slightly drier than normal. The average monthly temperature was 0.2°F warmer than normal. Temperatures were in the above normal range for most of the first half of the month with overnight lows usually remaining above freezing. It wasn't until September 19 when the daily minimums began to consistently drop below freezing. The total rainfall in September was 1.23 inches, 87% of normal.

October

October was close to normal for both temperature and precipitation. The average temperature for the month was -0.3°F cooler than normal with the strongest departure from normal on October 20 with an average daily temperature 12°F below normal. The total rainfall for October was 1.01 inches, 101% of normal. Most of the precipitation occurred during the last four days of the month (0.88 inches) with a majority of that recorded on October 29 (0.51 inches; a daily record). The site in Glenallen received 8 inches of snow on October 29; snowfall is not measured in Gulkana.

November

November was colder and drier than normal. The average monthly temperature was 3.2°F colder than normal. The first half of the month was near normal with one very warm day on November 6th when the high temperature reached 35°F. After that the temperatures dropped. The last few days of the month were 26°F colder than normal. November precipitation was less than half the normal amount at 0.40 inches, 47% of normal for Gulkana. Glenallen received 4.6 inches of snow for the month.

Table 1. Gulkana monthly temperatures compared to the 1991-2020 normal.

Fall 2024	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1991-2020 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
September	43.8	43.6	+0.2
October	26.8	27.1	-0.3
November	3.6	6.8	-3.2

Fall Temperature Departure from normal: -1.1°F

Table 2. Gulkana monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Fall 2024	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1991-2020 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
September	1.23	1.42	-0.19
October	1.01	1.00	+0.01
November	0.40	0.85	-0.45

Fall Precipitation Departure from normal: -0.63in. (81% of normal).

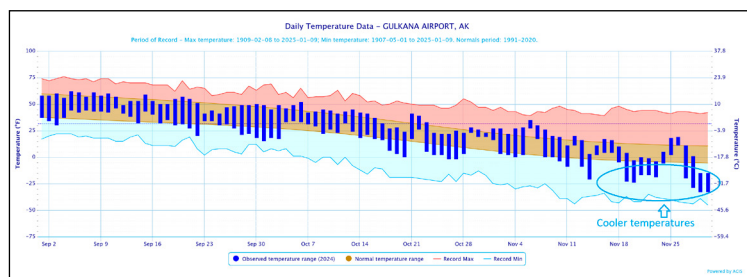


Figure 1. Fall 2024 daily temperatures at Gulkana showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

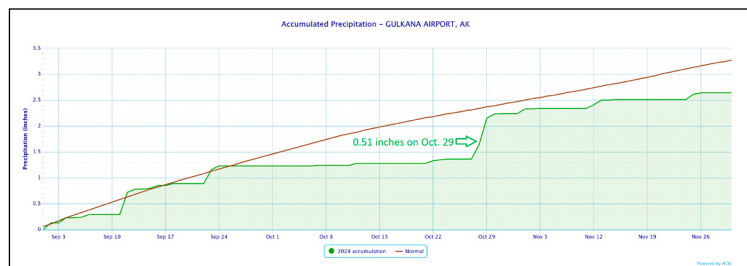


Figure 2. Fall 2024 accumulated precipitation at Gulkana (green) compared to normal (brown line). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

Yakutat Fall Season 2024

The fall season was warmer and drier than normal in Yakutat. The average fall season temperature was 1.4°F warmer than the 1991–2020 normal. November was 2.0°F warmer than normal. The normal fall precipitation total is 51.46 inches, this fall 38.70 inches fell. September precipitation was 79% of normal, October 80% of normal, and November 63% of normal.

Warmer Fall Temperatures at Chicken Creek

The fall seasons have been getting warmer at the Chicken Creek climate site. We've been measuring temperature continuously at this site since 2005. Over the past 20 years fall temperatures have increased by 3.4°F. Out of the three fall season months, November temperatures have increased the most. The seasonal average at Chicken Creek this fall was 22.3°F, which was 1.3°F below the site average (Figure 3).

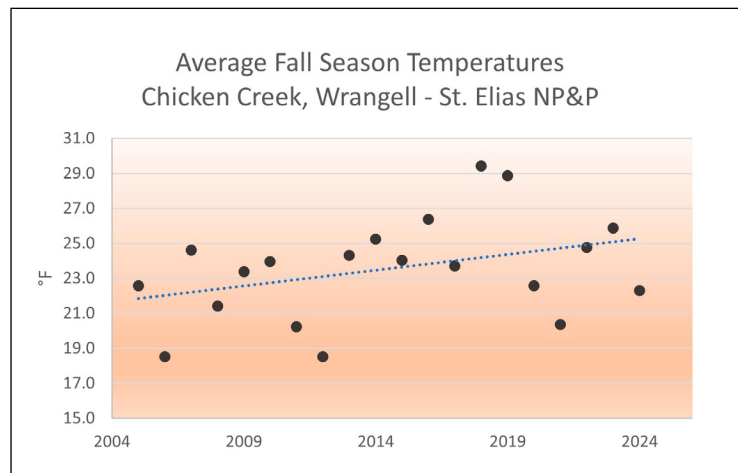


Figure 3. Average fall season temperatures at Chicken Creek climate station in Wrangell – St. Elias NP&P 2005–2024.

Early Season Snow

October 1 marked the start of the 2025 water year which we use to capture the entire winter season and track the movement of water through the landscape. At May Creek the cumulative precipitation (Oct 1 – Nov 30) was 73% of normal. The snow depth was 9 inches, right at normal. Chisana had more precipitation than normal for the late fall season and was at 153% of normal on November 30. The snow depth was 8 inches, just above normal. Since then, there has been little accumulation at Chisana and the snow depth as of mid-January is below normal (Figure 4).

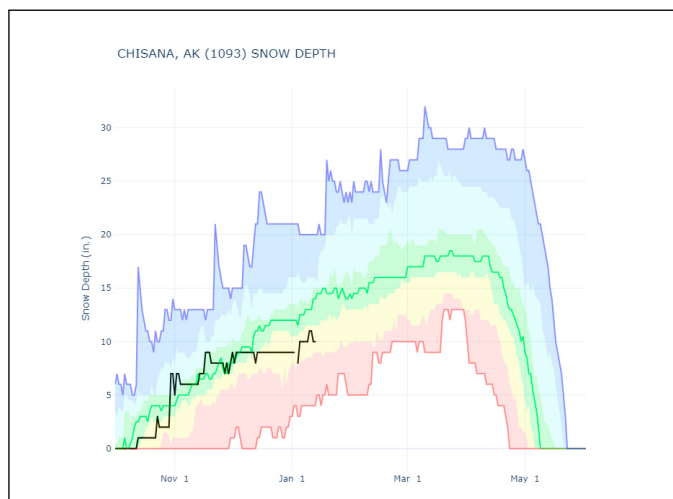


Figure 4. Chisana snow depth starting on October 1, 2024 with maximum (blue), minimum (red), and median (green) snow depth (2007–2025). The black line is the current year.

[Click here](#) for current weather in the park (Figure 5).

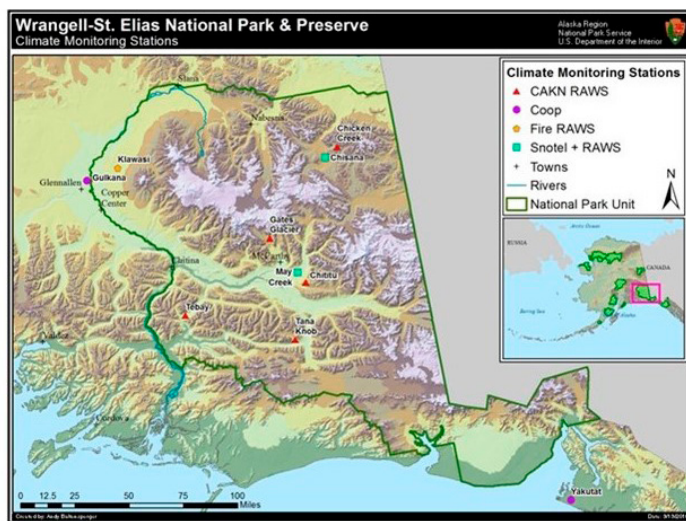


Figure 5. Central Alaska Network climate stations in Wrangell – St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

More Information

[Pam Sousanes@nps.gov](mailto:Pam_Sousanes@nps.gov); ph 907-455-0677
[Kenneth Hill@nps.gov](mailto:Kenneth_Hill@nps.gov); ph 907-455-0678

<https://www.nps.gov/im/cakn/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](#)