



Weather & Climate Summary Wrangell – St. Elias National Park and Preserve Winter 2025

Mount Drum in winter. NPS Photo

Gulkana Winter Season 2024-2025

Winter 2024-2025 was warmer and drier than normal in Gulkana with records going back to 1907. The winter season (Dec-Jan-Feb) was 6.8°F warmer than the 1991-2020 normal and the 6th warmest winter on record. January was the warmest month of the winter compared to normal. Precipitation was just below normal for December and January, while February was desert-like with only 25% of normal precipitation. The total winter precipitation was 1.52 inches, normal is 2.16 inches (Table 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2). From December 1 through February 28 the Glennallen station recorded 24 inches of total snowfall. Snowfall is not measured in Gulkana.

December

December was warmer than normal with near normal precipitation for the month. The average monthly temperature was 5.9°F warmer than normal. There were four days in December where the daily high temperatures climbed above freezing (>32°F). This included a new daily record high on December 5th of 37°F. The warmest stretch was between December 4 -14 when daily temperatures averaged 26 °F warmer than normal. The total precipitation (melted snow and rain) was 0.75 inches, 96% of normal.

January

January was much warmer than normal with near normal precipitation. It was the 6th warmest January on record. The temperatures at the beginning of the month and the end of the month were cold, but the long stretch in between, from January 6 -28, was much warmer than normal. It is unusual for January temperatures to climb above freezing; the average daily high is normally around 5°F. This January there were 15 days with a daily high temperature above freezing (≥32°F), including 39°F on January 11 a new record high for that date. The total

precipitation for January was 0.61 inches, 84% of normal. The site in Glennallen received 8 inches of snow in January but with warm temperatures the snow depth decreased from 11 inches on January 1st to 6 inches on the 31st.

February

February was cooler than normal and much drier than normal. Most of the first half of the month had cooler than normal temperatures, while the second half was near normal to slightly above normal. The month ended with a record high temperature of 42°F on February 28. February precipitation was only 25% of normal. Glennallen only had 2 inches of snow fall during the entire month.

Table 1. Gulkana winter 2024-2025 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1991-2020 normal.

Winter 2024-2025	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1991-2020 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
December	5.7	-0.2	+5.9
January	12.2	-3.4	+15.6
February	4.6	5.6	-1.0

Winter Temperature Departure from normal: +6.8°F

Table 2. Gulkana monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Winter 2024-2025	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1991-2020 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
December	0.75	0.78	-0.03
January	0.61	0.73	-0.12
February	0.16	0.65	-0.49

Winter Precipitation Departure from normal: -0.64in. (70% of normal).

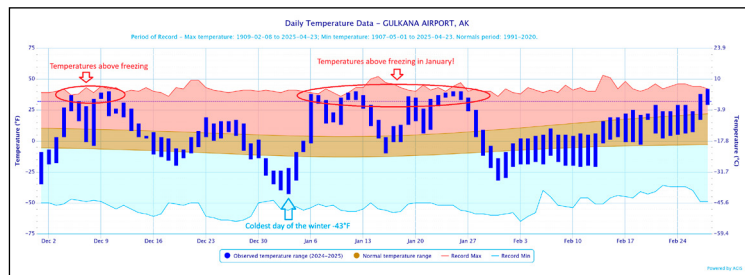


Figure 1. Winter 2024-2025 daily temperatures at Gulkana showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

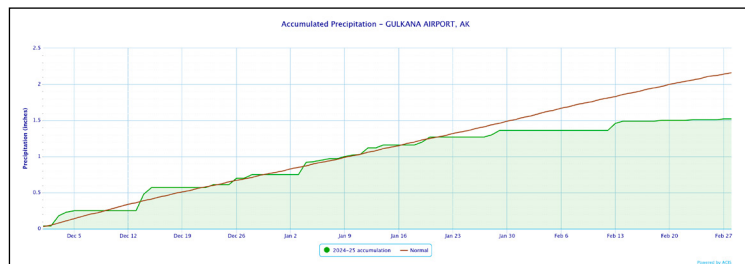


Figure 2. Winter 2024-2025 accumulated precipitation at Gulkana (green) compared to normal (brown line). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

Yakutat Winter Season 2024-2025

The winter season in Yakutat was warmer than normal with near normal precipitation. The average winter season temperature was 4.4°F warmer than the 1991-2020 normal. It was the 4th warmest December and 8th warmest January on record with records back to 1917. The normal winter precipitation total is 36.19 inches, this winter 36.64 inches fell. December precipitation was near normal, January was 113% of normal, and February was 79% of normal.

Warm Winter at Chititu Climate Site

This was the warmest winter at Chititu since 2016 and the 3rd warmest on record. The Chititu site is located in the mountains above May Creek. We started observations in 2005, since then winter season temperatures have increased by 1.2 °F. The seasonal temperature this winter was 19.9°F, which was 5.3°F warmer than average (Figure 3).

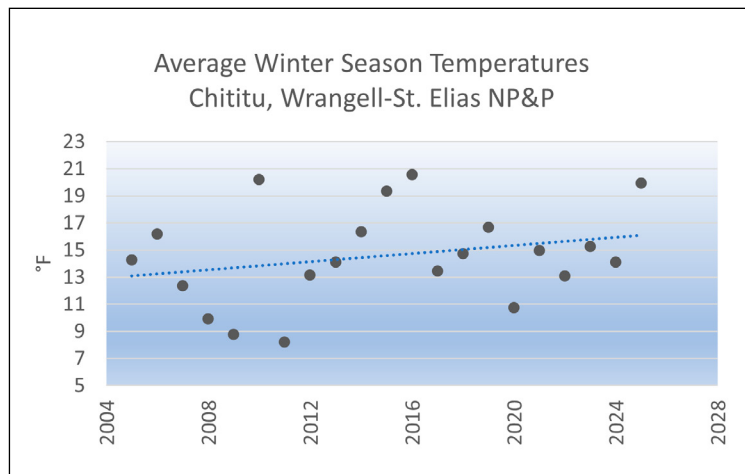


Figure 3. Average winter season temperatures at the Chititu climate station in Wrangell – St. Elias NP&P 2005-2025.

Low Winter Snowfall

This was the first winter in five years where the snowfall at May Creek was below normal. There was 17 inches of snow at May Creek on February 28th, a record low for this site (tied with 2016, records back to 2008). This was half of what it was in 2022 and 2023. The cumulative cold season precipitation (Oct. 1 – Feb. 28) was 4.0 inches, 69% of average (Figure 4).

Chisana had 2.9 inches of cumulative precipitation at the end of winter, 91% of average mostly due to early season snow in October and November. There was little additional snow at Chisana through the winter. The snow depth at the beginning of the winter season was 9 inches (close to average) and ended with 13 inches at the end of the winter, 3 inches shy of average.

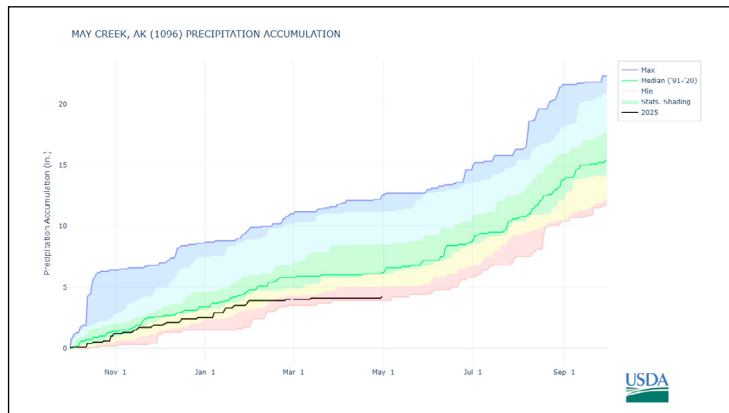


Figure 4. May Creek cumulative precipitation (Oct. 1- Apr. 29) with maximum (blue), minimum (red), and median (green). The black line is the current year.

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

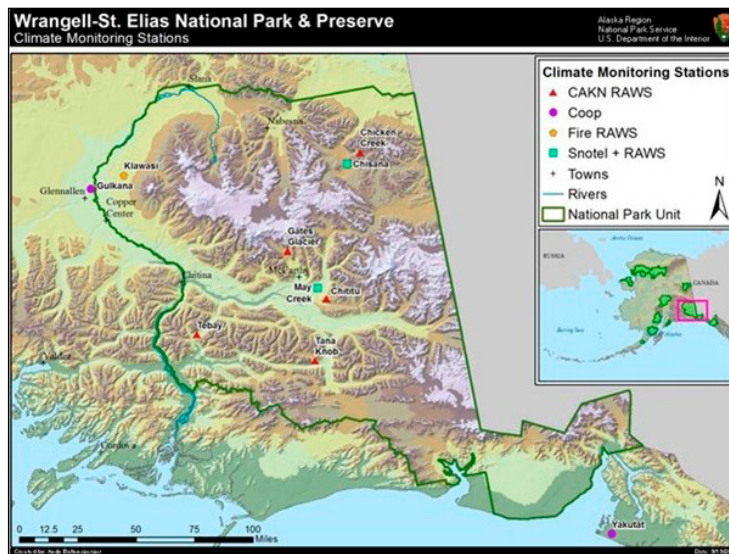


Figure 5. Central Alaska Network climate stations in Wrangell – St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

More Information

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<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](#)