



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

Summer 2025

Weather & Climate Summary Western Arctic Parklands Summer 2025

Ambler River headwaters. NPS Photo/Ken Hill.

Kotzebue Summer Weather 2025

Overall, the summer was warmer and much wetter than normal in Kotzebue. The average temperature for the 2025 summer season was 52.1°F, which is +0.5°F above the 1991-2020 normal. June and July were warmer than normal, and August was cooler than normal. August rainfall was plentiful and brought the summer total to 7.17 inches, 166% of normal. It was the wettest August on record and the 9th wettest summer on record (Table 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2). The past three summers have been much wetter than normal with seasonal rainfall totals >150% of normal.

June

June was warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature for the month was +1.3°F warmer than normal at 48.8°F. The first few weeks of June were much cooler than normal with minimum temperatures hovering around freezing. Temperatures warmed quickly mid-month. There was a new record daily high of 69°F on June 15. The rest of the month had normal to near normal temperatures. The total precipitation for the month was 0.66 inches; almost half of that rain, 0.34 inches, fell on June 13.

July

July was warmer and drier than normal. It was especially warm and dry at the beginning of the month. Temperatures were well above normal from July 1 through July 5, with a new record daily high of 81°F on July 3. Temperatures cooled off the second week; after that the remainder of July had near normal temperatures. Total rainfall for the month was 1.15 inches, 72% of normal.

August

August was cooler and much wetter than normal. It was the

wettest August on record (with records back to 1936). The monthly rainfall totaled 5.36 inches, which is more than 2.5 times more rain than normal for August. There were two periods with drenching rains. One on August 12-13 when a total of 1.52 inches of rain fell in 24-hours and the other August 22-25 with 2.12 inches falling over four days. The average monthly temperature was 1.1°F cooler than normal. The month started out warm. The first few days of the month were more than 10 degrees F warmer than normal with a new record daily high of 74°F on August 1. After the 3rd temperatures moderated and then cooled off for the second half of the month with daily minimums averaging well below normal.

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

Summer 2025	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1991-2020 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
June	48.8	47.5	+1.3
July	56.6	55.3	+1.3
August	51.0	52.1	-1.1

Summer temperature departure from normal: +0.5°F

Table 2. Kotzebue monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Summer 2025	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1991-2020 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
June	0.66	0.60	+0.06
July	1.15	1.60	-0.45
August	5.36	2.13	+3.23

Summer precipitation departure from normal: +2.84 in. (166% of normal)

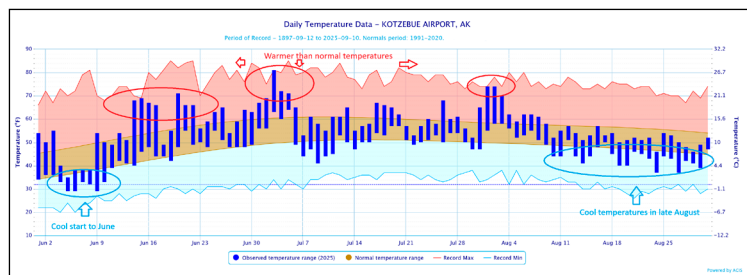


Figure 1. Summer 2025 daily temperatures at Kotzebue showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

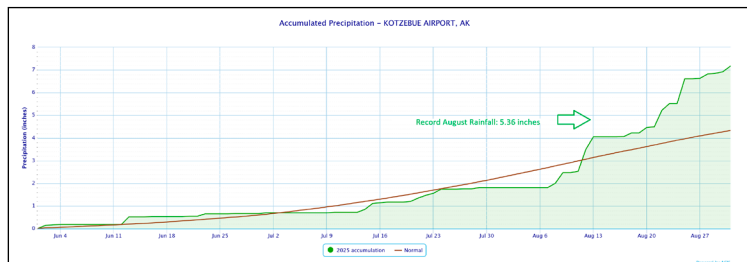


Figure 2. Summer 2025 accumulated precipitation at Kotzebue (green) compared to normal (brown line). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

Summer 2025

Heatwaves

June started out cool, but a heat wave in mid-June broke many daily high temperature records. A second heat wave occurred in early July when temperatures climbed into the low 90s at low elevation communities stretching from Wiseman to Kiana (Figure 3). In early July, lightning sparked fires in the region resulting in 22,729 acres burned in Noatak and 24,648 acres burned in Kobuk Valley for the 2025 summer wildfire season.

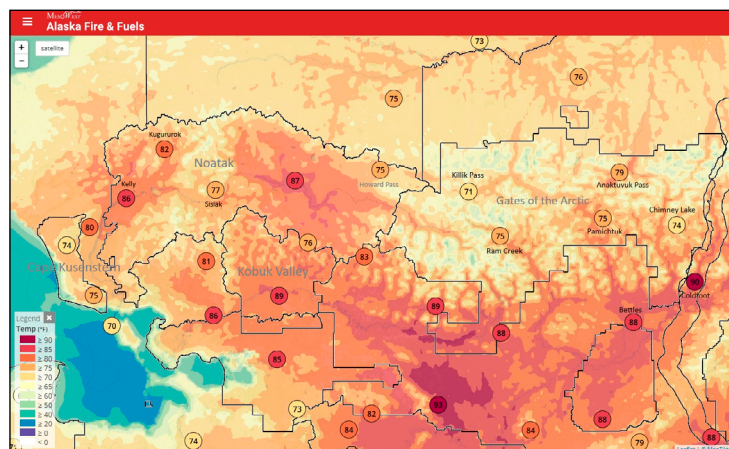


Figure 3. Daily high temperatures on July 5, 2025, at sites across the Brooks Range including the Arctic Network climate stations in the Western Arctic Parklands. Data from [Surface Map | Alaska Fire & Fuels | MesoWest](#).

Abundant August Rainfall

Late August brought abundant rainfall to the region. At the Kelly SNOTEL station where we measure daily precipitation it was the fourth wettest August on record with 6.60 inches of total rainfall for the month. This is the second wet August in a row (2024 had 6.80 inches). At our Kugururok site 8.74 inches was recorded in August, the wettest August since records began in 2015. Asik, Sisiak, and Howard Pass in Noatak NP all

had more than 7 inches of rain fall during August, more than double the site averages. August rainfall totals for the parks and surrounding communities ended up 150% to 250% of normal (Figure 4).

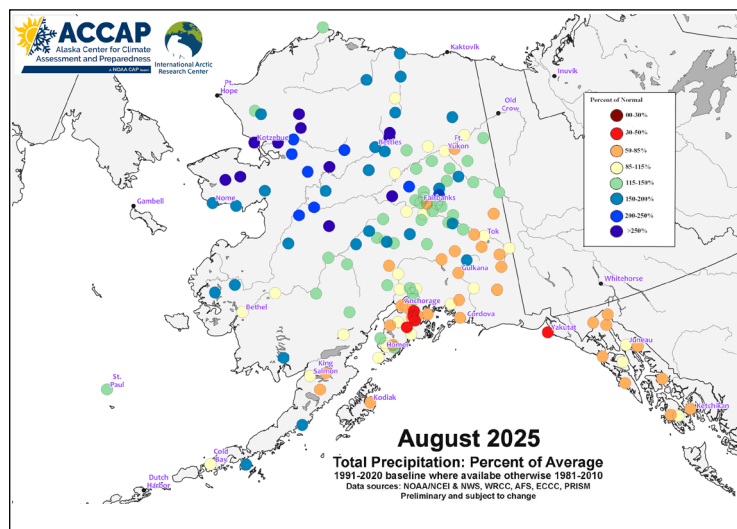


Figure 4. August precipitation percent of average across Alaska. Sites across Northwest Alaska (dark blues and purple) were the wettest compared to average, 150-250% of normal. Data courtesy of Rick Thoman and ACCAP.

The record-breaking August rainfall led to destructive flooding in communities along the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers (Figure 5). Read more about the impacts here: [Northwest Alaska communities brace for more rain after wettest August ever.](#)

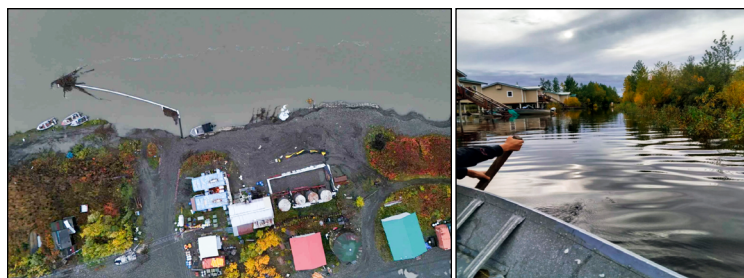


Figure 5. Flooding from heavy precipitation in late August threatening Noatak's fuel tanks and store (left) and Kobuk residences (right). Images courtesy of [KOTZ](#). Noatak photo by Jeff Luther. Kobuk photo by Gena Linus.

Data Importance

The Arctic Network's climate data are used for operational needs and early warnings of potential hazards including fire conditions, aviation decisions, and trip planning for park visitors. The data are also important for consistent monitoring over the long-term to detect changes in park ecosystems, including gradual trends and extreme events.

Current Weather in the Western Arctic Parklands

More Information

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