



Weather & Climate Summary Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve Summer 2025

Mt. Blackburn, Wrangell-St. Elias. NPS Photo/Pam Sousanes

Summer Season 2025

Summer 2025 was slightly warmer and drier than normal in Gulkana. The summer season (Jun-Jul-Aug) was 0.6°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average. July was the warmest month compared to normal. Each month of the season was relatively dry, but July was the driest compared to normal, with less than half the normal rain. The total summer rainfall was 3.46 inches, normal is 5.01 inches (Table 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2).

June

June was slightly warmer and drier than normal. The average monthly temperature was just above normal at 55.2°F. The month started out cool for the first few weeks with a late freeze on June 11. Temperatures warmed mid-month with the warmth lasting through solstice before returning to near normal for the last week of the month. The warmest days of the summer were centered around the solstice with high temperatures in the 80s between June 19-21. The total rainfall in June was 1.15 inches, 85% of normal. Two days in June accounted for more than half of the rain that fell during the month: June 5 with 0.48 inches and June 29 with 0.30 inches.

July

July was warm and dry. The average temperature for the month was 1.0°F warmer than normal. July daily temperatures were in the near normal to slightly above normal range for the month except for two days, July 24 and 25, when the overnight lows dropped to the upper 30s. The normal lows for late July average in the upper 40s. The total rainfall for July was 0.84 inches, only 48% of normal. There was measurable rain on 10 out of the 31 days in July, but the daily totals were relatively low.

August

August was warmer and drier than normal. At 54.0°F the average monthly temperature was 0.5°F warmer than normal. Temperatures were warmer than normal the first week and the last week of the month. The first freeze was on August 12, and there were three additional nights with minimum temperatures at or below 32°F (Aug 17, 23, and 30). Those cold temperatures were all below normal. But between August 24-28 there were several consecutive warm nights with overnight lows that averaged 10°F warmer than normal. August rainfall was 77% of normal for Gulkana.

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

Summer 2025	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1991-2020 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
June	55.2	54.9	+0.3
July	58.9	57.9	+1.0
August	54.0	53.5	+0.5

Summer Temperature Departure from normal: +0.6°F

Table 2. Gulkana monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Summer 2025	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1991-2020 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
June	1.15	1.36	-0.21
July	0.84	1.74	-0.90
August	1.47	1.91	-0.44

Summer Precipitation Departure from normal: -1.55 in. (69% of normal)

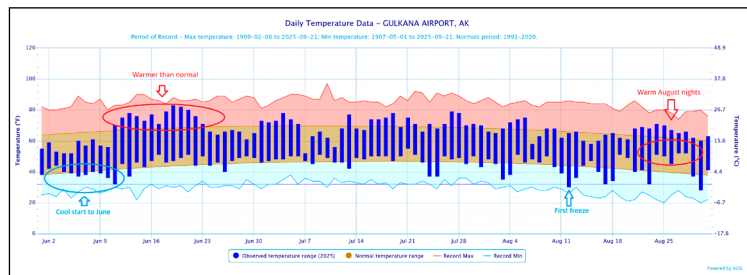


Figure 1. Summer 2025 daily temperatures at Gulkana showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

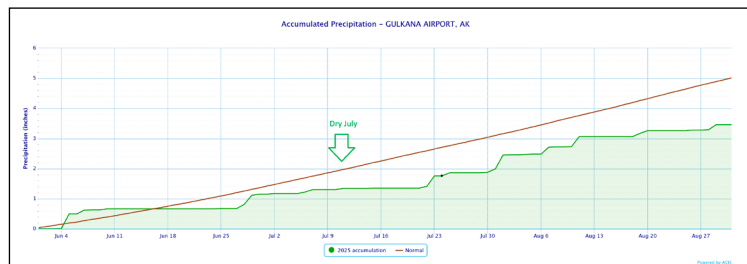


Figure 2. Summer 2025 accumulated precipitation at Gulkana (green) compared to normal (brown line). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

Dry Summer in Wrangell - St. Elias

Summer of 2025 was relatively dry in Wrangell – St. Elias along with much of Southeast Alaska and neighboring Yukon Territory in Canada. Looking at the statewide precipitation map for the summer season most of Wrangell – St. Elias NP&P tilted drier, especially the southeast corner near the coast. Yakutat, at only 35% of normal had its second driest summer on record with observations going back to 1917! There is bound to be variability in summer precipitation in a 13.2-million-acre park, but most of the region was between 50 and 95% of normal (Figure 3). One anomaly to the dry summer was the Chisana area.

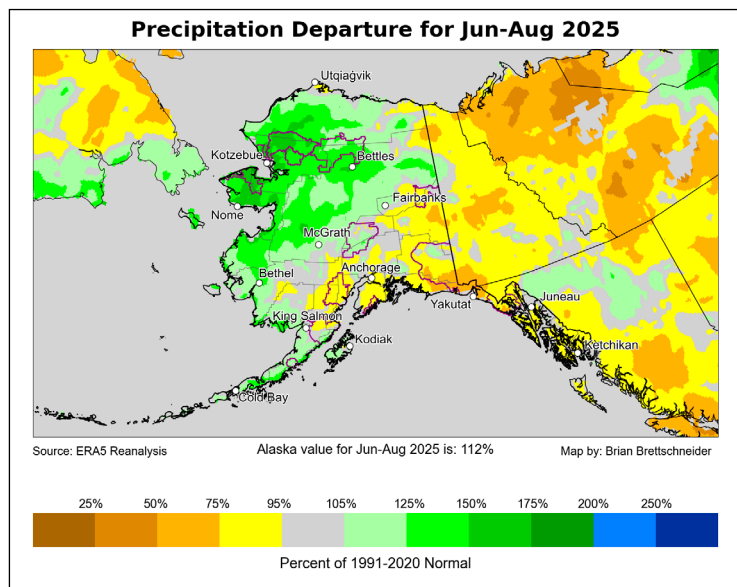


Figure 3. Statewide precipitation departure map for June - August 2025. Map courtesy of Brian Brettschneider using ERA5 reanalysis data.

Looking at our station data, the May Creek Snotel site had its driest summer on record (back to 2007). A total of 3.7 inches of rain fell over the summer; the site average is 6.2 inches. June's

rainfall total was only 50% of normal. At the Chisana Snotel site, north of the Wrangell Mountains, summer rainfall was just above normal with a total of 7.90 inches (Figure 4). The nearby Chicken Creek site had 8.00 inches for the summer and the Chisana RAWS near the Snotel site had 7.53 inches, confirming that more rain fell in that region than other areas of the park.

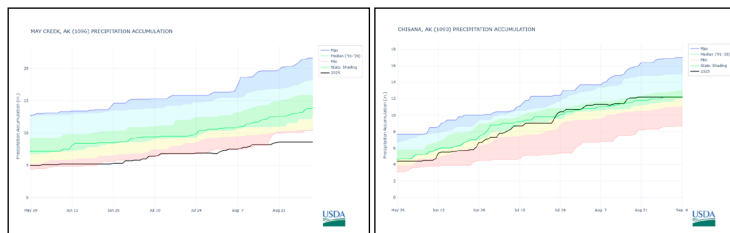


Figure 4. Record low summer rainfall accumulation at May Creek (left) and near normal summer rain at Chisana (right). The black line indicates summer 2025 precipitation compared to all other years on record. Data from [Alaska Snow Survey | Natural Resources Conservation Service](#).

Summer Temperatures increasing at Chicken Creek

Summers have been getting warmer at the Chicken Creek climate site 7 miles northeast of Chisana. We've been measuring temperature continuously at this site since 2005. Over the past 21 years there has been a significant increase in the average summer season temperature (Figure 5). July temperatures have increased the most (also a significant trend), followed by June and then August.

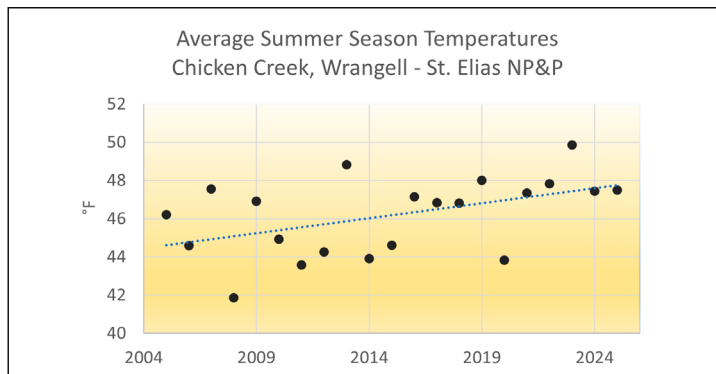


Figure 5. Average summer season temperatures at Chicken Creek climate station in Wrangell – St. Elias NP&P 2006-2025.

Data Importance

The Central Alaska Network's climate data are used for real-time operational needs and early warnings of potential hazards including fire conditions, aviation decisions, public safety, and trip planning for park visitors. The data are also important for consistent monitoring over the long-term to detect changes in park ecosystems. [Click here](#) for current weather in Wrangell – St. Elias NP&P.

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](#)