



Weather & Climate Summary Western Arctic Parklands Fall 2025

Photo: Early November tracks at the Salmon River climate station in Kobuk Valley National Park, NPS Photo.

Kotzebue Fall Weather 2025

The fall season in Kotzebue was warmer and drier than normal. The season started out cooler than normal, but changed dramatically in October when several storms, including the remnants of ex-typhoon Halong, brought warm temperatures from the North Pacific Ocean to the west coast of Alaska. Warmer than normal temperatures continued through the end of the season. The average temperature for the fall was 27.9°F, which is 0.9°F above the 1991-2020 normal. The total fall precipitation was 72% of normal, with a much drier than normal September, a wet October, and a dry November (Table 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2).

September

September was cooler and drier than normal. Daily temperatures were cooler than normal for 23 out of 30 days of the month resulting in an average monthly temperature that was 2.1°F cooler than normal. Precipitation was light. A total of 0.37 inches of rain and melted snow were recorded, which is 26% of normal and the driest September since 2008.

October

October was warmer and wetter than normal. Several storms brought warm, wet conditions to western Alaska October 8-12 (see page 2 for details). The monthly air temperature was 1.1°F warmer than normal, with a record daily high on October 8 of 45°F. High temperatures remained above freezing until October 19. The total precipitation was 1.58 inches, which is 148% of normal. Most of the rain fell during the first week. Two days of observations were missing on October 10 and 11.

November

Warm temperatures persisted into November, with only a brief stretch mid-month where the daily temperatures were cooler than normal. The last two weeks of the month were very mild, with most daily highs in the mid 20s, 10°F to 15°F warmer than normal. The average monthly temperature ended up 3.8°F warmer than normal at 14.6°F. Less than an inch of precipitation is the norm for November. This November about half that amount was observed. A total of 0.44 inches (melted snow) was recorded for the month, with 7 out of 30 days having measurable precipitation.

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

Fall 2025	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1991-2020 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
September	41.0	43.1	-2.1
October	28.0	26.9	1.1
November	14.6	10.8	3.8

Season temperature departure from normal: +0.9°F

Table 2. Kotzebue monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Fall 2025	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1991-2020 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
September	0.37	1.42	-1.05
October	1.58	1.07	0.51
November	0.44	0.82	-0.38

Season precipitation departure from normal: -0.92 in. (72% of normal)

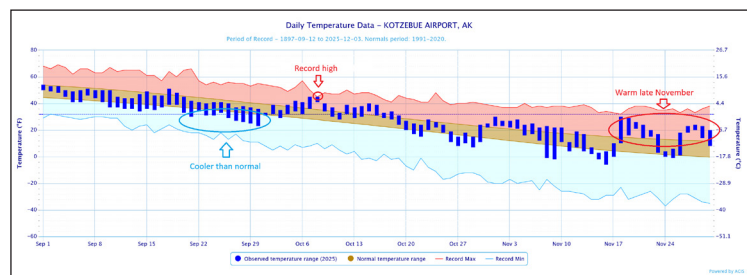


Figure 1. Fall 2025 daily temperatures at Kotzebue showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

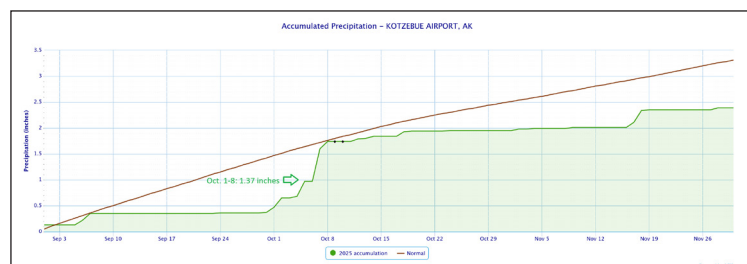


Figure 2. Fall 2025 accumulated precipitation at Kotzebue (green) compared to normal (brown line). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

Water Year (Oct. 1 - Sep. 30) Wrap Up

The end of September brings the end of the water year which we use for annual precipitation statistics to capture the entire winter season. It was the 14th wettest year on record in Kotzebue. Total annual precipitation was 113% of normal with 12.78 inches with records back to 1943 (including years with <15 days missing). It was wetter than normal across most of Alaska (dark green shading in Figure 3). Several recent years have been wet in Kotzebue, with 2020-21, 2022-23, and 2023-24 each totaling more than 15 inches.

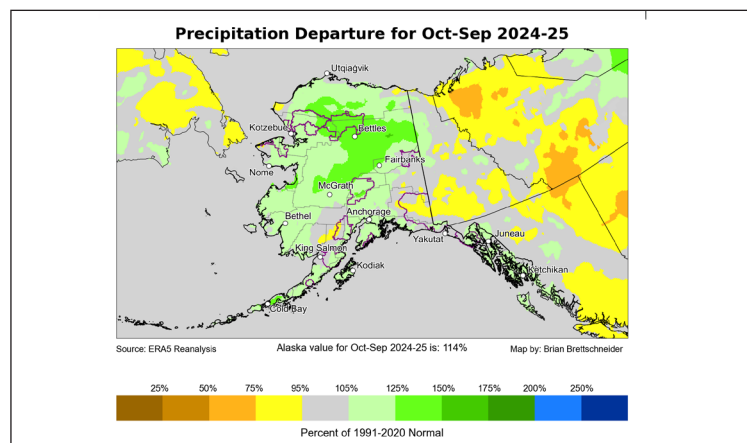


Figure 3. Statewide precipitation departure for the 2025 water year October 2024 – September 2025 (back to 1940). Map courtesy of Brian Brettschneider using ERA5 reanalysis data.

Flooding in Kotzebue (again)

Overall, the fall season was drier than normal, but the total precipitation for October was about 1.5 times normal. A powerful fall storm caused major damage and erosion in Kotzebue and surrounding communities on October 8. A few days later ex-typhoon Halong slammed into the region. According to the emergency manager for the Northwest Arctic Borough, more than 150 homes in Kotzebue were damaged by the storms.

By October 10, the Kelly Snotel site in Noatak National Preserve had already accumulated 2.6 inches of rain, the median for that date is 0.6 inches (Figure 4). The same holds true for Dahl Creek, which had a cumulative total of 3.5 inches of precipitation by October 10.

During the stormy period between October 4 and 9, the rain gauge at the Mt. Noak climate station in Cape Krusenstern National Monument recorded 1.74 inches of rainfall; air temperatures were above freezing during this period indicating this value may be accurate. At our remote sites we measure summer rainfall when temperatures are reliably above freezing, and the precipitation is liquid.

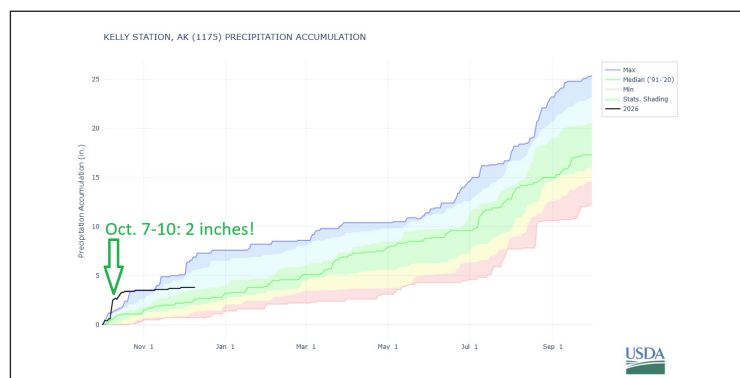


Figure 4. Accumulated precipitation at Kelly Snotel in Noatak National Preserve starting October 1, 2025.

Fall Temperatures in Cape Krusenstern

The fall season temperatures at the Mt. Noak climate site show a warming trend over the past 14 years, although the increase is not statistically significant. November temperatures have warmed the most, followed by September. The October temperature trend has been relatively flat (Figure 5). The graphic clearly shows the temperature transition from warm season to cold season during the fall period.

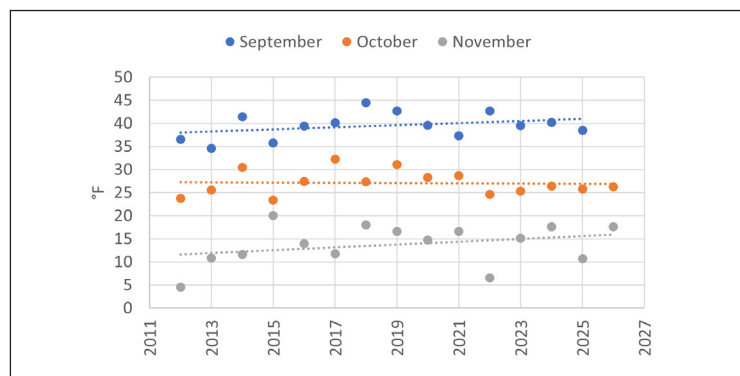


Figure 5. September (blue), October (orange), and November (grey) average fall season temperatures 2012-2025 at Mt. Noak.

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More Information

Pam_Sousanes@nps.gov; ph 907-519-7372

Kenneth_Hill@nps.gov; ph 907-519-7370

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