



Weather & Climate Summary Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Winter 2026

Snowshoe hike in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.
NPS Photo/Michael King

Nome Winter Weather Summary 2026

Overall, the winter season in Nome was colder and wetter than normal. The average temperature for the winter season was -3.2°F colder than the 1991 - 2020 normal. Each month was colder than normal, with February being the coldest month overall. Most of the winter's precipitation fell in February, bringing the seasonal total to 4.34 inches, 146% of normal. (Table 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2).

December

December was cold with near-normal precipitation. The average monthly temperature was 4.4°F cooler than normal at 4.7°F. A winter storm December 21st - 23rd brought 0.81 inches of precipitation (melted snow) and high winds. Following the storm, temperatures dropped as low as -25°F on December 27th. The total precipitation for December was 1.07 inches, which is 102% of normal.

January

January was cooler and drier than normal. The first two weeks were much cooler than normal, part of a statewide cold spell. The low temperature for the month was -29°F on January 13th. The pattern shifted mid-month and brought in the warmest temperatures of the winter from January 16th - 25th. High temperatures were at- or above -freezing on January 18th - 19th and January 24th - 25th. The last week of the month was dry with near-normal temperatures. Overall, the monthly temperature was 0.8°F cooler than normal. Precipitation totaled only 0.34 inches, 36% of normal.

February

February was a memorable month in Nome with three

significant winter storms. First, 0.57 inches of precipitation was recorded from February 11th - 14th with gusts as high as 50 mph on Valentine's Day. The next storm came in February 16th - 17th, bringing an additional 0.33 inches of precipitation and blizzard conditions. The most potent storm arrived February 20th - 23rd, totaling 1.24 inches of precipitation. Overall, it was the wettest February since 1944 and the third wettest February on record going back to 1907. All precipitation fell as snow, although high temperatures did reach the freezing mark on February 22nd - 23rd. The final days of the month were dry and cold with temperatures dipping as low as -34°F on the last day of the season.

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

Winter 2026	Average Monthly Temp (°F)	1991-2020 Normal (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
December	4.7	9.1	-4.4
January	4.8	5.6	-0.8
February	4.6	9.0	-4.4

Winter temperature departure from normal: -3.2°F

Table 2. Nome monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Winter 2026	Total Monthly Precip. (in.)	1991-2020 Normal (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
December	1.07	1.05	+0.02
January	0.34	0.94	-0.60
February	2.93	0.99	+1.94

Winter precipitation departure: +1.36 in. (146% of normal).

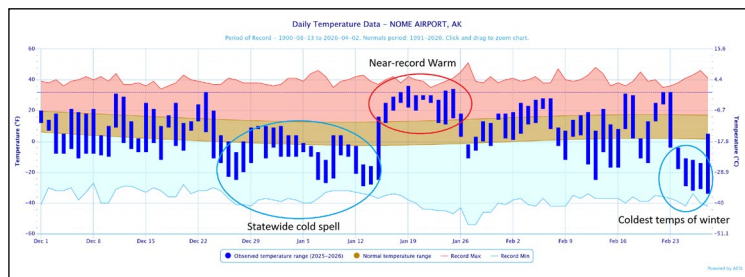


Figure 1. Winter 2026 daily temperatures at Nome showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

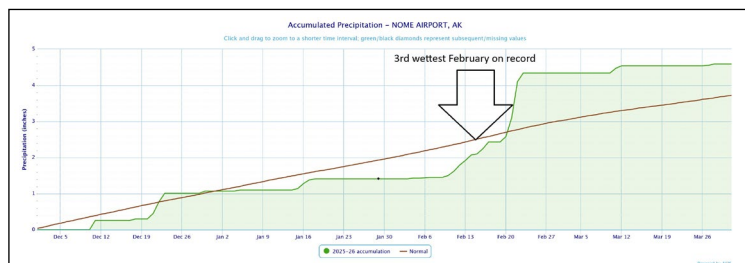


Figure 2. Winter 2026 accumulated precipitation at Nome (green) compared to normal (brown line). <http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/>

Snotel Sites

The Pilgrim Hot Springs Snotel site was installed in summer 2024 and is reporting air temperature, snow depth, precipitation, and snow water equivalent. At the end of February, there was 14 inches of snow on the ground at Pilgrim. South of the Bendeleben Mountains, at the Pargon Creek site (Figure 3), 19 inches of snow was on the ground compared to a median of 12 inches based on 25 years of record. Nome recorded 2.9 inches of precipitation in February, compared with Pilgrim (2.0 inches) and Pargon (2.4 inches).

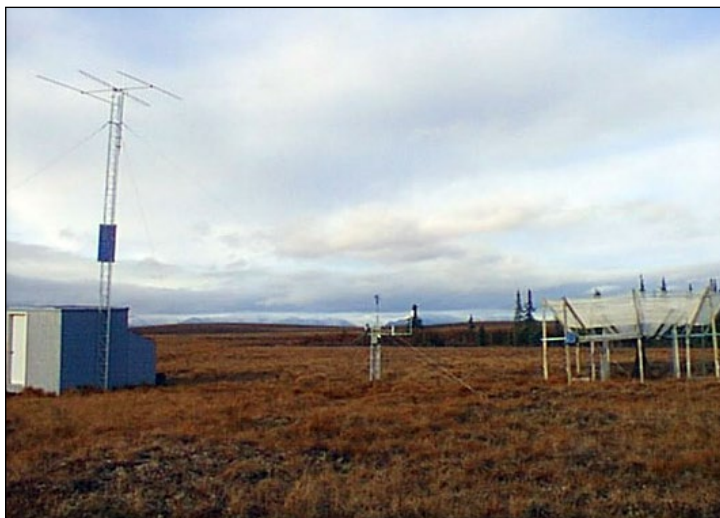


Figure 3. Pargon Creek Snotel Site

Cold Winter for Most of Alaska

Most of the state was colder than normal this winter with the Interior having the coldest departures from normal (pink shading on Figure 4). According to state climate specialist Rick Thoman, February 26th -27th were the coldest days so late in winter since 1971 for Alaska as a whole and included the coldest winter days in Nome. The Seward Peninsula, northwest Alaska, and Bering Land Bridge bucked the trend and were closer to average this winter.

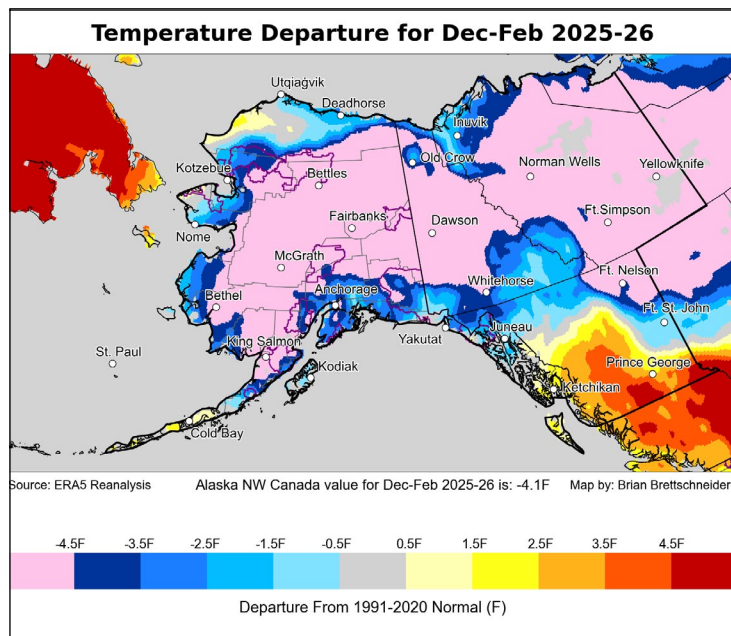


Figure 4. Winter temperature departure from normal for Alaska. Map courtesy of Brian Brettschneider using ERA5 reanalysis data.

Serpentine Winter Temperatures

We now have 15 years of data from the climate station at Serpentine Hot Springs. Winter temperatures are quite variable. Over the past 15 years the winter seasonal temperature has been as cold as -6°F (2012) and as warm as 16°F (2018). The warmest period was from 2014 to 2019. Unlike most of the state (Figure 4), Serpentine was near average for the 2026 winter with an average temperature of 0.7°F (Figure 5).

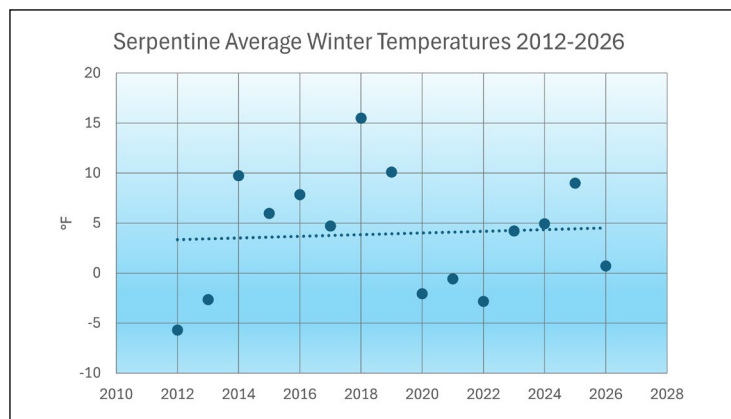


Figure 5. Winter temperatures at Serpentine Hot Springs from 2012-2026.

Daily temperatures during the winter months can also be extremely variable. This winter at Serpentine, a high temperature of +39°F was recorded on January 23 and a low temperature of -31°F was recorded on February 27.

[Click here](#) for current weather in Bering Land Bridge

More Information

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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](#)