

November 2013 Weather Summary

Dry conditions and clear skies prevailed in Kenai Fjords for most of November. As indicated by the 30-year normal (1981-2010), November typically ranks as the fifth wettest month of the year but it currently holds the position of the third driest month for this year. Measurable precipitation was recorded at the Seward airport on nine days of the month with 79% of total precipitation occurring on three days, November 10th, 21st, and 24th (0.97, 0.68 and 0.59 inches, respectively.) Long dry spells resulted in a combined total of three weeks of sunny days that were often accompanied by strong winds at the Seward airport. Winds were strongest around the middle of the month with daily average wind speeds of 20.7, 19.8 and 19.6 mph on the 17th, 16th and 12th. These high winds combined with low temperatures to create subzero wind chills. Shortly after this windy period, the first snowfall of the season occurred in town on November 21st.

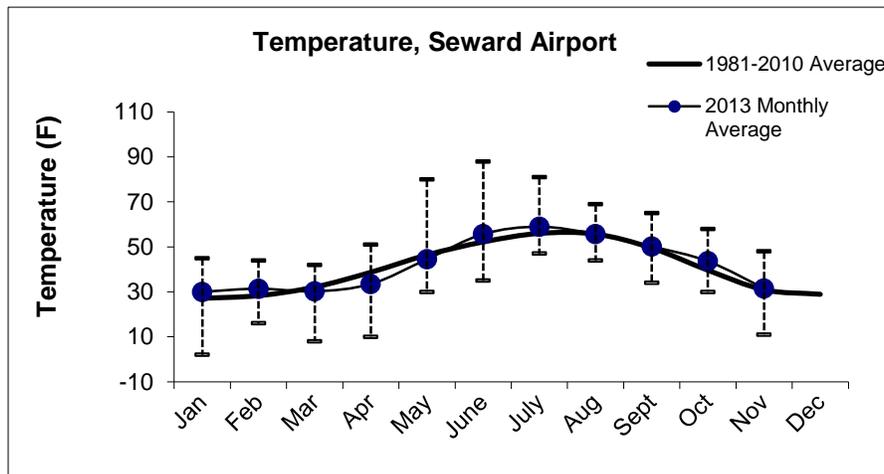
As recorded at the Seward airport, total precipitation for the month was 2.85 inches (39% of normal), 4.46 inches below the 30-year average (1981-2010) for the month. The monthly average temperature for November was 31.5 degrees F; 0.6 degrees F above the 30-year average.

Also of note:

- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) three month weather outlook (December-January-February) favors normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the Kenai Fjords area.
- [Learn more about climate outlooks](#) (such as the one above) and what makes them different from weather forecasts at NOAA's *Climate Watch Magazine*.
- A new study led by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Russian Academy of Sciences' Far Eastern Branch reveal that part of the [Arctic Ocean is releasing more than twice the amount of methane](#) than what scientists previously thought.
- Columbia University researchers find that [temperatures in the middle depths of the Pacific Ocean have increased](#) 15 times faster in the last 60 years than they did during the warming cycles of the previous 10,000 years.
- Researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder published evidence indicating that [temperatures in the Eastern Canadian Arctic are the warmest they've been in at least 44,000 years](#) and, possibly, as long as 120,000 years.
- NOAA introduced a new tool called *NOAA View* that offers [easy access to 60 climate datasets](#) dating back to the 1880s as well as future climate model simulations in the format of user-friendly interactive maps.
- The World Meteorological Organization reports that [atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations reached a new record-high in 2012](#).
- The Ecological Society of America's journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* published a special issue on climate change with numerous reports on [climate change impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems](#) available online.
- Researchers at the University of East Anglia report that [climate change has altered the nesting patterns of birds resulting in earlier migrations](#).
- NOAA climate services portal serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA's extensive climate information, data, products, services, and the climate science magazine [ClimateWatch](#).

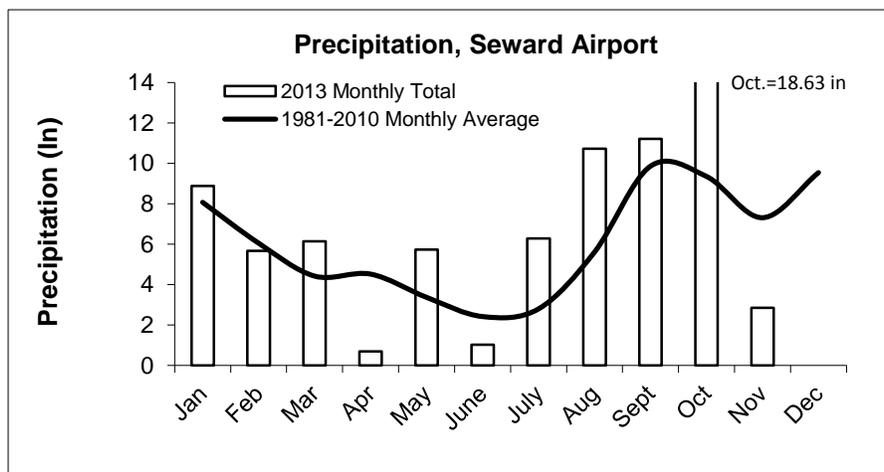
Read more to find out about the local climate for November 2013

Seward Airport Temperature, November 2013 (station 26438)



Monthly and 30-year average temperature (F) at Seward airport. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with a dashed vertical line.

Seward Airport Precipitation, November 2013 (station 26438)



Monthly and 30-year average precipitation (inches) at Seward airport.

Rivers

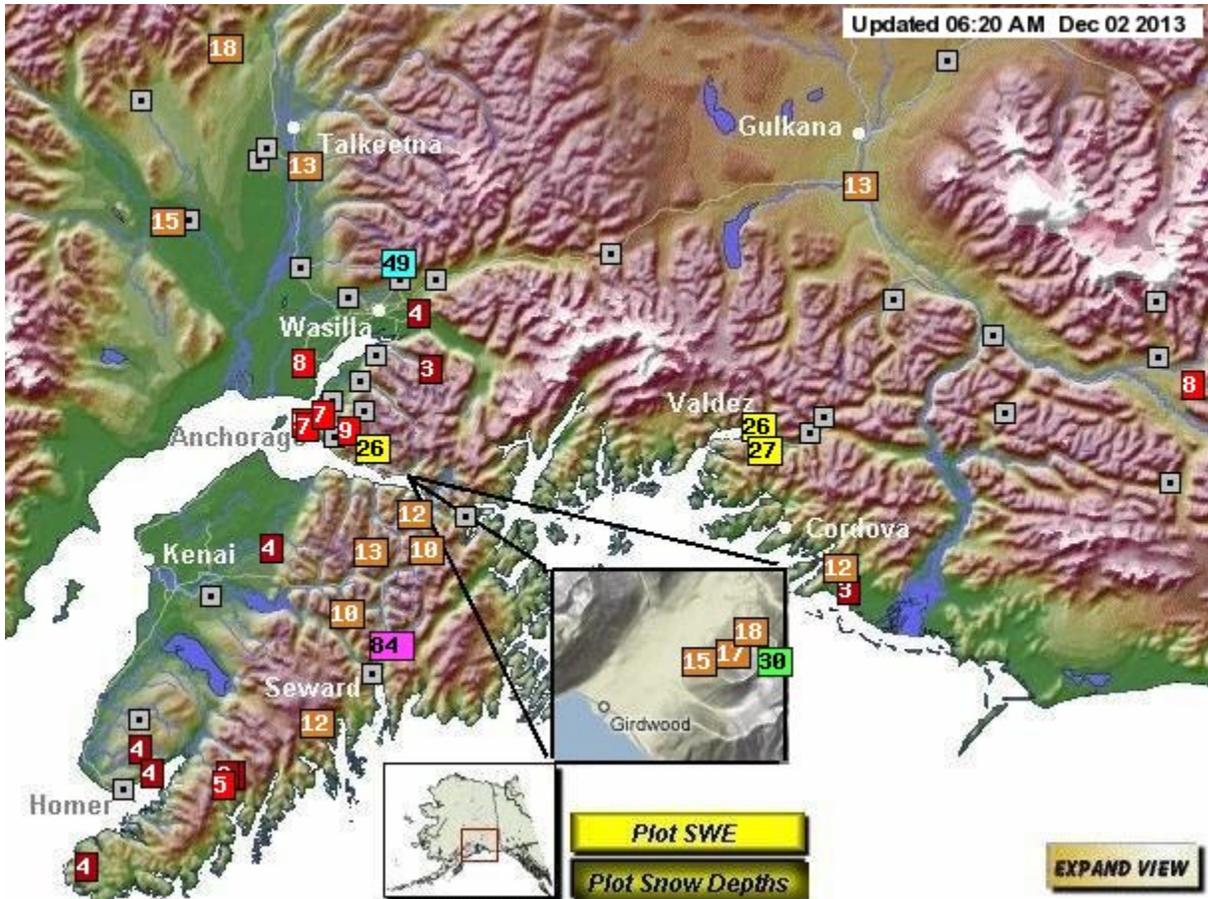
Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=pafc>.

Exit Creek water level (stage height) data is only collected during the summer, beginning in May and ending in August.

Snow & Ice

Snowpack at stations in southcentral Alaska had a slow start in November.



Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on Dec. 2nd: http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov/sd_pafc_sites.html. Snow is monitored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.ambc.org/> with most measurements and reporting taking place December to May.

Weather Station data (map of [some] stations [Western Region Climate Center](#) or [MesoWest](#))

[Seward Airport](#)
[Grouse Crk Divide](#)
[Exit Glacier SNOTEL](#)
[McArthur Pass](#)
[Pilot Rock](#)

[Seward Hwy MP#12](#)
[Exit Glacier](#)
[Harding Icefield](#)
[Nuka Glacier](#)
[Buoy 76-Cape Cleare](#)

[Pedersen Lagoon](#)

Weather Forecasts

[Seward Summary](#)
[Marine Forecast](#)
[Surface Map](#)

[Graphical Forecast](#)
[4-8 Day Forecast](#)