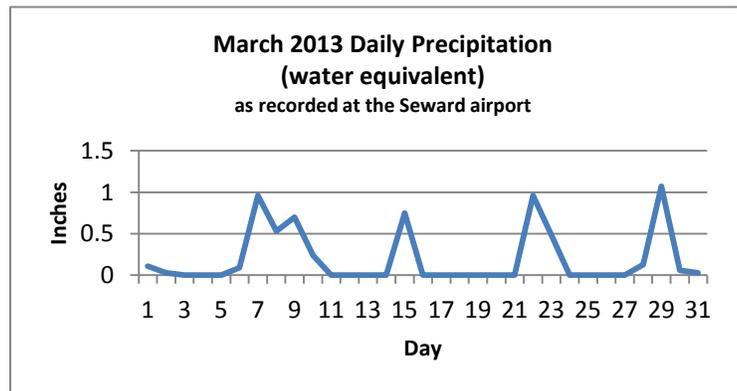


March 2013 Weather Summary

March was generally characterized by cooler than normal temperatures and above normal precipitation that came and went in a cyclical nature. Throughout the month, pulses of one-to-two day precipitation events delivered approximately 8-12 inches of snow following several days of sunshine each week. This weekly weather pattern increased the snowpack despite the clear sunny spells and lengthening hours of daylight provided by the onset of spring. Seward gained 2 hours and 34 minutes of daylight over the course of the month.

As recorded at the Seward airport, total precipitation for the month was 6.14 inches (139% of normal), 1.72 inches above the 30-year average (1981-2010) for the month. The monthly average temperature for March was 30.2 degrees F; 1.9 degrees F below the 30-year average. March 25th was the windiest day of the month reported at the Seward airport with sustained winds of 21.8 mph and a 5-second wind gust of 45 mph.



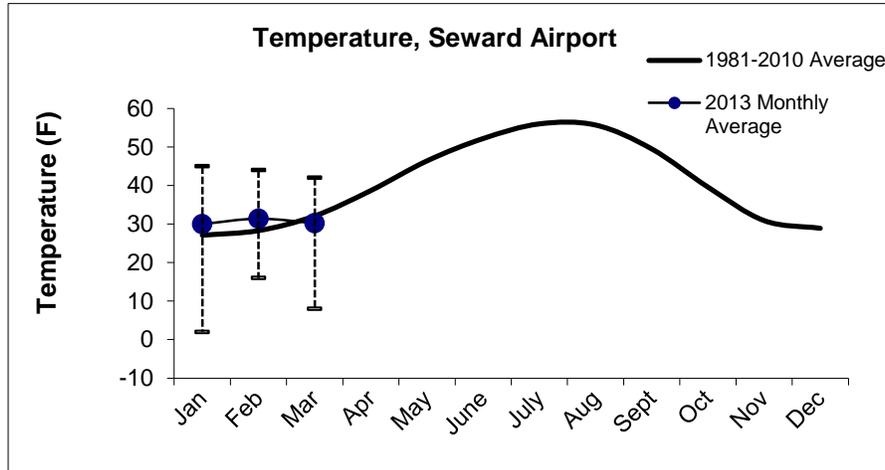
Daily precipitation recorded at the Seward airport, March 2013.

Also of note:

- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) three month weather outlook (April-May-June) favors normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the Kenai Fjords area.
- The 2013 winter extent of the Bering Sea Ice reached the third all-time high coverage since record keeping began in 1979. Read more about it in the latest edition of the [Alaska Climate Dispatch](#).
- Research published in the journal [Nature](#) indicates that regions of the Arctic Ocean that were previously inaccessible to ships without icebreaking hulls will be accessible by 2050, opening a new pathway to the spread of invasive species.
- The [National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#), the first nationwide strategy to help public and private decision makers address the impacts of climate change on natural resources, has been released.
- A new study published in *Nature Climate Change* reports evidence of [climate change-induced vegetation shifts](#) into the northern latitudes of North America "making Canada look more like the United States."
- A negative phase in the Arctic Oscillation (AO) resulted in warmer temperatures in the Arctic and colder temperatures in the mid-latitudes in March. Learn more about the AO and its influence on temperature patterns at [NASA's Earth Observatory System's](#) page.
- New research published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* reports that by the end of the 21st century, [20% of Canada's glacial ice will melt](#), adding 3.5 cm to global sea levels.
- 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](#).

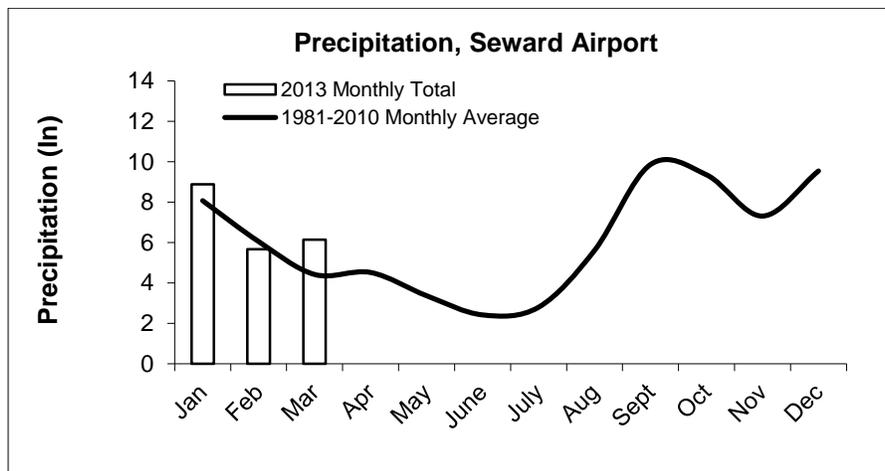
Read more to find out about the local climate for March 2013

Seward Airport Temperature, March 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, March 2013 (station 26438)

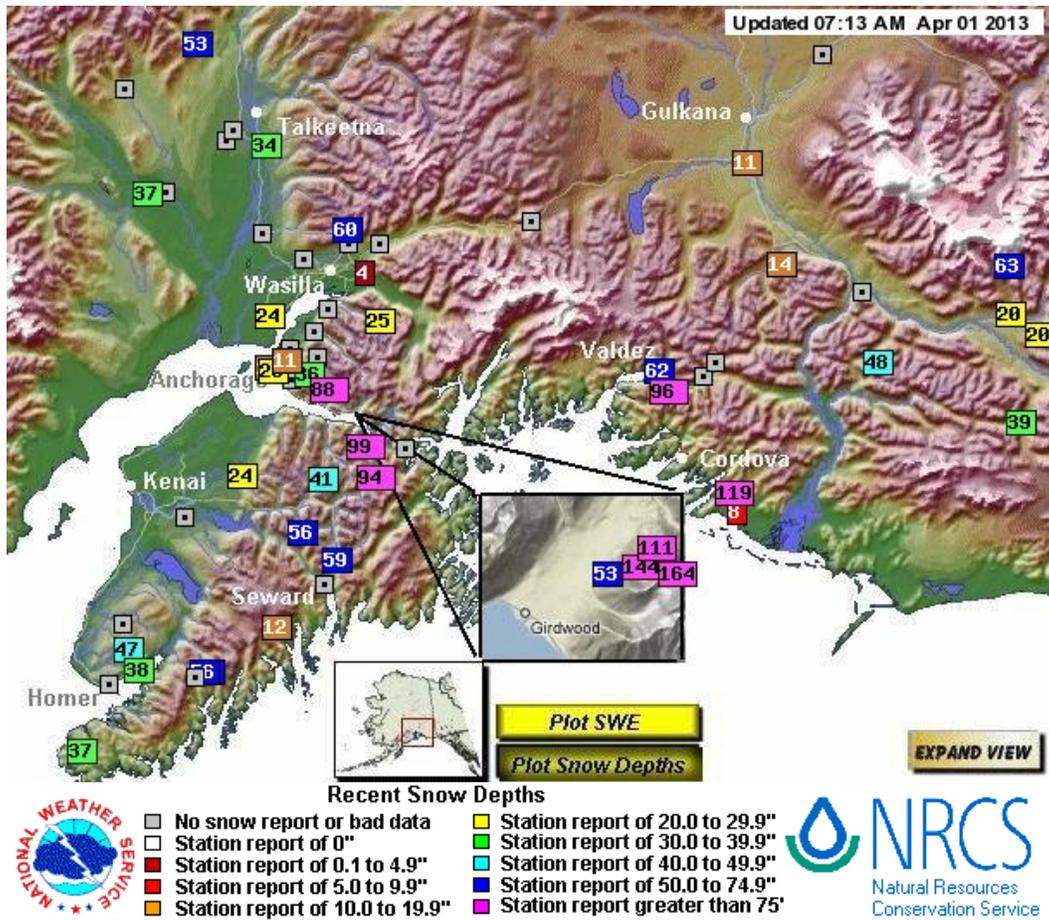


Monthly and 30-year average precipitation (inches) at Seward airport.

Rivers

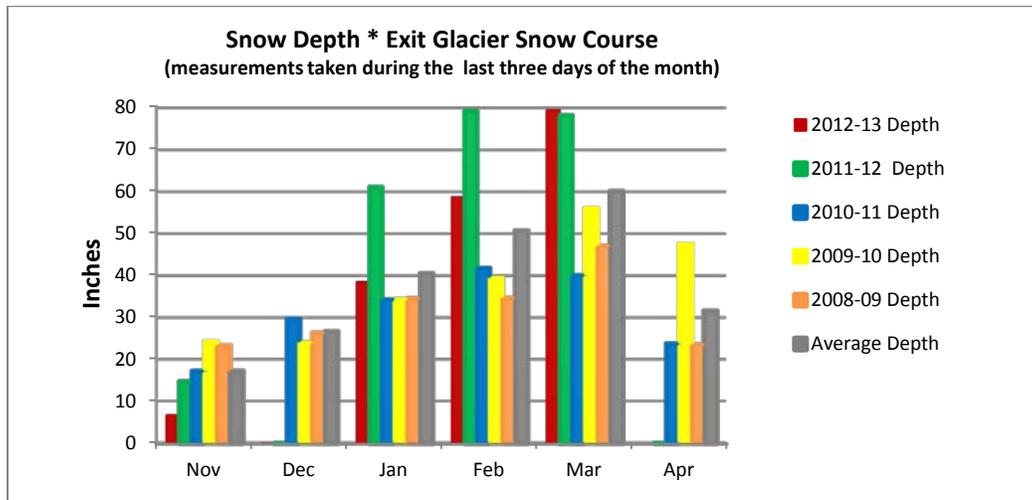
Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=pafc>. Resurrection River is currently below the flood action stage. **Exit Creek** water level (stage height) data is not collected in the winter.

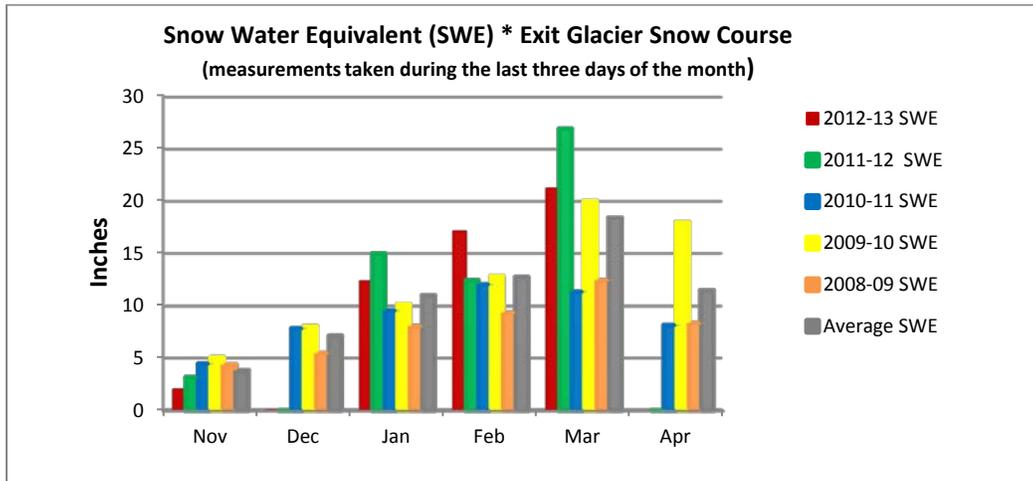
Snow & Ice



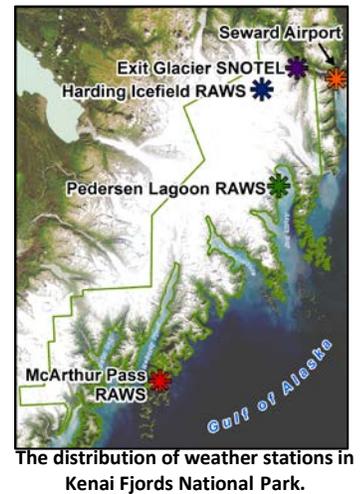
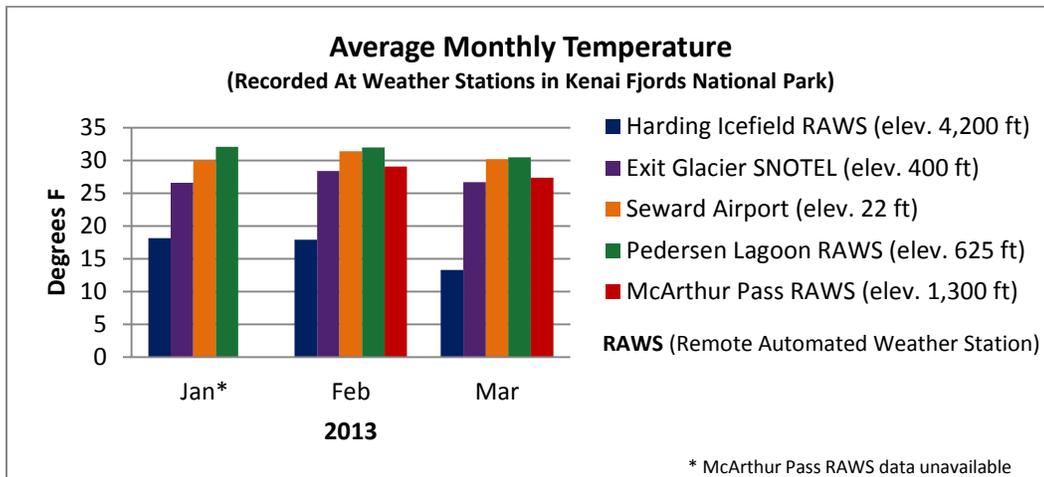
Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on April 1st: http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov/index_snow.php. Snow is monitored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.ambc.org/> with most measurements and reporting taking place December to May.

Based on snow course measurements, snow depth at Exit Glacier on March 29th was 79.2 inches, 1.2 inches more than this time last year, and 18.6 inches more than the average for the past five years. Snow water equivalent of this snow pack was 21.2 inches, 5.7 inches less than the same time last year.





Average monthly temperatures reported at stations in Kenai Fjords National Park



Kenai Fjords National Park is situated in a transition zone between a warmer, wetter maritime climate and a cooler, drier interior climate. The data collected by these weather stations demonstrate the variability of climate due to differences in elevation and maritime influences in this relatively small region.

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](#)