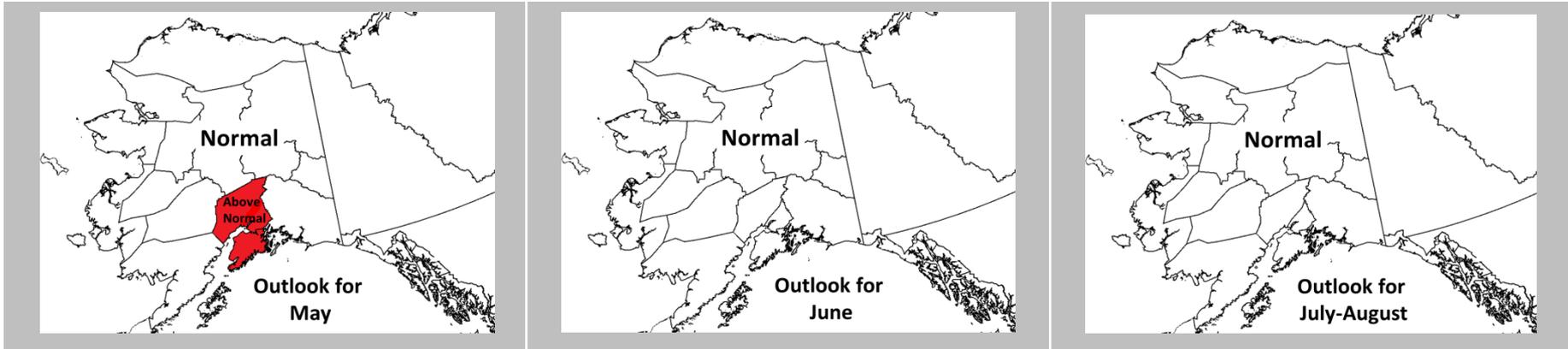


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for May is for above normal fire activity around South Central, particularly around the Anchorage Bowl, Kenai Peninsula and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. Fire potential will return to normal in June through August.

Factors:

- Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook maps continue to indicate a high likelihood of warmer than normal conditions across the all of Alaska this spring and summer. The warm temperatures contributed to low snowpack in southern Alaska this past winter, particularly around the Matanuska Valley, Anchorage Bowl and Kenai Peninsula. Much like last spring, this has lead to early exposure of burnable fuels and increasing fire activity 2 to 3 weeks earlier than normal. This could create increased fire potential particularly in the fine fuels along the populated corridors of southern Alaska. Snow melt is moving northward about 1-2 weeks earlier than normal. The warm spring is also bringing green-up about 1-2 weeks early as well.
- Though late-season snows did help the situation somewhat in April, the last two years have had similar external factors, such as a warm water pool in the Gulf of Alaska and a forcing of colder air farther north. If this spring continues at these warmer temperatures, this spring may emerge in much the same way as last year's.

The Canadian Fuels and Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Fire Weather Indices are being calculated across the southern half of Alaska at this time. Calculations will resume over most of the state in the next 2-3 weeks as the ground rapidly becomes snow-free.