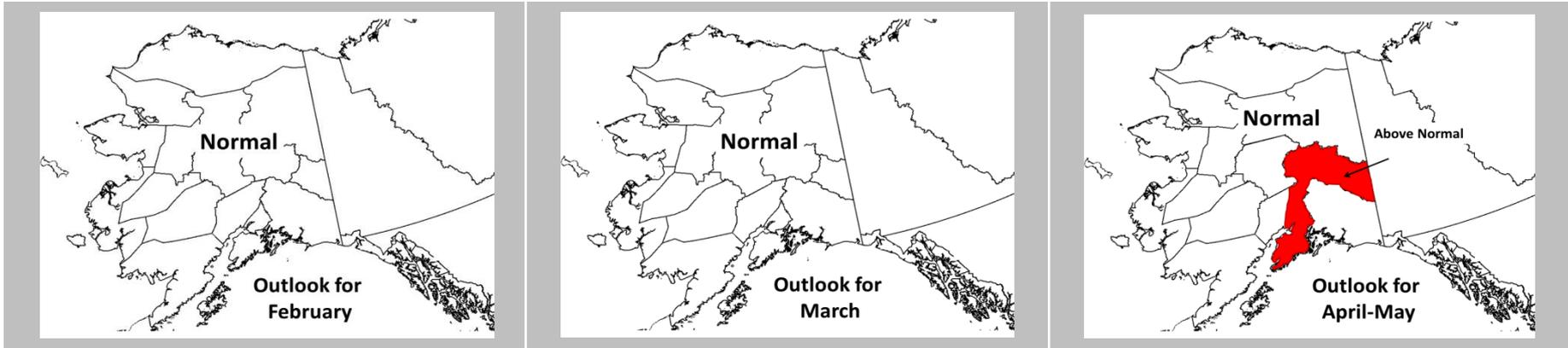


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for February through March is for normal fire activity, which is pretty minimal as Alaska is out of fire season. By April, the current low snowpack foreshadows that there may be a busy early start to fire season, particularly along human-populated corridors. Of course, one good snow event late in the season could provide significant moisture for the spring melt, slowing the early fire season.

Factors:

- Though some parts of the state have received a substantial amount of snowfall, precip amounts are still below normal around much of the state. Cooler winter temperatures have allowed the ice edge to move into the northern Bering Sea, though it is still well north of its normal extent. Ice extent continues to hover at its lowest ever recorded this winter.
- Warmer than normal conditions are forecasted for much of western and northern Alaska for the spring. Currently, the long range models show a very volatile pattern, indicating no long cold or warm, wet or dry periods.
- Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating system have been stopped for the season, as the ground is generally frozen and most of Alaska has at least a small amount of snow cover. Warmer conditions in parts of southern Alaska, particularly along the coast, may provide some burnable fuels, but fire spread potential is low without strong winds.

