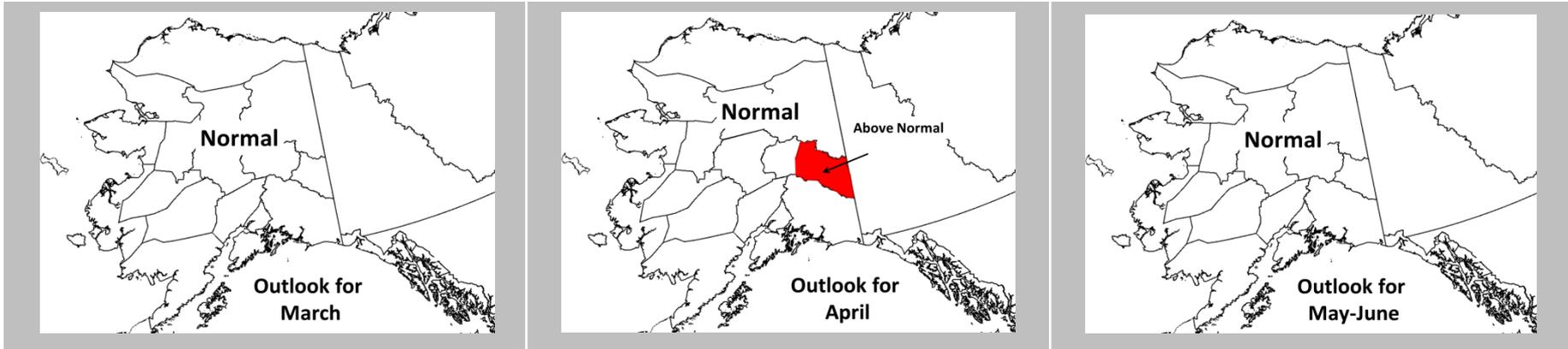


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for March is for normal fire activity, which is pretty minimal as Alaska is out of fire season. By April, some of the eastern Interior with lower snowpack may lead to 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 snowpack is close to normal for much of the state, a portion of the eastern Interior is shown as abnormally dry in the US Drought Monitor. In the last week a dry area was added that covers the central-western Interior and extends south to the Kenai Peninsula. The snow pack is greater than in recent years over the lower elevations of the Kenai Peninsula.
- Cooler than normal conditions are forecasted for all of Alaska in March with the best chances for colder temperatures in the southeast mainland. The longer range forecasts through June indicate a shift towards warmer than normal over southwest, western and northern Alaska with a tendency towards drier conditions in the southwest in March and along the Gulf Coast through May.

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 snow cover.