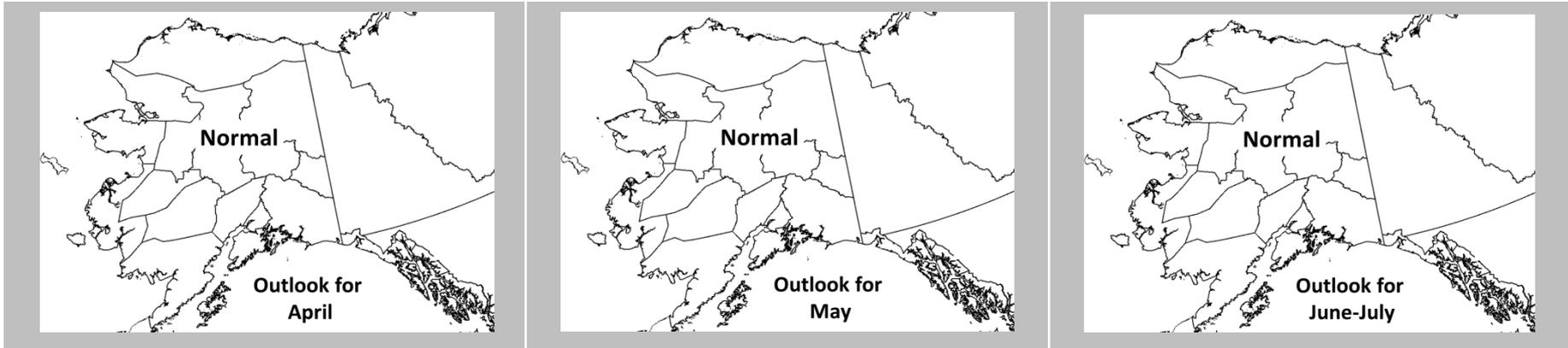


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for April through July is for normal fire activity. Though there have been areas of lower than normal snowpack, a cold March and late snowfall have prevented much March melting. Though forecast temperatures are above normal for most of the state, there are not enough indicators to expect any significantly higher than normal fire potential.

Factors:

- Though snowpack is close to normal for much of the state, portions of the southwest and eastern Interior as well as the Mat-Su and Kenai are shown as abnormally dry in the US Drought Monitor. However with the cold March the snowpack has had little erosion in the past month. The lower elevations of the Kenai Peninsula have greater snow pack than in the past few years.
- A shift from cooler than normal to warmer than normal across most of the state will happen about the start of April. The longer range forecasts through July indicate a warmer than normal Alaska with a tendency towards drier conditions in the southwest in April and along the west coast through July. An area of above normal precipitation is forecast for the eastern Interior May through July as well.

Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating system will be starting in the south in April as areas become snow-free.