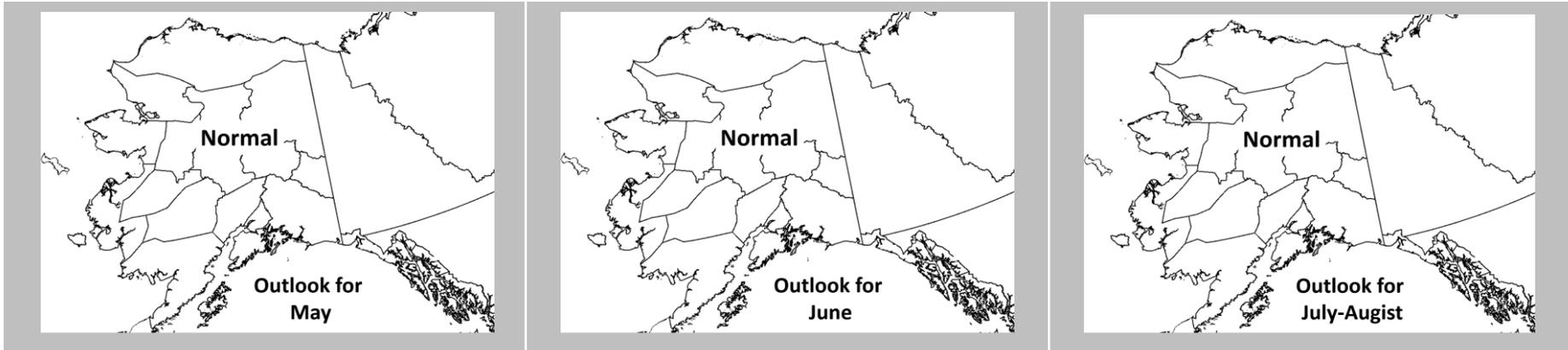


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for May through August is for normal fire activity. A cold spring has slowed melting for much of the state, which has delayed the start to fire season north of the Alaska Range. Though temperatures are forecast to be above normal for most of Alaska for the rest of spring, there are not enough indicators to expect any significantly higher fire potential.

Factors:

- A cool, dry first three weeks of April across most of the state has slowed melting for much of the state. Now, a shift to warmer temperatures is reinvigorating the snow melt. The forecast for warmer than normal temperatures statewide will likely last through May and for much of the summer.
- Precipitation forecasts show below normal in the west for just the month of May, followed by an area of above normal precipitation over the eastern Interior, developing in June and lasting into August. Of course, precipitation forecasts have little skill as they are notoriously difficult on a seasonal time scale in Alaska.
- Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating system are starting as areas become snow free, and now include stations in the Panhandle, Kenai Peninsula, Mat-Su, Copper River Basin and Southwest Alaska, as well as a few locations in the Tanana Valley. By the end of May, snow free conditions should spread north to near the Brooks Range.