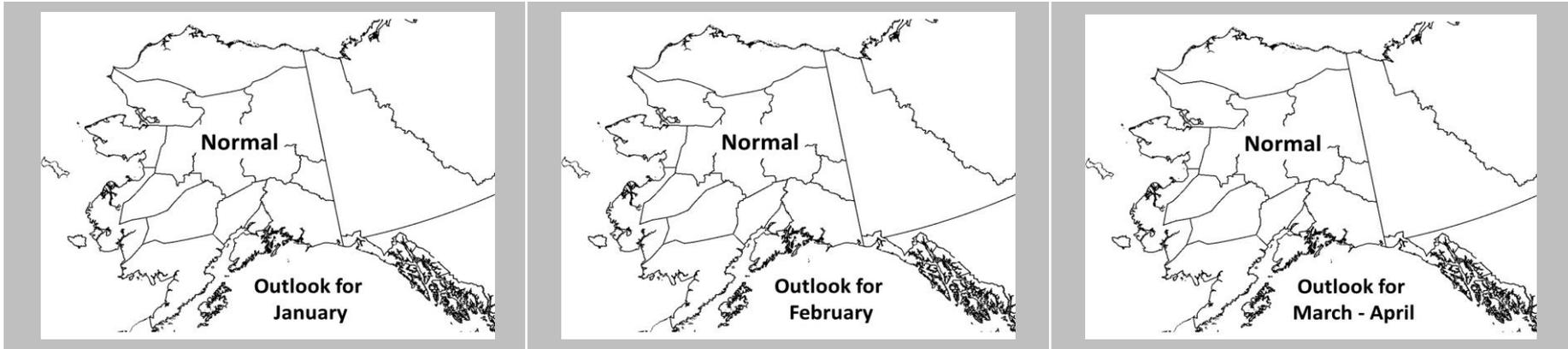


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for January through April is for normal fire activity. Alaska is out of fire season.

Factors:

- The U.S. Drought Monitor shows no drought areas in Alaska. December has brought warm weather, causing the snowpack over parts of South Central and Southwest to nearly disappear. In the north, snow is covering most areas.
- With incredibly low sea ice in the Arctic, specifically in the Chukchi Sea, it will be difficult to get the usual extreme cold temperatures in most of the state as the open water will moderate any cold air building in from the north and west. In addition, this will provide a moisture source that isn't normally available in the early winter months to have higher than normal amounts of precipitation in those areas as well. This warmer, moist air will also allow more instability farther north, in an area that typically is very cold, dry, and stable in the winter months. Therefore, Alaska will likely be warmer than normal, with wetter than normal conditions in the north and west. Expect worldwide flow patterns to be disrupted by this lack of sea ice.

Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating system are suspended due to snow cover and freezing temperatures.