

# Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

## Forecast:

- Through most of March, Alaska will be blanketed with snow and out of fire season. The melting of the snowpack will begin in late March or early April, starting at lower elevations in southern Alaska before spreading towards higher elevations and northward. As the snow melts, there tends to be an increased risk for fire starts along the road system. By late May and into June, the boreal spruce forest will dry enough to support more persistent fires on a larger part of the landscape.

## Factors:

- The Drought Monitor shows Abnormally Dry conditions persisting over the Southeast Panhandle and South Central Alaska. The Panhandle has had decreasing drought conditions as they continue to have a fair amount of snowfall this winter. Much of the rest of Alaska has had a fair amount of snowfall and is holding a good snowpack.
- Alaska is generally snow covered and expecting more snow and below freezing temperatures across most of the burnable landscape. The exception is the far southern Panhandle, which usually has a mix of frozen and liquid precipitation throughout the winter months.

- Fuels are frozen in almost all areas and will not be burnable through the rest of the winter. By late March and into April, some lower elevations of South Central will go snow-free and expose cured grasses.

