

# Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

## Forecast:

- Spring melting in 2020 may lag the typical season in Alaska's Interior, as the snowpack there is generally above normal depth and has a substantial liquid water content. A weak El Nino is expected this summer, which suggests that a particularly active wildfire season is not highly likely in Alaska in 2020.

## Factors:

- The Drought Monitor shows normal conditions over all of Alaska . There had been some drought issues in South Central Alaska as well as in the Southeast Panhandle last year, but the precipitation over this winter and into April has helped to mitigate those issues.
- The process of melting the winter's snowpack is now underway, with bare ground appearing at the lower elevations in South Central Alaska and the Southeast Panhandle. Much melting of the snowpack is required before the fire season proper can begin. At this time, the timing of the beginning of fire season is expected to be normal or perhaps slightly later than normal due to the substantial snowpack over portions of Alaska's Interior.

- Most fuels in Alaska's Interior are still covered by snow and are not burnable. But as the melting of the snowpack progresses into the Interior and up to higher elevations through May, cured grasses left over from the previous season will be exposed and become available for burning.

