

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- The forecast for Alaska's wildfire potential for the remainder of the 2020 season is for approximately normal wildfire behavior in the southern and western portions of the state, with below normal behavior over portions of the Interior and North Slope. The term "normal" is somewhat loaded, however, as August tends to have much quieter fire behavior than June and early July.



Factors:

- Ample rainfall and temperatures around or slightly below normal occurred over Alaska in the early summer. These weather conditions have rendered the sub-surface duff layers much less burnable than these same fuels were at this time in 2019. With roughly normal weather expected in August, it is unlikely that the duff layer will dry enough to support extreme wildfire behavior for the remainder of the 2020 season.



- With the summer solstice now more than a month behind us, the hours of daily heating are decreasing, and the sun angle is lowering. These changes mean even a period of warm and dry weather in August will likely not dry the duff layers enough to support extreme wildfire behavior. From September onward, Alaska is generally out of the wildfire season.