Alaska Interagency Coordination Center

Annual Report

Wildland Fire Summary and Statistics

2014

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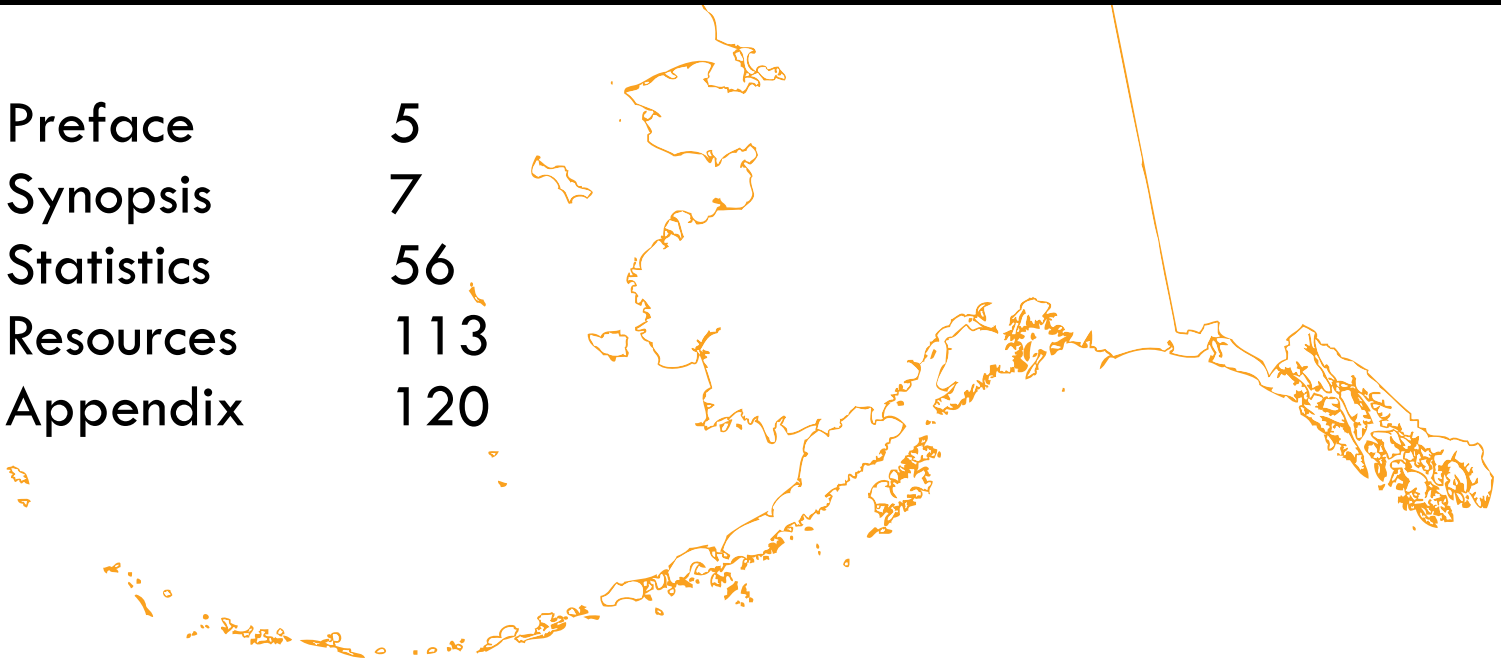


AICC Mission

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) is the Geographic Area Coordination Center for Alaska. Located on Ft. Wainwright (near Fairbanks), AICC serves as the focal point for initial attack resource coordination, logistics support, and predictive services for all state and federal agencies involved in wildland fire management and suppression in Alaska.

AICC operates on an interagency basis - cooperators include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Preface

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Intelligence Section is responsible for maintaining statewide historical fire records and producing year end fire statistics for all fires in Alaska on lands protected by Alaska Fire Service (AFS), State of Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF), and the US Forest Service (USFS). AFS, DOF, and USFS are responsible for lands administered by the following five federal agencies; BLM, BIA, NPS, USFS, and USFWS, along with state owned lands and Native Corporation lands under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The annual figures delineated are from the protecting agencies for total fire starts and acres burned.

Statistics were gathered from Alaska Fire Service's fire reporting program FireBeans, the State of Alaska's CAD program Integrated Fire Managment (IFM), and fire perimeter data from AICC ArcIMS Mapping Products. Previous AICC annual reports and other sources were also used in this document. The statistics presented here are intended to provide a geographic area perspective of annual fire activity. This document is available electronically at the AICC Predictive Services web page under the Yearly Alaska Fire Statistics. Previous year annual reports may be found in the Archive under that same statistics section. For agency-specific details or official data contact the individual agency.

Resource mobilization statistics used in this report were gathered from the interagency Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS), which tracks tactical, logistical, service and support resources mobilized by the Alaska incident dispatch coordination system. Statistics presented in this report are the resources requested by one of the fourteen Area/Zone Dispatch centers and processed through AICC. The resource ordering process and procedures may be found in chapter 20 of the National Mobilization Guide. The National Mobilization Guide can be found on the NICC web site (www.nifc.gov/news/nicc.html) under reference materials.

Disclaimer: These figures provide general reporting information and overall accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Any determinations, policy, or subsequent reports using this information should be done under consultation with appropriate experts.

Wildland Fire
Summary and Statistics

Weather Synopsis

The summer of 2014 will go down in history as one of the wettest summers ever recorded in Alaska. Sum total precipitation records for the summer (June-July-August) were broken for Fairbanks (11.63") and Juneau (24.18"), while Anchorage, observing highly variable precipitation around town, measured 155% of normal rainfall at the airport.

The most significant fire of the year, the Funny River Fire, was a human-caused fire that started on the 19th of May, and ended up accounting for 84% of the acres burned in Alaska this season. Driven in extremely dry fuels by gusty northerly winds that reversed direction after several days, it grew to 190,000 acres in a week's time, threatening numerous residences. Personnel remained on the fire for the next month, until June 25th. The 100 Mile Creek Fire, also human-caused, began on May 13th and skunked around for two weeks despite breezy westerly winds, then began consuming acreage around May 30th, as strong southeasterly wind increased the burned area to nearly 6,000 acres by the beginning of June. The fire continued to grow in fits and starts until about June 18th, at which time it received over 3 inches of rain in a 2-day period. As this was only the beginning of the wettest part of the summer, future growth on this fire was limited. In the end, it accounted for 10% of the total acreage consumed for 2014.

A very warm and dry spring set up pre-greened fuels to be extremely dry, and though the snow melted off at least a week earlier than normal in many places, the lack of rainfall prevented greenup from happening in a reasonable time frame. Instead, fuels around

most of the state remained cured into the beginning of June. This was a huge factor in the rapid spread rates of the two early season fires previously described.

By the middle of June, a change in the weather pattern was afoot. Whereas May and early June had been warm and quite dry, by June 18th, the rains began. In the next seven weeks, nearly eight inches of rain fell on the Interior, causing some flooding of homes and infrastructure, and even prompting some evacuations! South Central and Southwest Alaska had less rain, but were still subjected to periods of substantial precipitation. The rain brought a virtual halt to the fire season, and though August presented some warmer, drier weather, ignitions failed to spread at a rapid rate and were easy to catch while small. Exceptions were found along the west coast, where a few starts grew 500-1,000 acres in fine fuels.

Very little lightning occurred before June 8th, and the number of significant lightning events throughout the summer remained low, with only five days exceeding 3,000 strikes. Though the season ended with a fairly normal cumulative amount of lightning, the excessive rain kept the number of remote starts to a minimum, which are typically the culprits of large burned acreage in Alaska. Most fire starts for the season were human-caused and in populated areas where rapid initial attack was able to suppress rapid growth: this resulted in less than 234,000 acres burned, making 2014 a low fire year.

Season Forecast

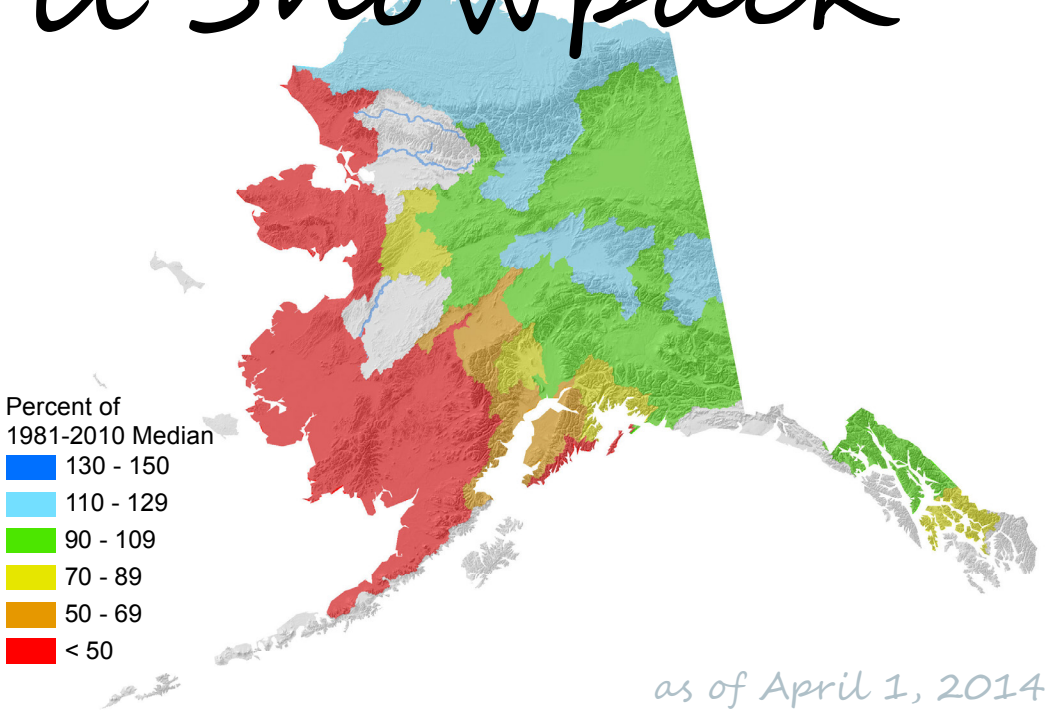
The fire potential outlook for the 2014 fire season was for above normal for the Southwest, western South Central, and much of the Interior, as far east as Delta. That area was expected to expand into the eastern Interior for June, with a return to normal conditions by July. A low snowpack and an exceptionally warm April led to an early melt-out and concerns for extremely dry fuels to start the fire season. Long range forecasts indicated the likelihood of a warmer than normal summer, particularly in Southwest Alaska. These factors led us to forecast an above normal start to fire season, continuing through what is normally the busiest fire month, June. As it looked like the second half of the summer would be fairly normal, and there were no large-scale atmospheric changes expected, a normal late season was forecast.

Spring Snowpack

Though precipitation amounts were near normal for the winter, western Alaska and South Central reported only near half of normal snowpack. This indicated that much winter precipitation had been rain, and likely ran to low-lying areas, leaving much topography with a springtime deficit. This proved to be true as May dawned hot and extremely dry for parts of South Central and Southwest: almost all stations in those areas showed Fine Fuel Moisture Codes at all-time high values for mid May. It was during this time that the Funny River Fire ignited and grew at extreme speeds, 20,000 to 30,000 acres daily for a week.

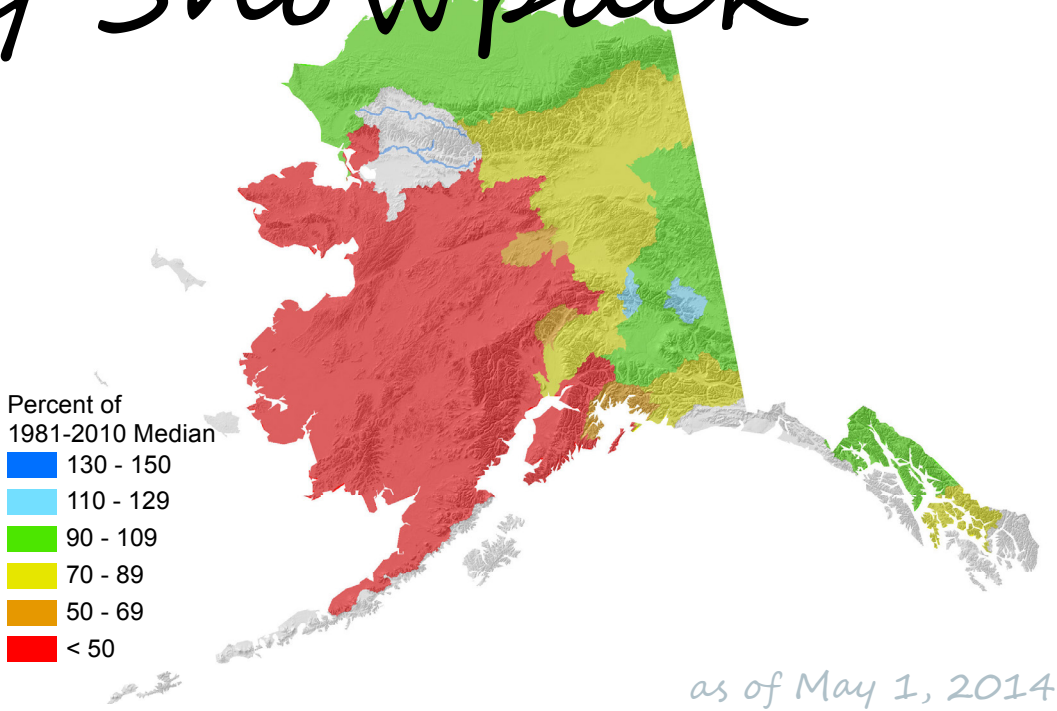
The eastern half of the state, though having a normal snowpack, was not far behind as the warm, dry April caused rapid snowmelt and drying of fuels. By May 1st, only the North Slope, eastern Interior, Copper River Basin, and the northern Panhandle held on to a substantial amount of snowpack.

April Snowpack



as of April 1, 2014

May Snowpack



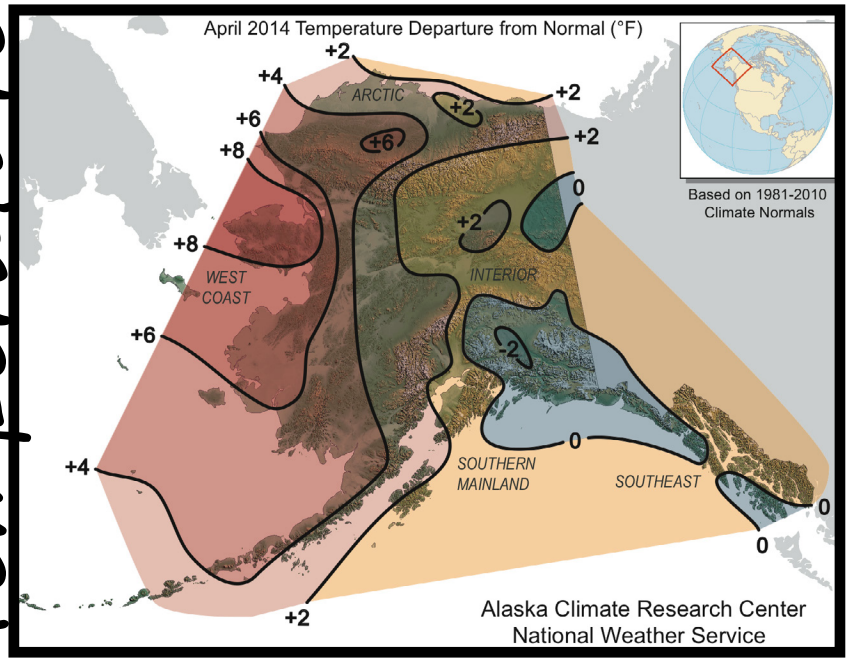
as of May 1, 2014

April

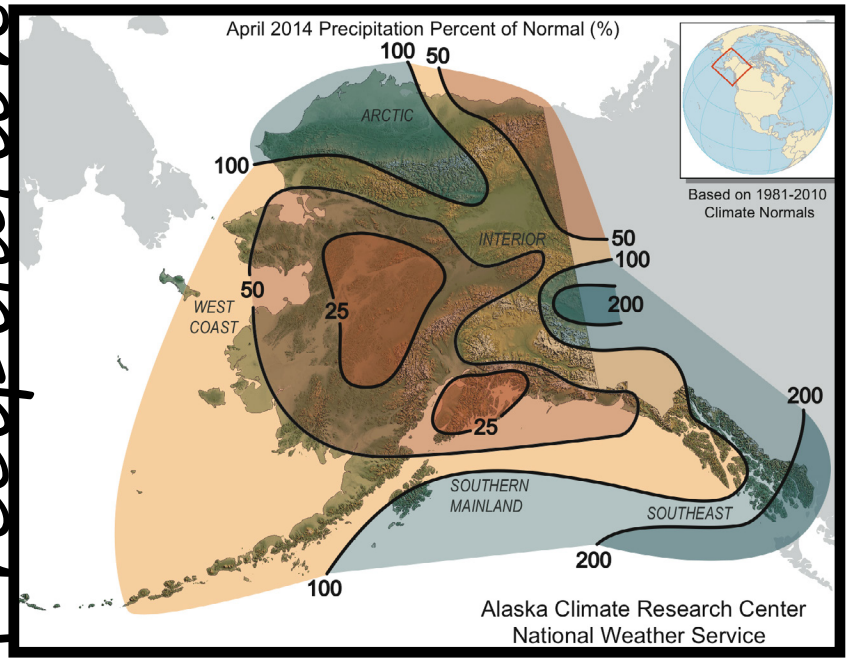
In a drastic turn from 2013, April was warmer than normal in most areas, with the western Brooks Range and west coast signaling 6 to 8 degrees warmer than normal, while the east was just a couple of degrees above average. Ice breakup at Nenana was one of the earliest on record, and more than a week earlier than normal. Daily record highs were set for several stations along the west coast, while sea ice extent was well below normal, with the pack ice never reaching the Pribilof Islands for the entire winter. The only below normal area was the eastern Alaska Range south to the eastern Gulf of Alaska.

Precipitation was less than 50% for the majority of the state: Anchorage recorded only 0.04 inches of precipitation for the month, leading to their driest April since 1978. Though the northwest Arctic and easternmost Tanana Valley had near normal precipitation, the wettest area was the southern Panhandle, where a three day rain event led to one of the wettest Aprils on record for Annette and Ketchikan.

Temperature



Precipitation



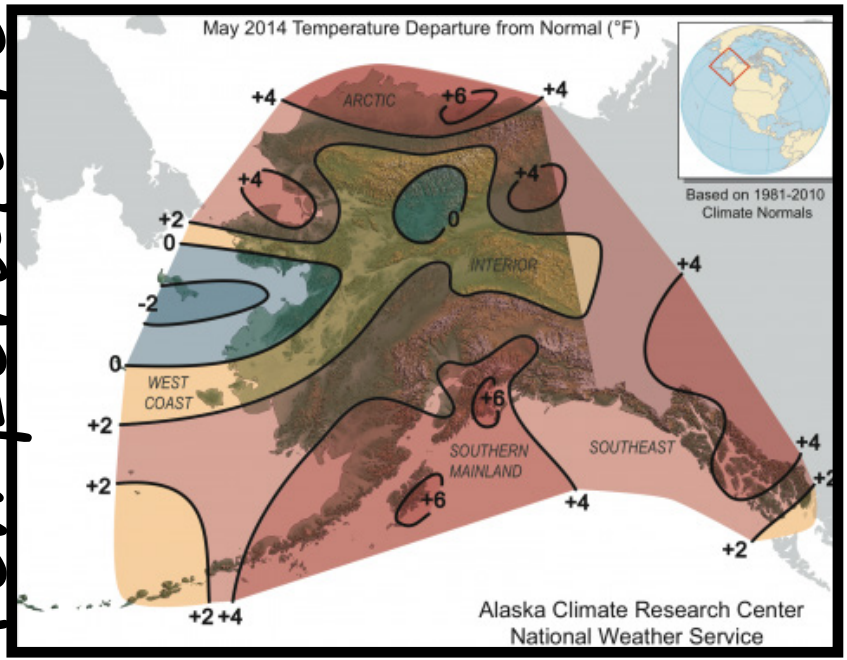
May

May was also on the warm side, particularly south of the Alaska Range. Many daily high temperature records fell, even in the northern Panhandle. It was the warmest May on record for King Salmon, Homer, Kodiak, and Anchorage.

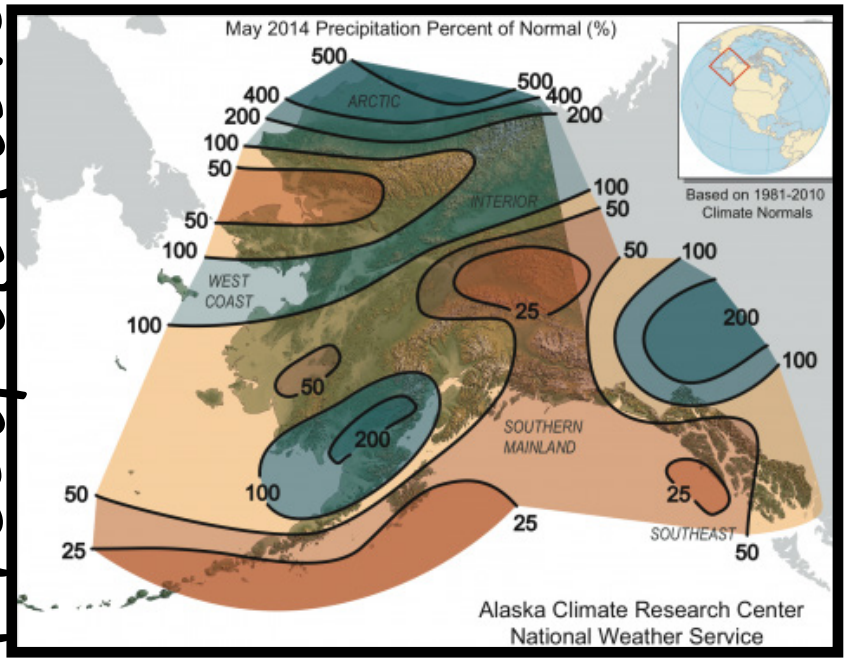
Precipitation remained minimal across the southern Interior and much of eastern South Central and the Panhandle. Meanwhile, record rainfall was observed in Barrow at five times normal May precipitation, and heavy rains in the southern Panhandle led to an unofficial observation of 7 inches from one event.

The early snowmelt and warm, dry weather led to an extended period of extremely dry fuels as greenup of vegetation was delayed due to little precipitation. This set up extreme fire conditions, which was realized with the Funny River Fire, a human-caused fire just south of Soldotna that started on May 19th. Strong winds caused rapid spread rates for several days, creating the largest fire on the Kenai Peninsula since 1947.

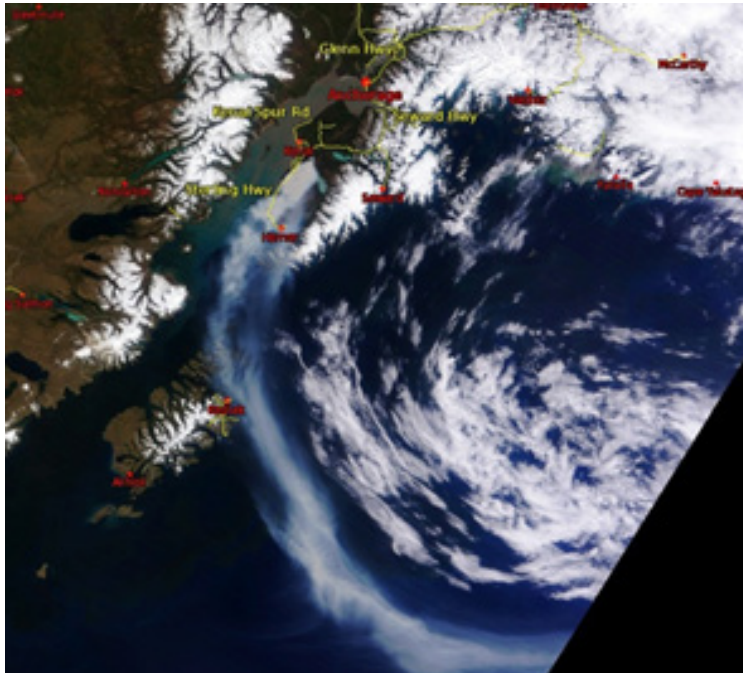
Temperature



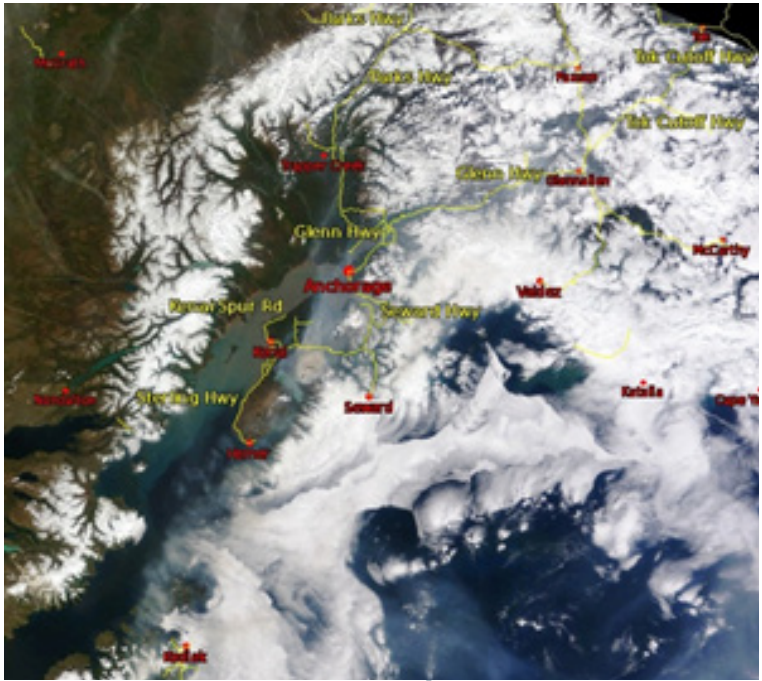
Precipitation



Smoke from the Funny River Fire reached as far north as Fairbanks, though closer locations such as Anchorage and Kodiak received the brunt of the smoke. The following images show satellite imagery from two dates: on the 20th, a long band of smoke stretched south over the Gulf of Alaska, and by the 24th, winds had changed direction and blown into Anchorage, as seen by the gray cloud over that area in the second image.



May 20, 2014


Glenn Hwy
Parks Hwy
Tok Cutoff Hwy
Glenn Hwy
Glenn Hwy
Anchorage
Palmer
Seward Hwy
Valdez
McCarthy
Kenai Spur Rd
Seward Hwy
Seward
Kenai
Soldotna
Homer

May 24, 2014

June

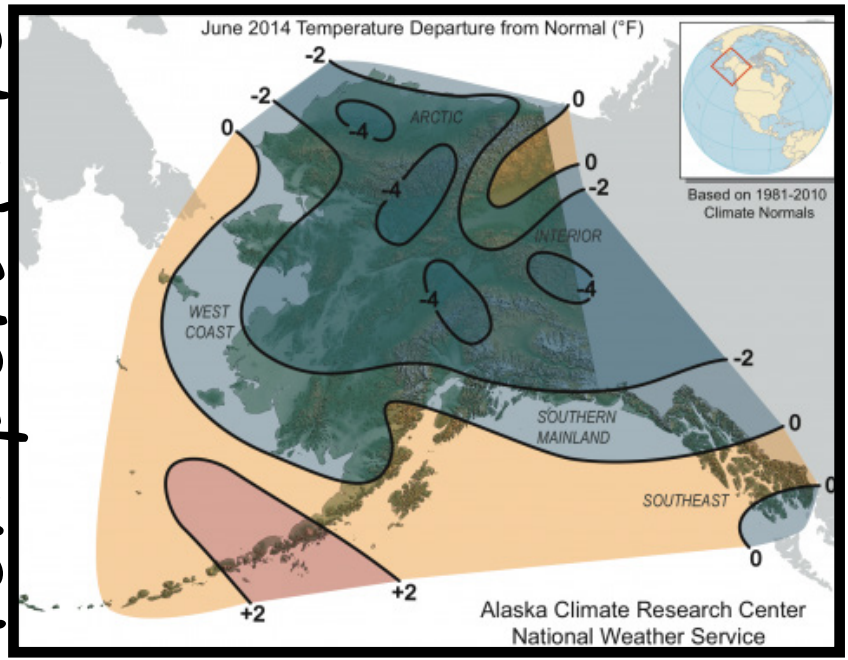
June started a drastic pattern change that was to last for most of the rest of the summer. Below normal temperatures prevailed for virtually the entire state, with a late season frost recorded in and around Fairbanks on June 12th.

The weather change also brought copious amounts of rain! Anchorage received 3.33 inches of precipitation for the month, making this their second greatest June rainfall. Parts of the Panhandle set record precipitation records for June, with Juneau leading the pack at 7.48 inches, with 230% of normal rainfall. But the Interior is where the rain hit the hardest. Fairbanks and Eielson both observed record-breaking amounts of rainfall for the month, most of which came in the last two weeks of June. Though the Fairbanks airport reported only 3.56 inches, locations in the hills north of town reported higher amounts, with Granite

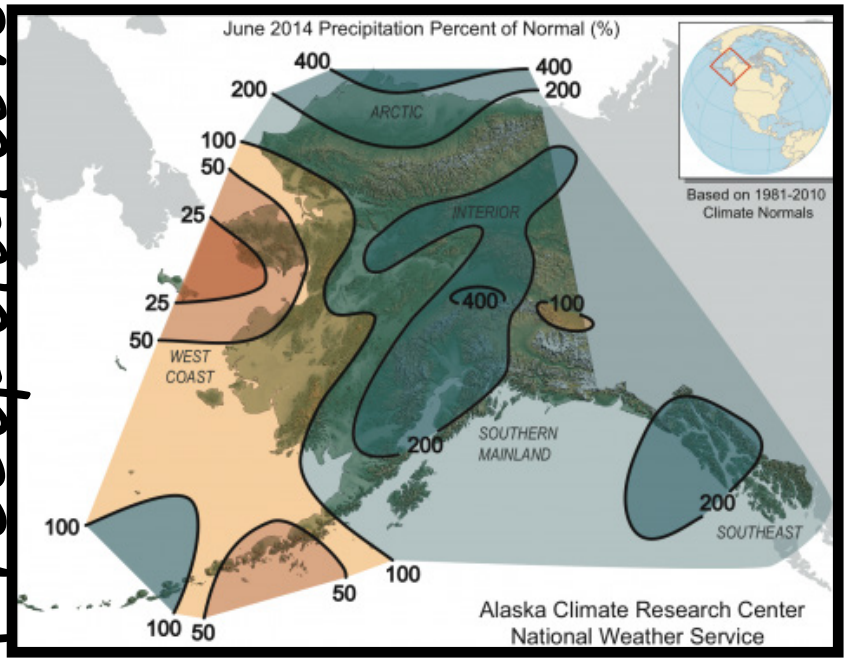
Tors Campground east of Fairbanks observing 7.78 inches, and nearly 11 inches reported south of Chena Hot Springs! And while most June precipitation typically comes in the form of instability showers and thunderstorms, almost all of this rain came from easterly waves of low pressure moving in from Canada, much larger-scale, steady precipitation events than convective activity.

Though the cold temperatures were frustrating, it was the precipitation that was not only depressing for many, but also caused damage for a number of homeowners and government agencies due to flooding and washouts. Though most trouble was in the river basins east and south of Fairbanks (such as the Salcha, Chena, and Goodpasture), Denali Park also saw extensive rain, forcing evacuations from the Kantishna area after 3 inches fell in just over 12 hours.

Temperature



Precipitation



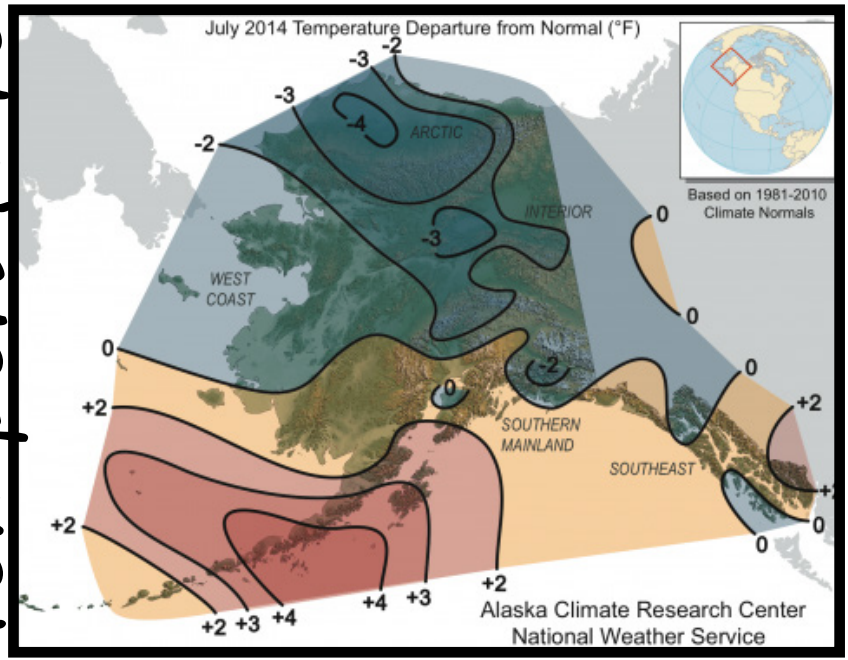
July

July continued the cooler than normal trend for most of the state, with coldest anomalies reported along the North Slope. Tanana dropped to 31F on July 27th, breaking their all time low for that date, though below freezing temperatures have been recorded there in July, the last time in 2000. The only parts of the state to remain on the warm side were Southwest and some of South Central, and the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians where warmer weather led to a new daily high at King Salmon and a monthly warm record at Cold Bay.

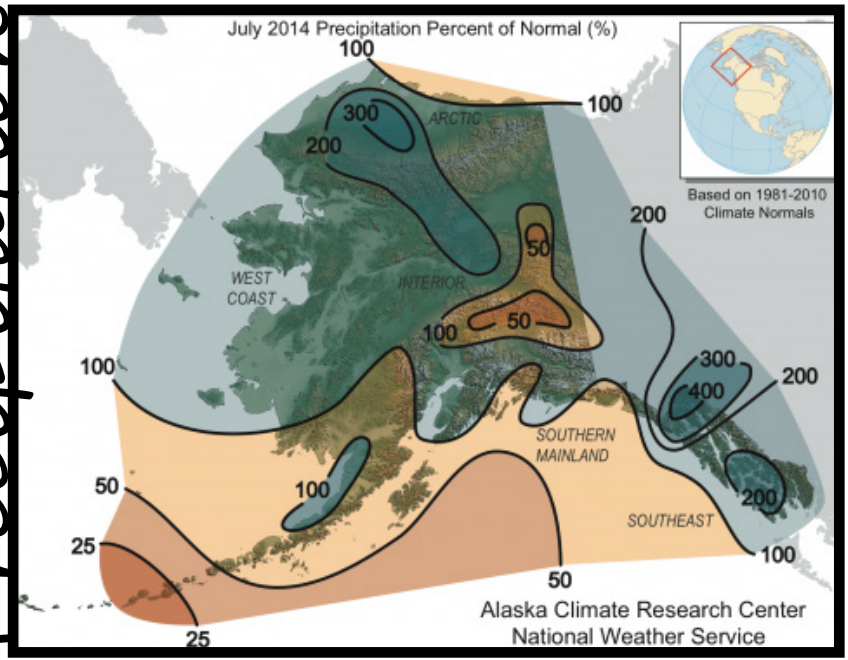
Though heavier than normal rains fell for much of the state, there was a pocket focused over Tok that stayed drier. However, right next door, near record rains again hammered the central Interior, with Fairbanks reporting 2.83 inches of rain in a 24-hour period between July 1st and 2nd. This is the second highest rainfall recorded in Fairbanks for any one 24-hour period. Though Fairbanks didn't quite break the monthly record, it was the second-wettest with 5.78 inches of rain, and over 7 inches observed at

many stations in the hills around town. Again, these rain events were not convective, but due to frontal system movement. Farther south, Juneau reported the wettest June ever with 15.65 inches of rain for the month. Of the biggest three cities, only Anchorage somewhat escaped the drenching pattern, with rainfall amounts of 3.23 inches more than an inch below the record, but quite a bit above the 1.83 inch average for July.

Temperature



Precipitation



August

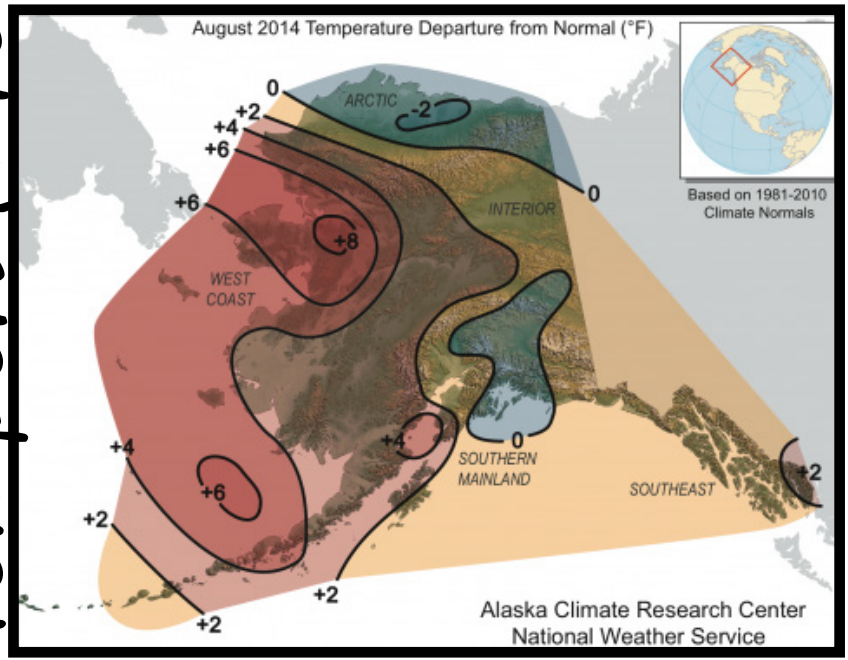
August temperatures were near normal in the east, but warm weather moved into the west, particularly over the Seward Peninsula, where anomalies showed about 8 degrees above normal.

Conditions also began to dry out, with very little rainfall in the northwest. The warming, drying trend in western Alaska allowed some lightning activity to crop up and ignite a few fires in the northwest and southwest. Longer nights and higher humidity kept fires from rapidly spreading, but the sudden increase in activity, though small, did keep firefighters on their toes late into the low-key season.

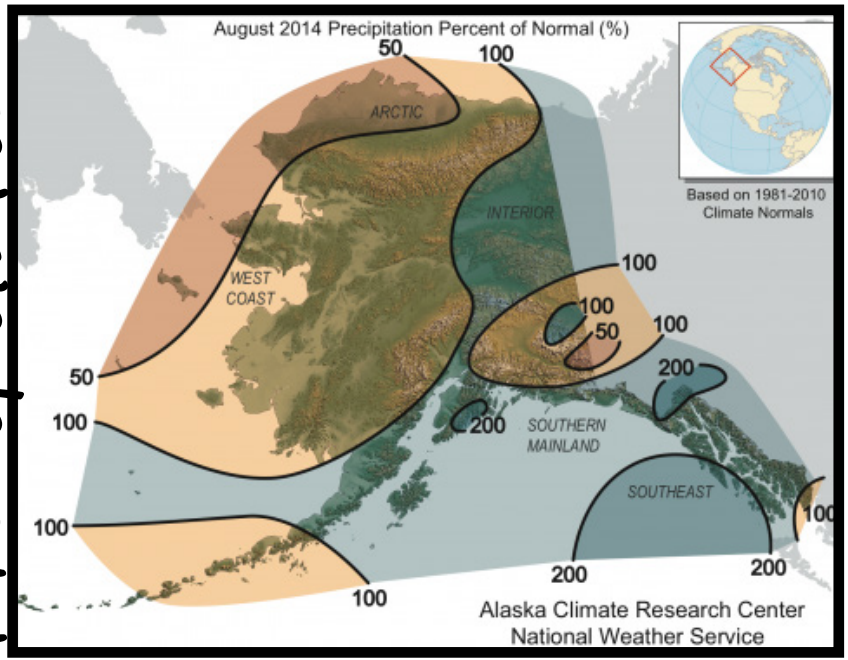
Despite the drier month, Fairbanks achieved the much-coveted record of the wettest summer (June-July-August) on record of 11.63 inches of rain. The old record from 1930 was 11.59 inches, half of which fell in August that year. This year, only 2.29 inches fell for August, not much above the monthly average: most of the damage was done in June and July. In the Panhandle, both Haines and Juneau also reported the wettest summer on record, Juneau blowing away the old record of 21.57 inches with 24.18 inches!

Ironically, Cold Bay observed the warmest average summer temperature on record at 54.1 F. This was more than four degrees warmer than normal, and beats the previous warm record of 52.4 F, set in 1977.

Temperature



Precipitation



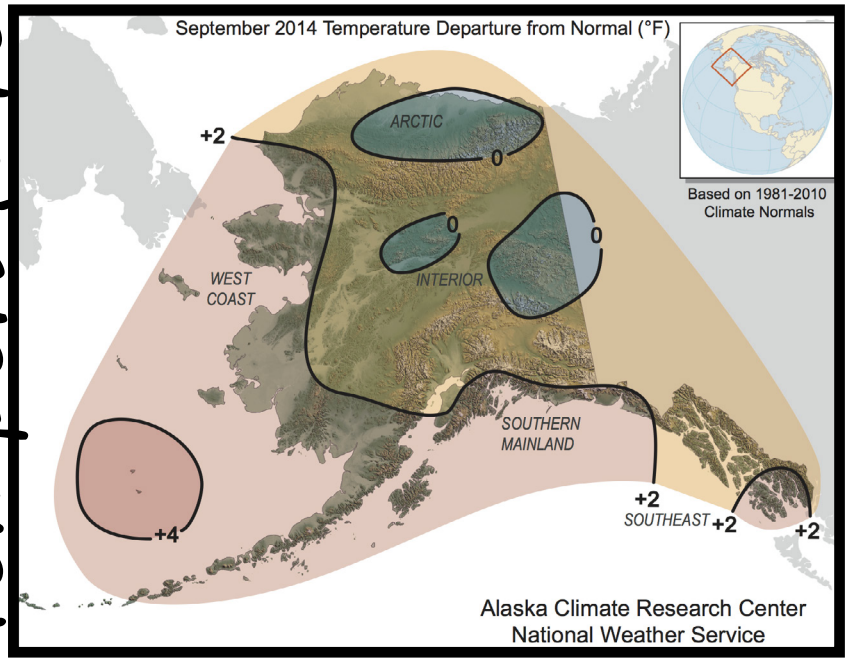
September

Temperatures in September were very near normal for most of the mainland, though out over the Bering Sea and many coastal areas, warmer than normal temperatures exceeded averages by 2 to 4 degrees. These were likely influenced by very warm sea surface temperatures over the Bering Sea. High temperature records were set for several locations in or along the Bering Sea, where the warmest September on record was observed for both Cold Bay and Saint Paul.

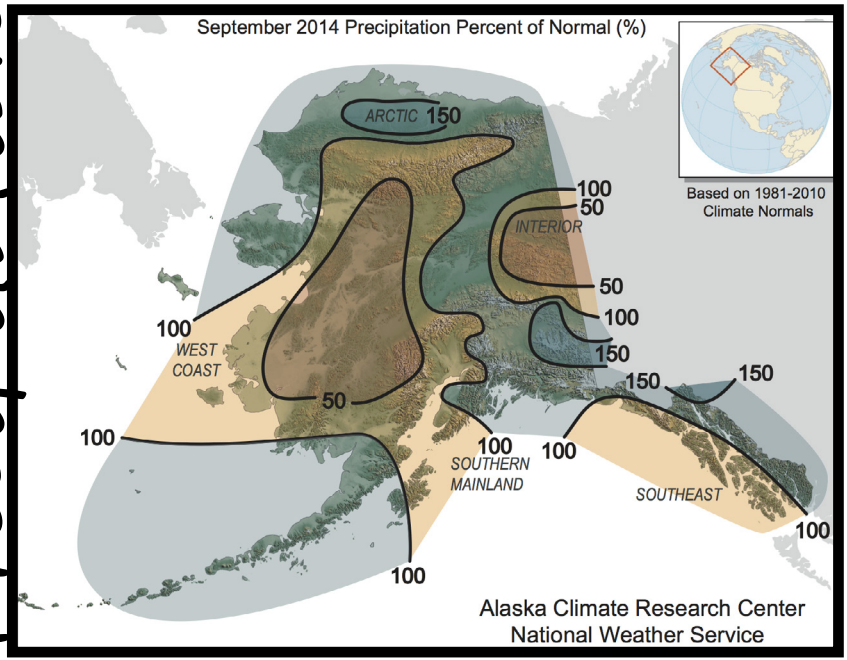
Precipitation was widely varied. Throughout most of the western half of the state, drier than normal conditions prevailed, with much of the western Interior receiving only half its normal rainfall. In the eastern Interior, similar conditions were observed. On the opposite end of the spectrum, wetter than normal conditions prevailed on the North Slope and through the Wrangell - St. Elias Mountains. Fairbanks and Ketchikan recorded their heaviest known September rainfall.

Though September seemed to bring a drying trend for much of the Interior, the summer rain had done its work. Poor Interior hay harvests were attributed to the wet summer, and the lack of fires during the wet summer meant there was virtually no fire growth during this month that typically sees existing limited option fires expand with a few dry or windy events.

Temperature



Precipitation



500 mb Patterns

The following series of maps show the mean 500 mb height pattern for each month, followed by the monthly anomalies, or difference from normal. While the mean shows the general pattern that dominated for the month, the anomalies show us where the biggest differences from a normal pattern occurred.

The first mean 500 mb pattern shows that April began the season with ridging from Canada tilting northwest into Alaska. This is typically a warm, dry pattern, which was the case as shown in observations of above normal temperatures and lower than normal precipitation across the state.

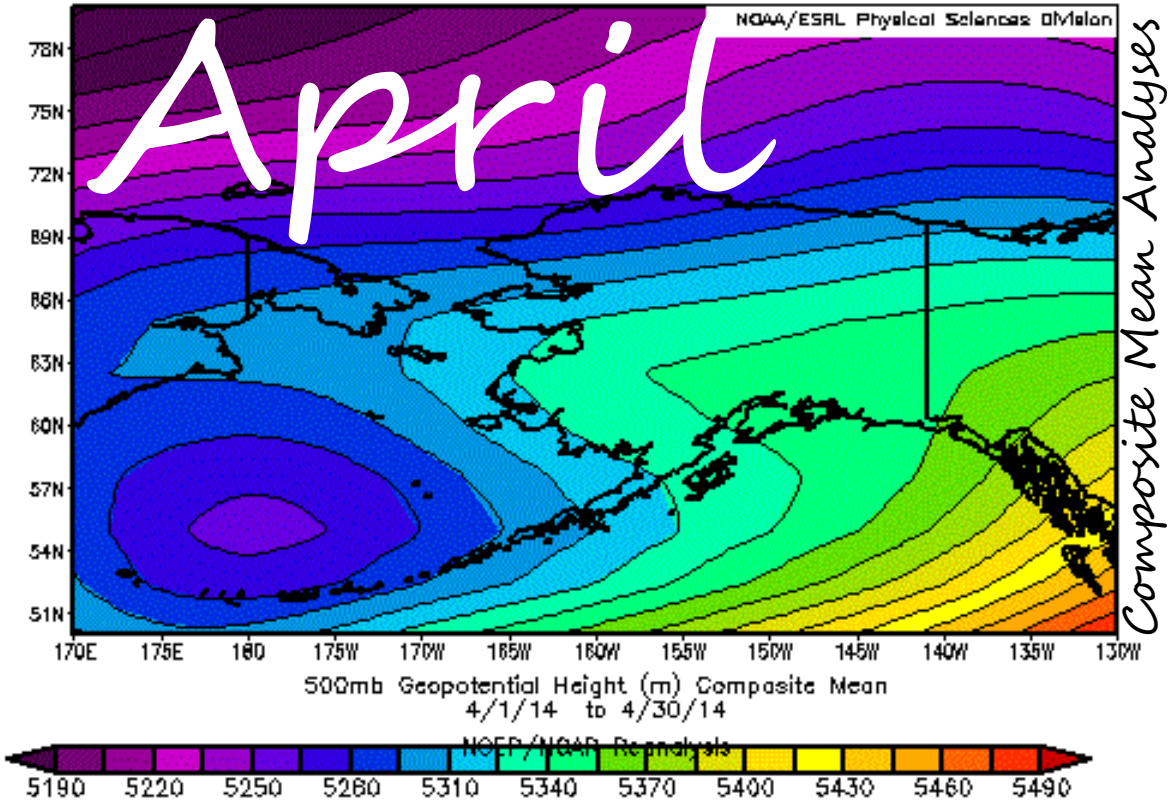
May's mean 500 mb map shows strong high pressure in the North Pacific Ocean, and coincides with higher than normal geopotential heights for much of the state on the corresponding anomaly map. This was evidenced by the continuance of warm weather, but with the focus moving to the southern part of the state. The strong gradient between the high and the low pressure over the Arctic Ocean also supports the strong wind events that took place through parts of South Central, driving the Funny River Fire at the end of the month.

June's 500 mb composite mean shows a long wave trough focused over the western portion of the state, with ridging over Canada that was unable to work its way into anything but far northeastern Alaska. The angle of the trough allowed easterly flow into eastern Alaska, which was expressed as the very wet easterly waves that brought heavy rain to much of the state in the second half of the month. Meanwhile, the negative anomalies over the Alaska Range indicate that cooler weather was present, as shown by statewide June surface observations. Note the high positive anomalies over the Aleutians, lending to the warm temperatures in Cold Bay.

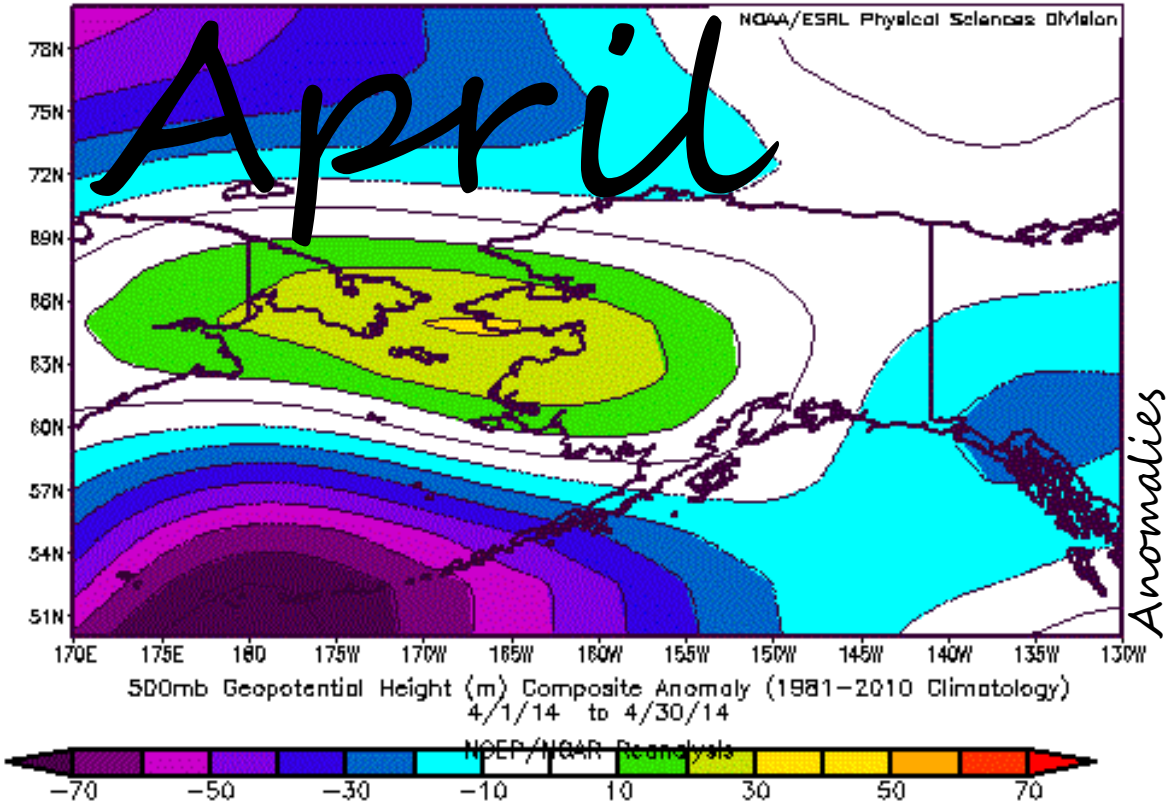
In July, the mean 500 mb long wave trough shifted eastward over the middle of the state. This prevented more easterly waves from rolling through, but the strong westerly flow across northern Alaska let plenty of moisture advance inland from the Bering and Chukchi Seas, bringing that very wet weather across the northern mainland, while the southern part dried a bit, at least between lows moving through the Gulf. Anomalies for this month show somewhat cooler temperatures, but overall, upper level heights were not significantly off normal.

In August, the mean 500 mb long wave trough shifted westward again, but the ridge over Canada did not present the same easterly flow back into the state (fortunately) and instead allowed more of a southerly flow over eastern Alaska. This created a drier, Chinook-like pattern for the Interior, keeping most precipitation confined south of the Alaska Range. Since August is a month of transition, the lower height anomalies over the north Pacific do not correlate with surface temperature as well, but they do indicate that low pressure dominated that area more than normal. Though rainfall wasn't heavy, places like Anchorage had a lot of clouds and mist, reporting 21 days of the month with light rain. Similar rain day counts were observed around southwestern Alaska for the month. This indicates the likely presence of low pressure for many days that month.

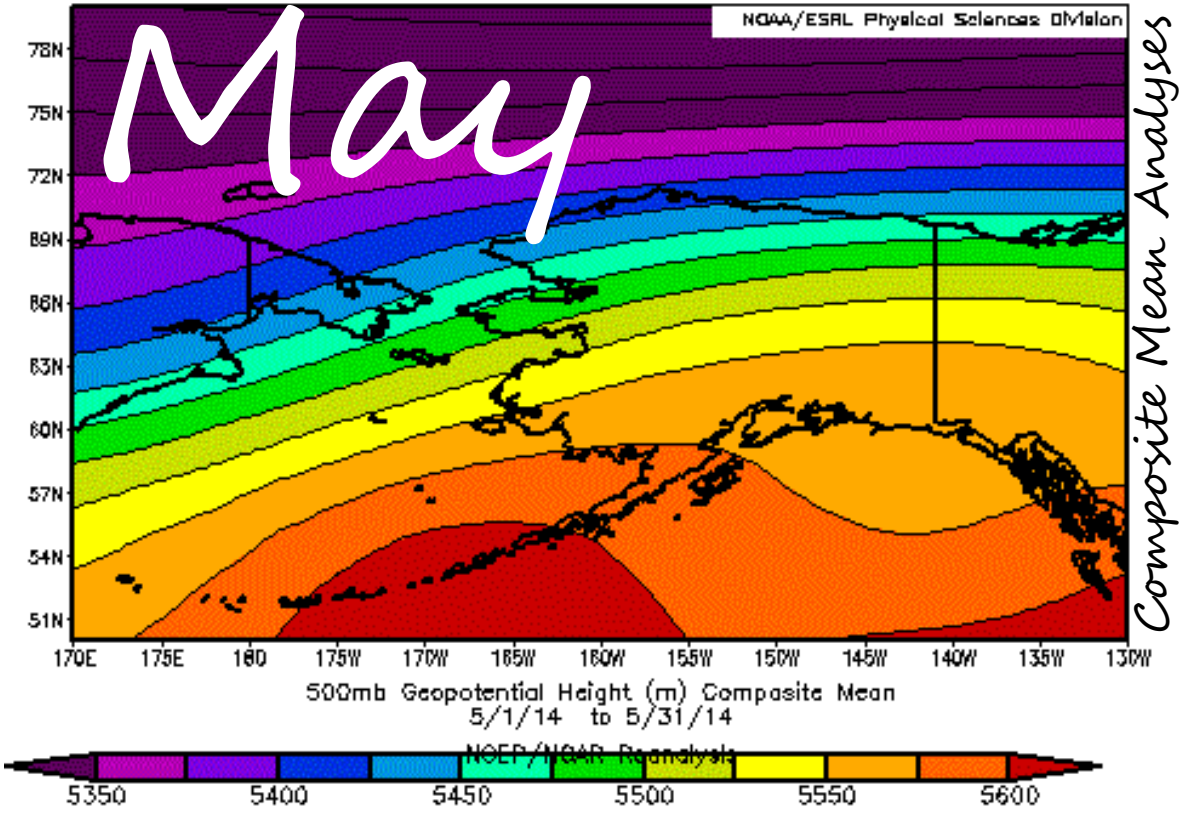
April



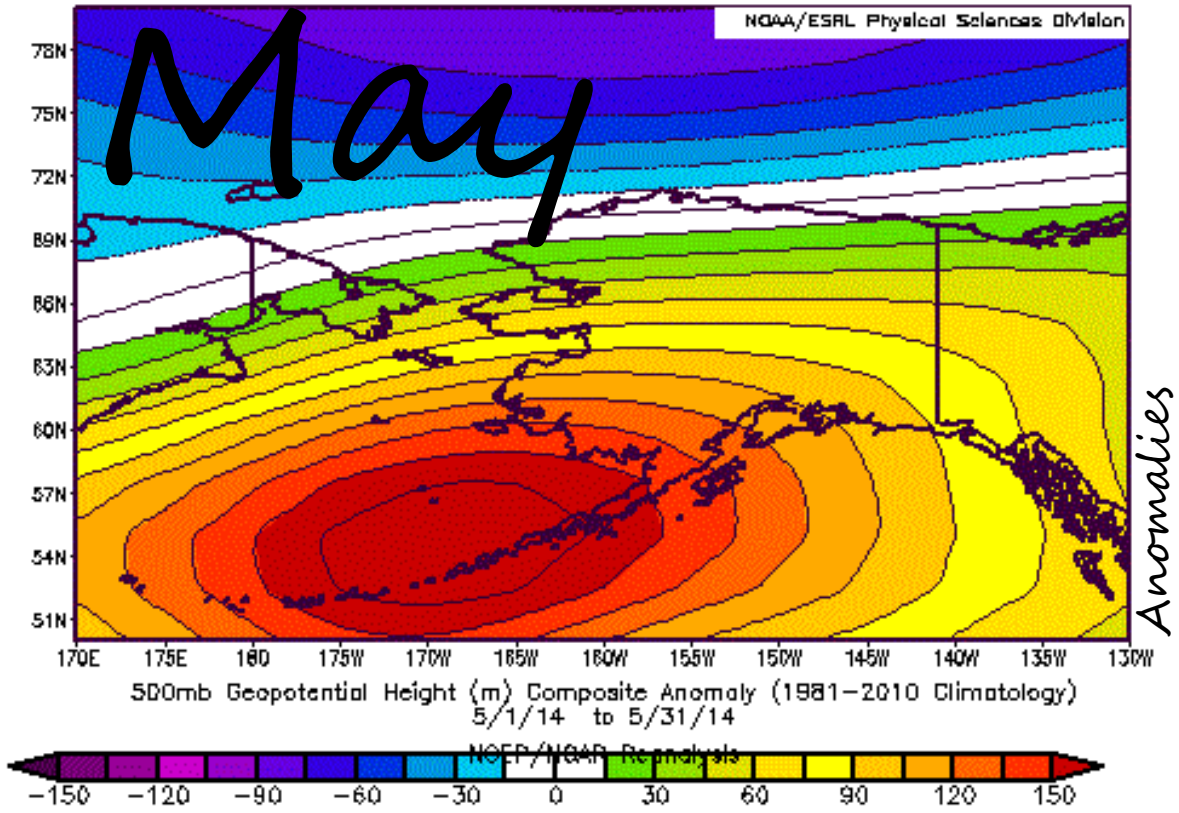
Composite Mean Analyses

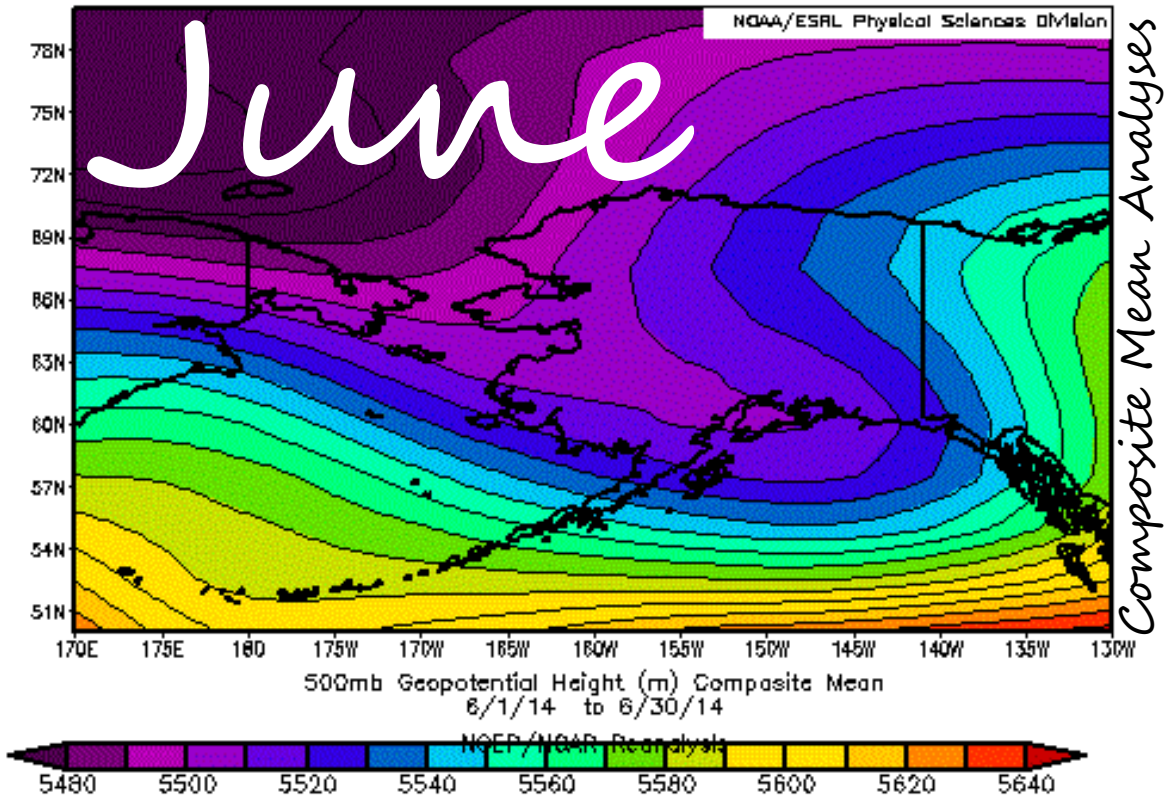

April
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology)
4/1/14 to 4/30/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
-70
-50
-30
-10
10
30
50
70
Anomalies

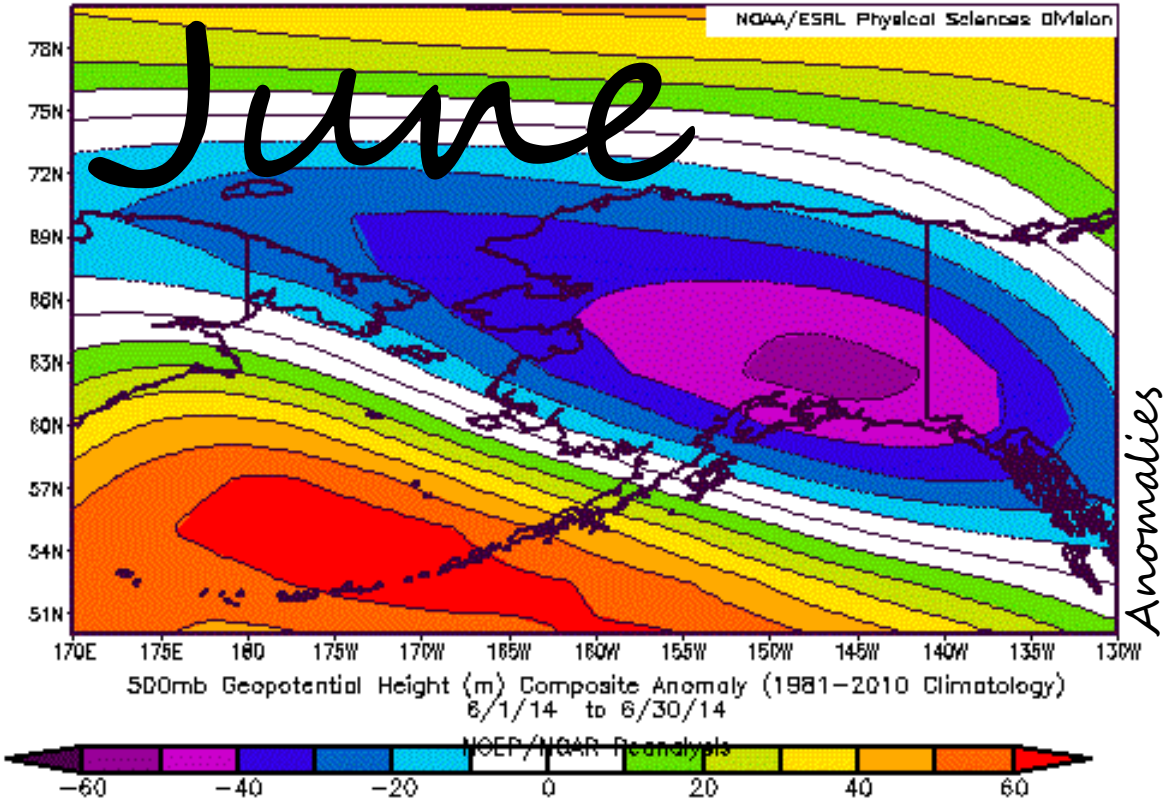
May



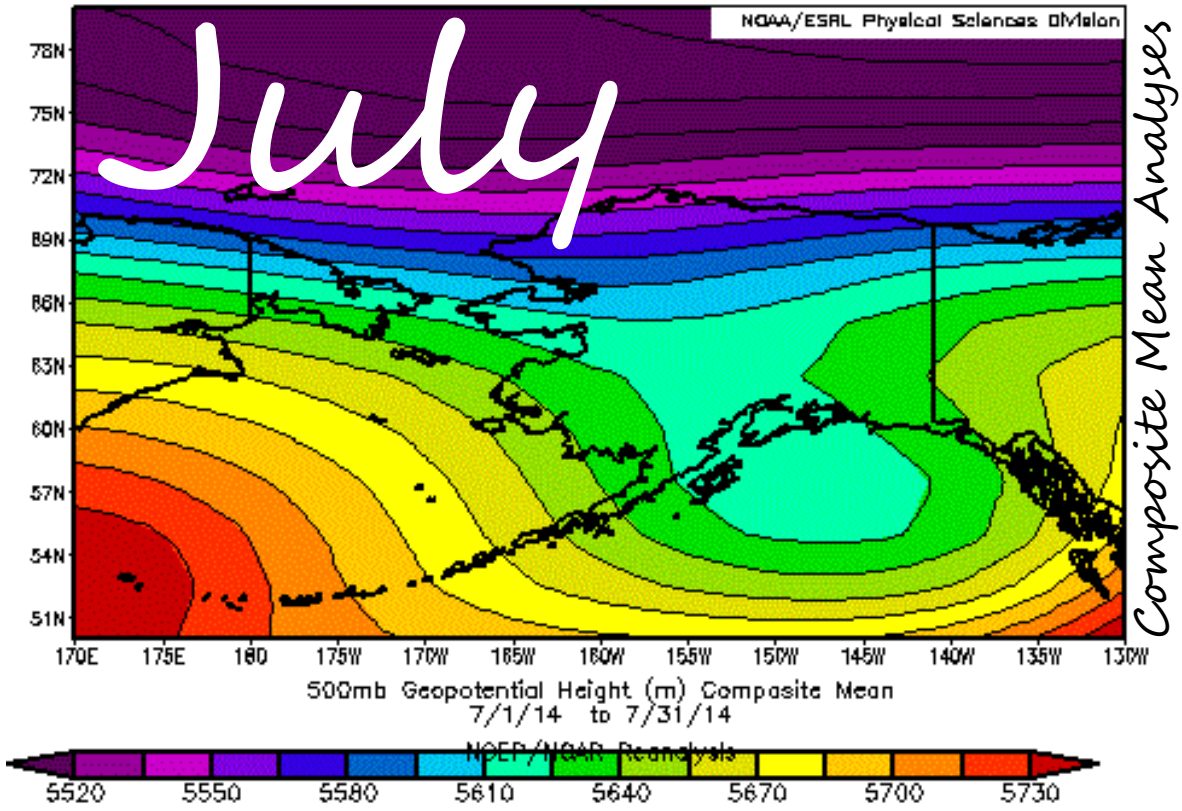
Composite Mean Analyses


May
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology)
5/1/14 to 5/31/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
-150
-120
-90
-60
-30
0
30
60
90
120
150
Anomalies

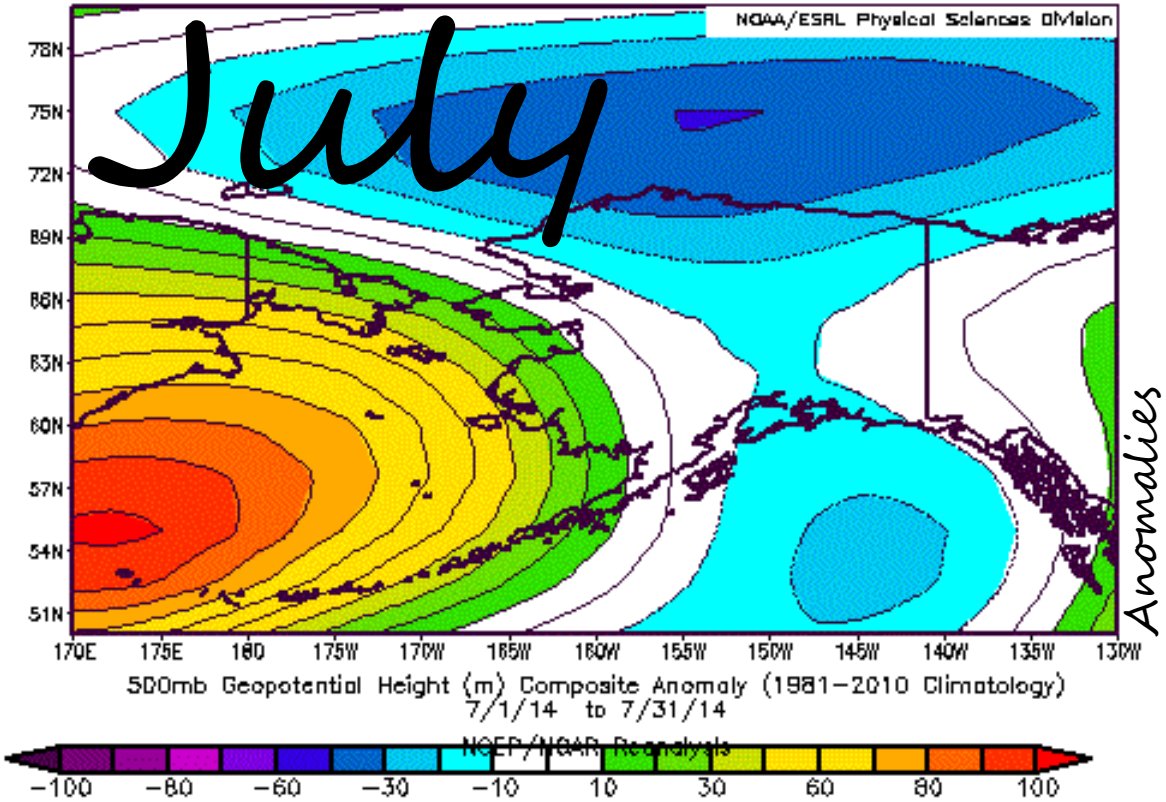

June
Composite Mean Analyses
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Mean
6/1/14 to 6/30/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
5480
5500
5520
5540
5560
5580
5600
5620
5640


June
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology)
6/1/14 to 6/30/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
-60
-40
-20
0
20
40
60
Anomalies

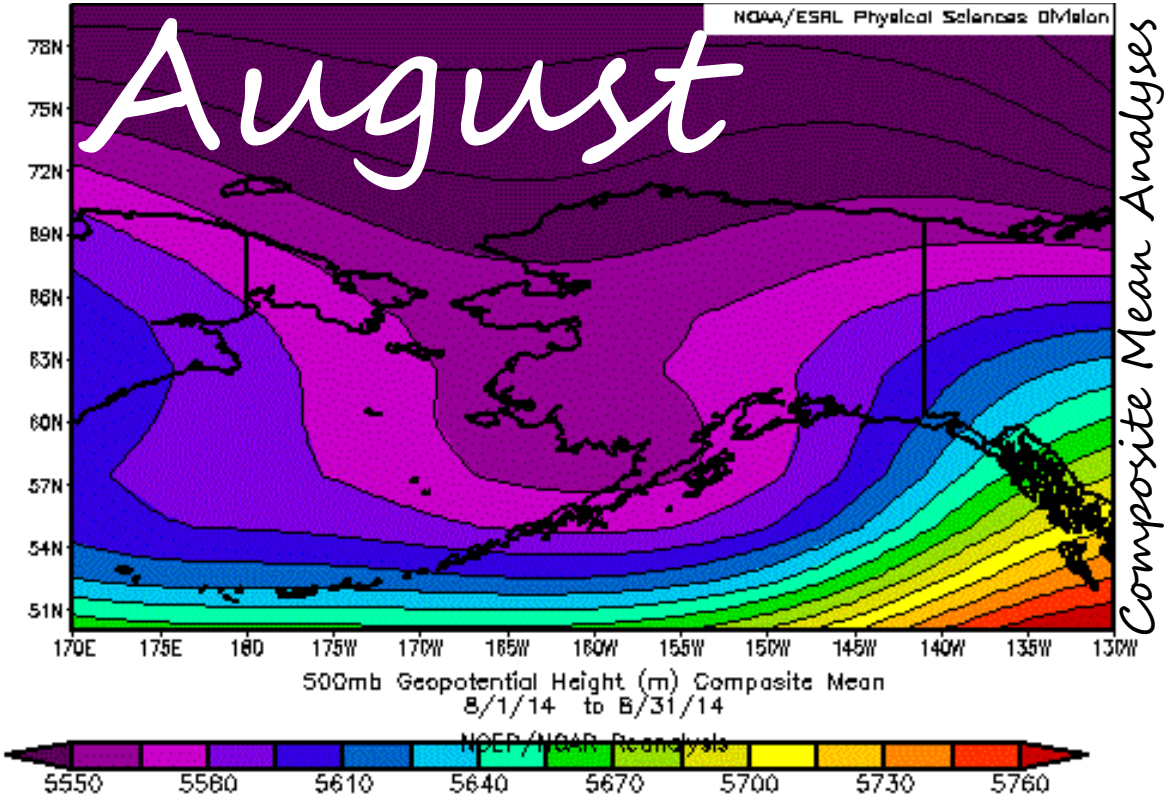
July



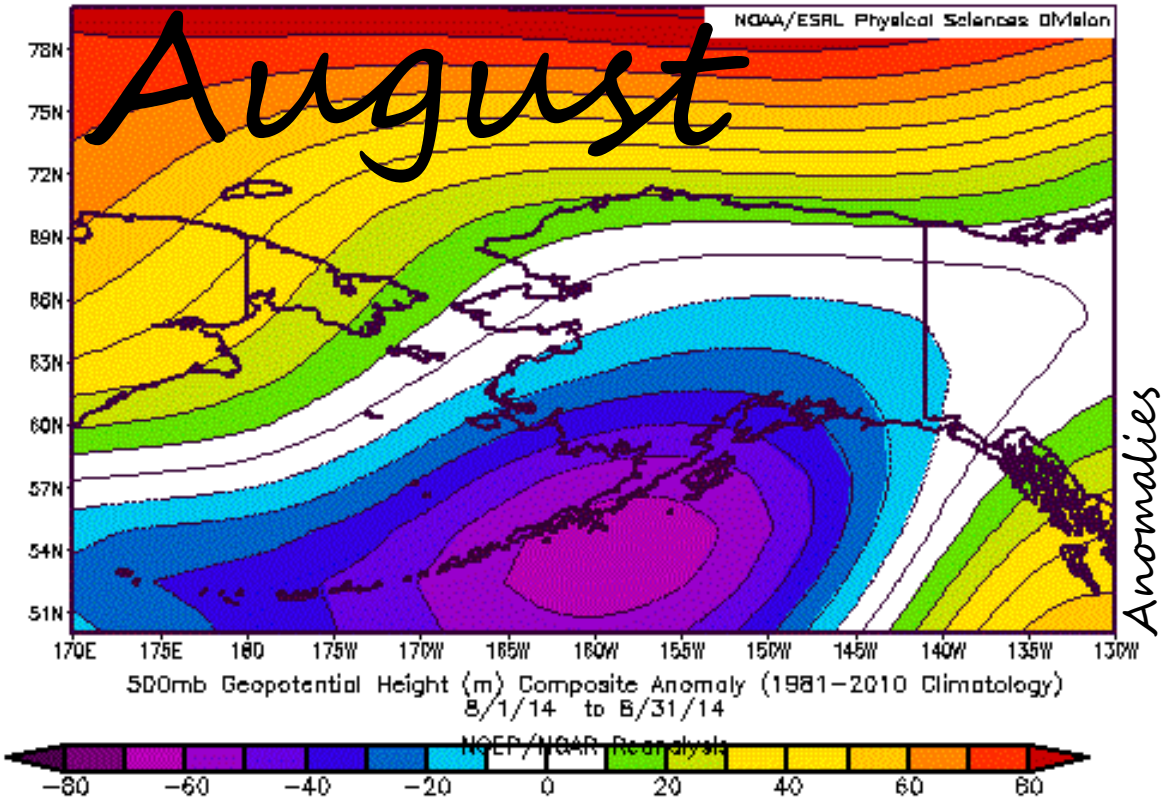
Composite Mean Analyses

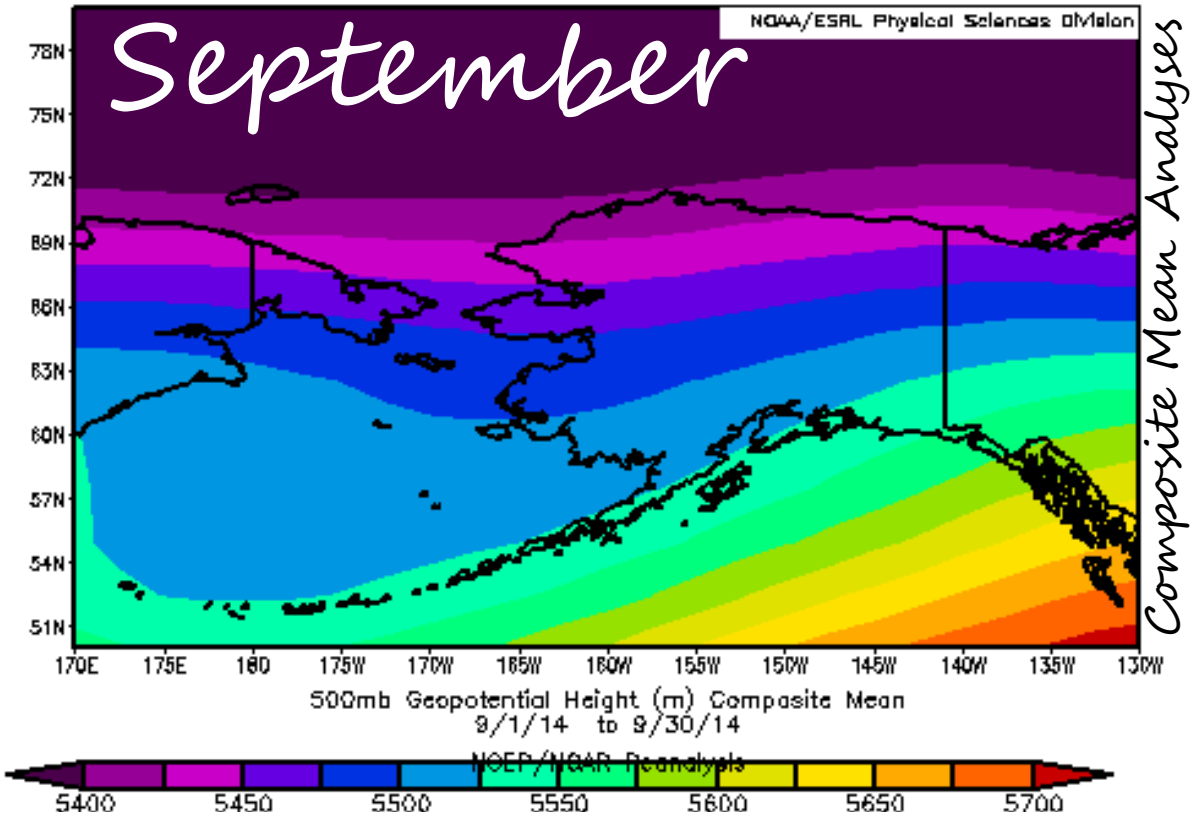

July
Anomalies
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology)
7/1/14 to 7/31/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
-100
-80
-60
-30
-10
10
30
60
80
100

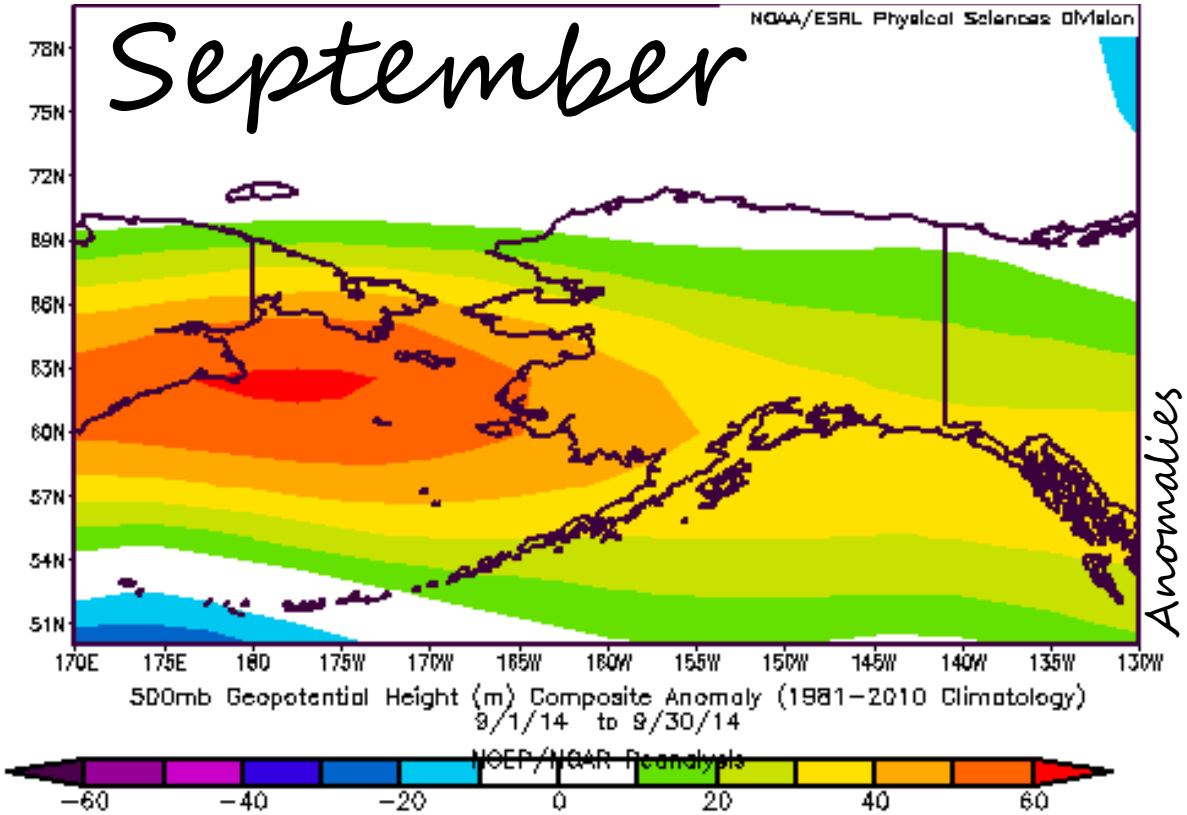
August



Composite Mean Analyses


August
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology)
8/1/14 to 8/31/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
-80
-60
-40
-20
0
20
40
60
80
Anomalies


September
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Mean
9/1/14 to 9/30/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
5400
5450
5500
5550
5600
5650
5700
Composite Mean Analyses


September
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
78N
75N
72N
69N
66N
63N
60N
57N
54N
51N
170E
175E
180
175W
170W
165W
160W
155W
150W
145W
140W
135W
130W
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology)
9/1/14 to 9/30/14
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
-60
-40
-20
0
20
40
60
Anomalies

Lightning

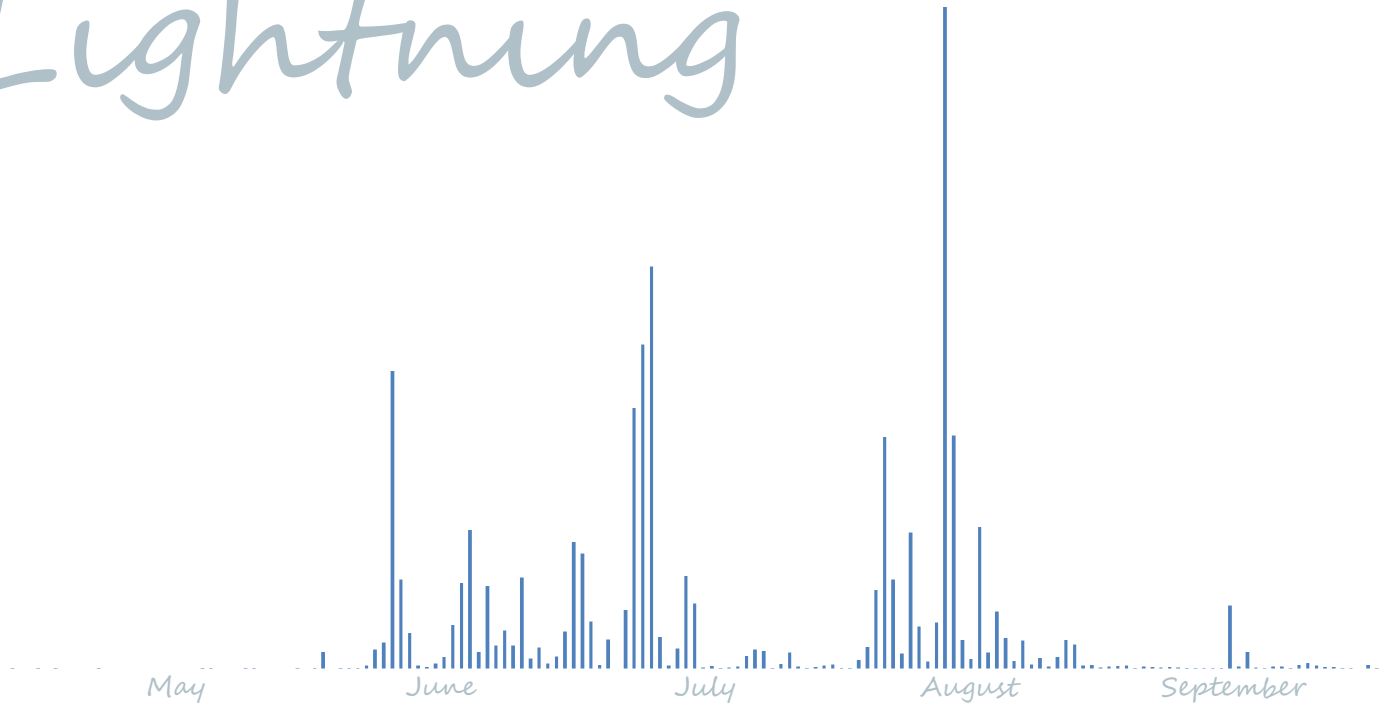
The new Alaska Lightning Detection System (ALDS), which went operational in 2012, continues to pose challenges, many like the old system presented at its inception. Based on satellite imagery, eyewitness reports, and natural fire starts, it is believed that some lightning strikes are still not observed by the ALDS. At times, the system continues to report strikes in places that are cloud-free, and other times it misses strikes associated with thunderstorm cells, where lightning is observed by the naked eye. Reported errors are being documented and steps taken to remedy problems. Several sensors were upgraded last year, and IT personnel are working to acquire a program that would allow analysis of the raw data, instead of just receiving the processed data.

2014 had near average lightning activity when compared to data from the last 25 years, keeping in mind that several upgrades to the system over that time make true comparisons difficult. Convective activity began later than normal, with the first lightning event occurring June 8th with 3,574 strikes, mainly focused in the central and northeastern Interior. For the rest of June and early July, most days had some lightning, though there were none exceeding 2,000 strikes and only six that exceeded 1,000. This is fairly low, and helps to confirm the analysis that most of this summer's rain did not come from instability showers. The second big event was over three

days from July 6-8, with almost 12,000 strikes. Most activity was in the eastern and northern Interior. The rest of July had minimal lightning, again indicating little convection. In August, activity picked up with a pattern change, with six days exceeding 1,000 strikes. The biggest day of the summer was on August 10th, with nearly 8,300 strikes spread across the Interior, extending southward into the northern Kuskokwim Mountains and Susitna Valley. Lightning activity continued to occur daily, but generally diminished until the 27th of August. None of these lightning events produced particularly large numbers of fires on any day this season, likely due to the wet conditions enveloping most of the state by the end of June.

For this exceptionally cool, wet summer, 58,729 strikes were observed (May 1st – September 15th). This was only about 11,000 strikes more than last season, which was one of the hottest and driest on record. Though lightning activity does correlate to fire activity, these two years of data seem to indicate that it is quite independent of temperature and total moisture.

Lightning



Conclusion

2014 will be remembered as one of the wettest summers on record in Alaska. Though a warm, dry spring led to near catastrophic fuel conditions for the Funny River and 100 Mile Creek Fires at the end of May, fuels quickly moderated and then became saturated as wave after wave of moisture came across the state first from the east, then from the west. Those two fires contributed to most of the area burned for the season (94%), and almost all of the total acreage had burned by the middle of June. Though there were some short dry spells and areas that received less rain, the heavy, wetting rains kept new fires to slower spread rates, allowing ample time for Initial Attack, or even Mother Nature, to prevent significant fire growth.

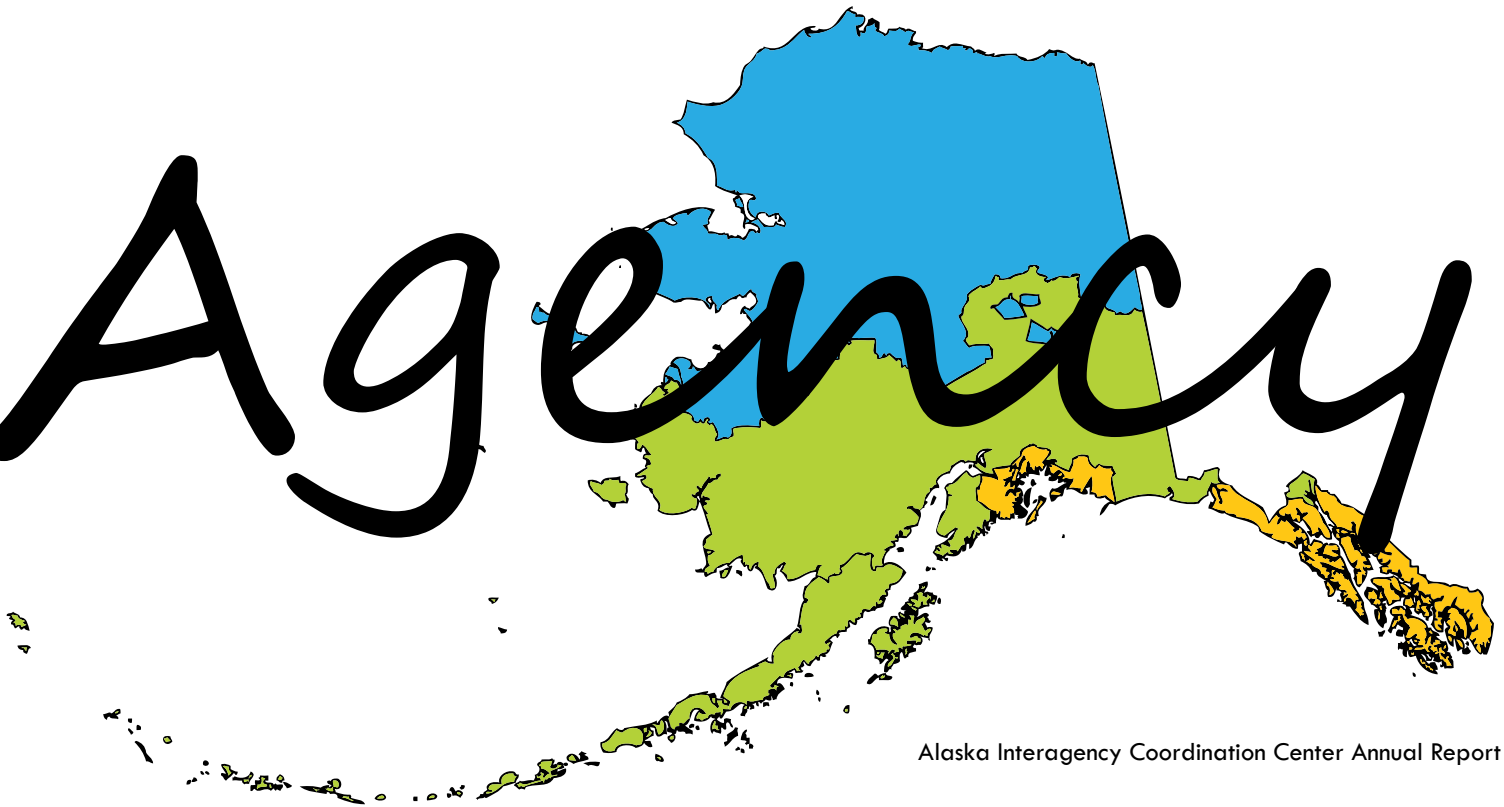
Coming off one of the hottest summers on record in 2013, Alaska's wet summer of 2014 seemed quite extreme. The fact is it was extremely wet, and fire activity was minimal as a result.

Statistics

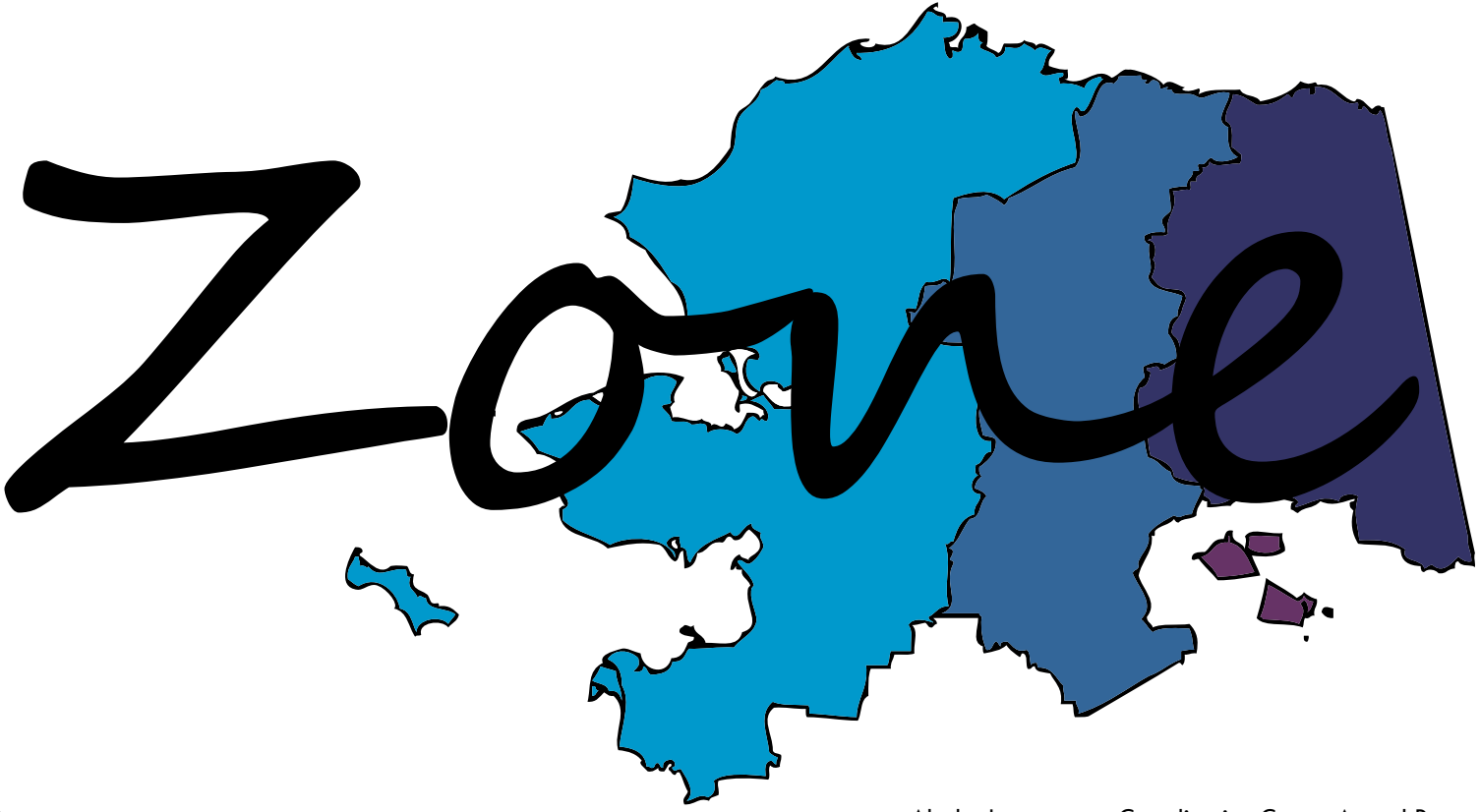
393
fires

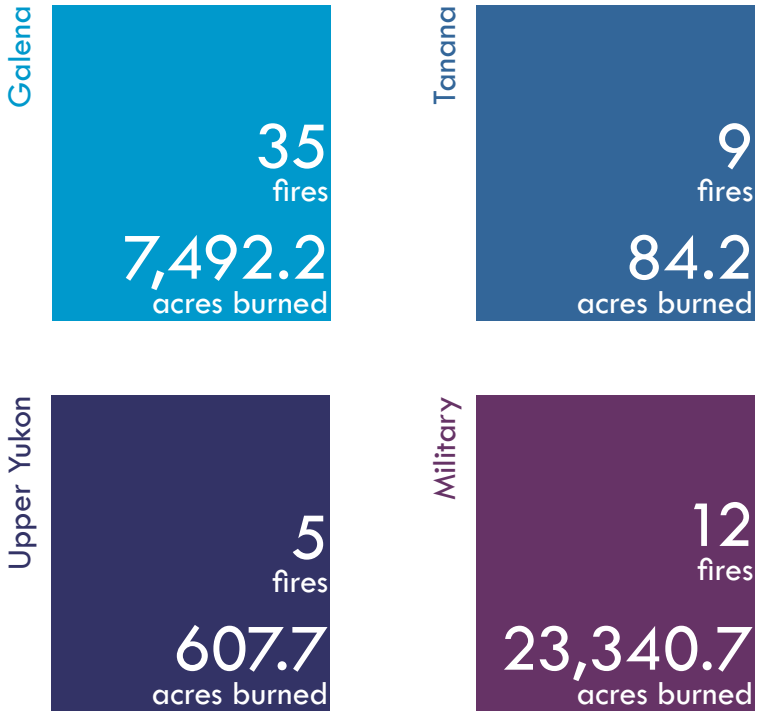
233,529.5
acres burned

Agency

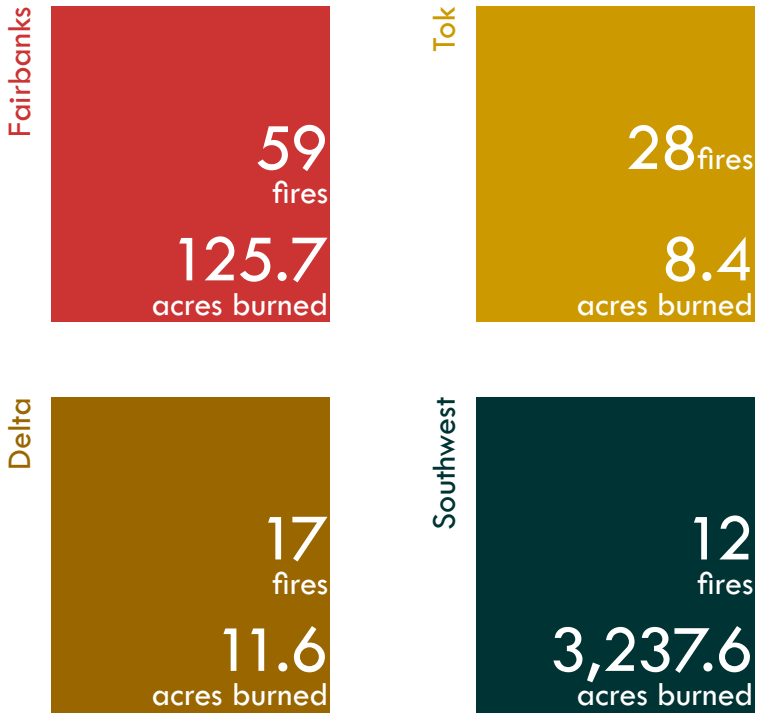


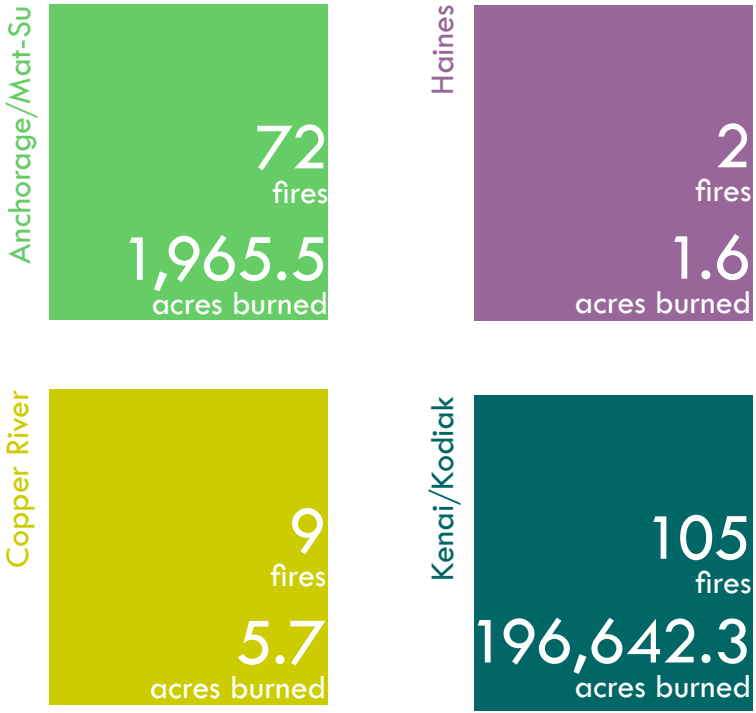

Alaska Fire Service
61
fires
31,524.8
acres burned
State of Alaska
304
fires
201,998.4
acres burned
US Forest Service
28
fires
6.3
acres burned


Zone


Galena
35
fires
7,492.2
acres burned
Tanana
9
fires
84.2
acres burned
Upper Yukon
5
fires
607.7
acres burned
Military
12
fires
23,340.7
acres burned


Area


Fairbanks
59
fires
125.7
acres burned
Tok
28 fires
8.4
acres burned
Delta
17
fires
11.6
acres burned
Southwest
12
fires
3,237.6
acres burned


Anchorage/Mat-Su
72
fires
1,965.5
acres burned
Haines
2
fires
1.6
acres burned
Copper River
9
fires
5.7
acres burned
Kenai/Kodiak
105
fires
196,642.3
acres burned

Forest

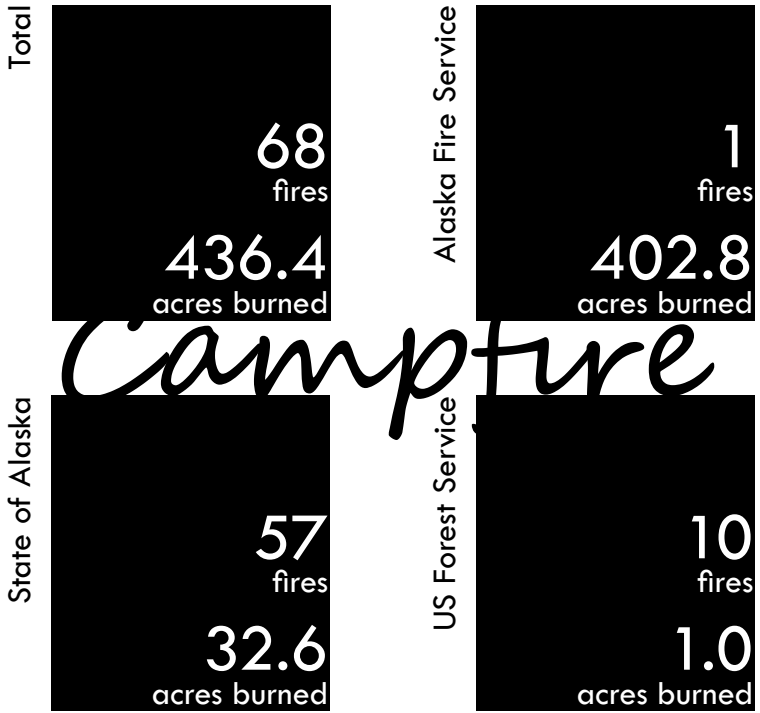

Chugach
10
fires
1.5
acres burned
Tongass
18
fires
4.8
acres burned

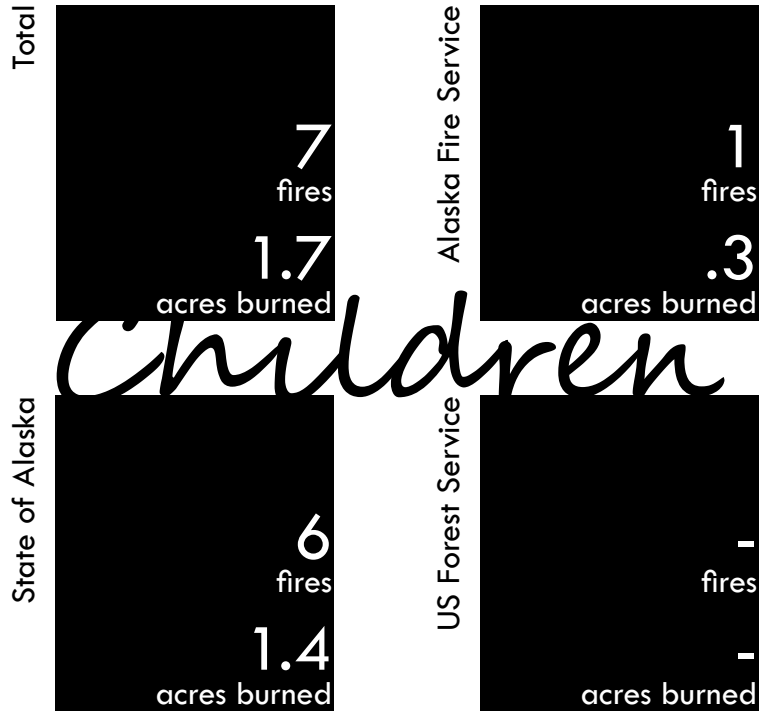
Fire Cause

Defined in the *NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology*. Agency or circumstance which started a fire or set the stage for its occurrence; source of a fire's ignition. For statistical purposes fires are grouped into broad cause classes. The nine general causes used in the U.S. are lightning, campfire, smoking, debris burning, incendiary, machine use (equipment), railroad, children, and miscellaneous. For purposes of this report, numbers for firesUnder Investigation and Undetermined are also included.

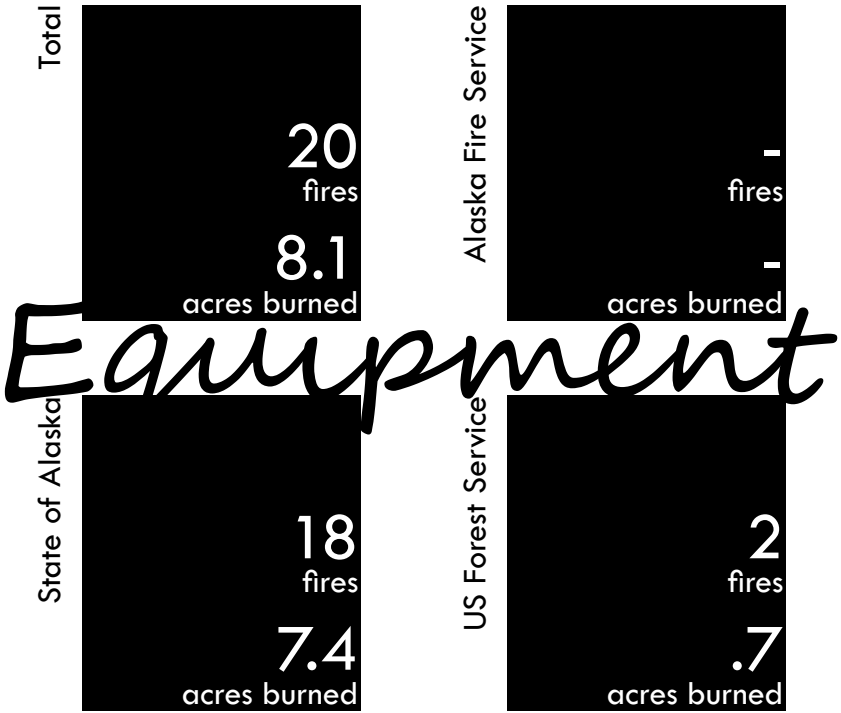
Cause

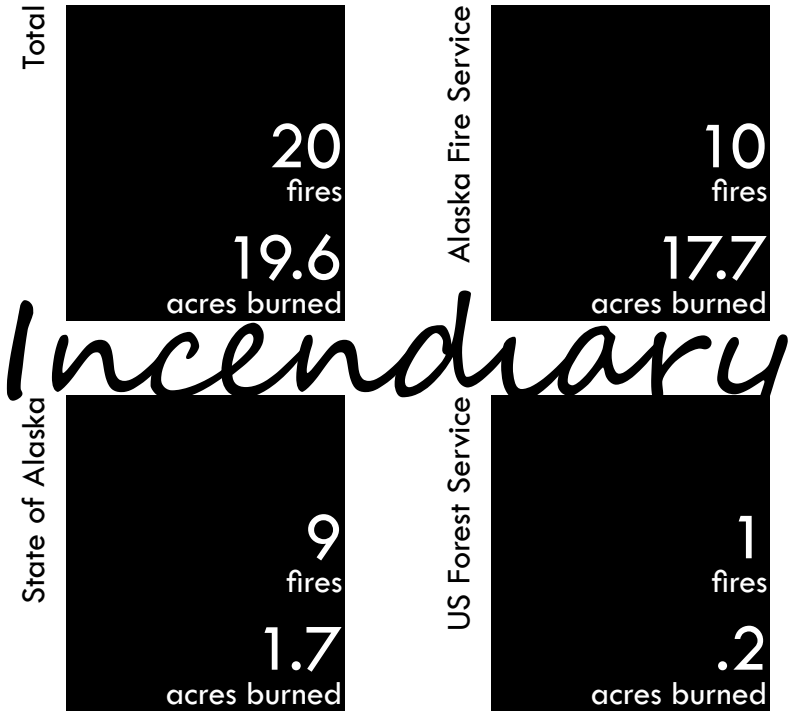
Cause

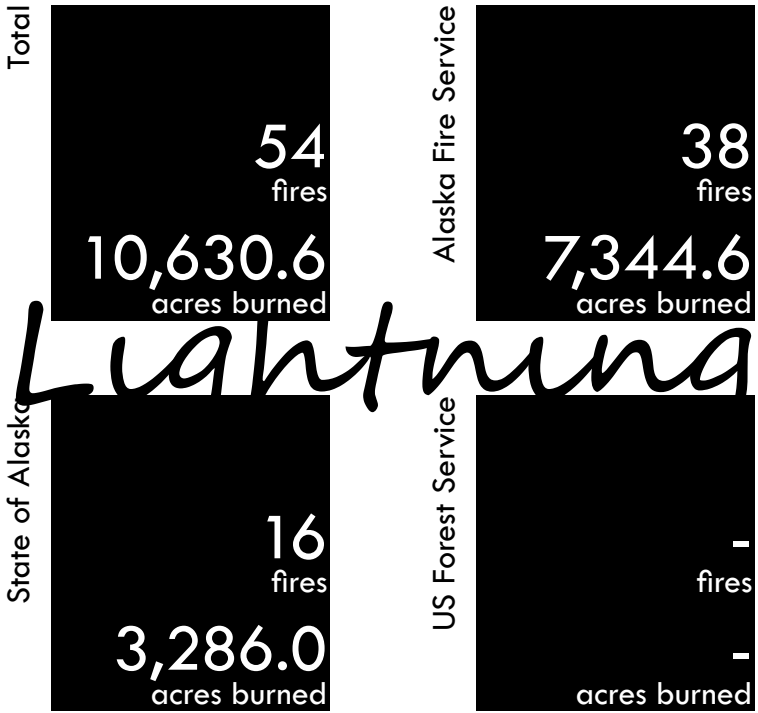

Total
68
fires
436.4
acres burned
Alaska Fire Service
1
fires
402.8
acres burned
Campfire
State of Alaska
57
fires
32.6
acres burned
US Forest Service
10
fires
1.0
acres burned


Total
7
fires
1.7
acres burned
Alaska Fire Service
1
fires
.3
acres burned
Children
State of Alaska
6
fires
1.4
acres burned
US Forest Service
-
fires
-
acres burned

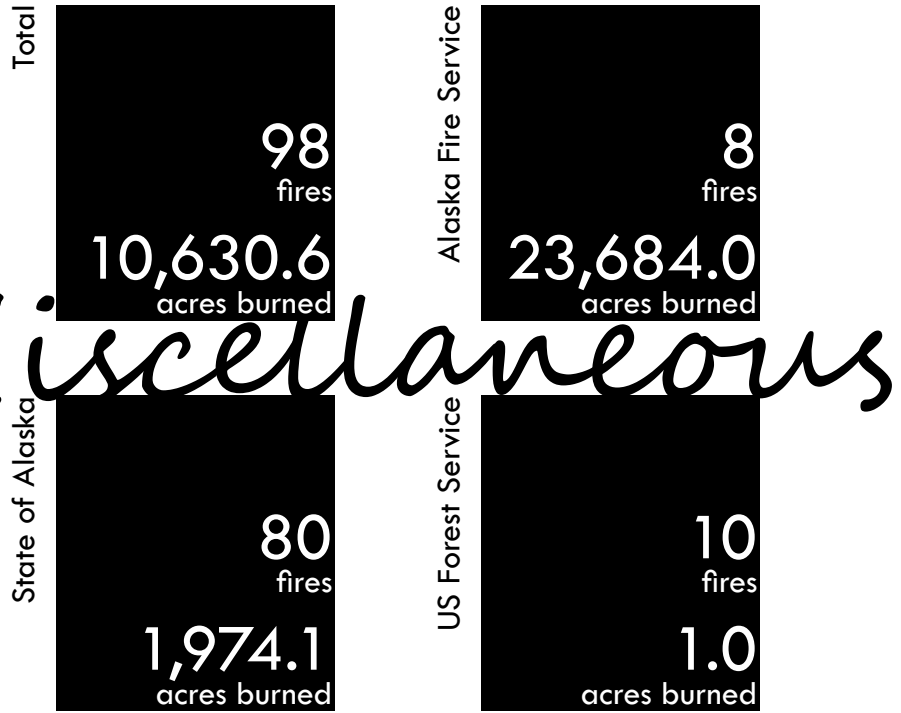
Debris Burning

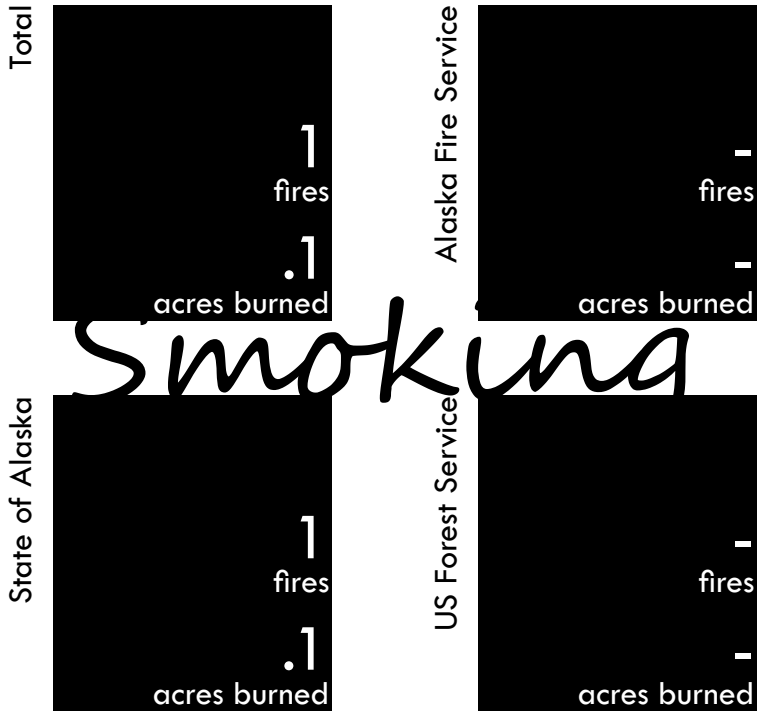

Equipment
Total
20
fires
8.1
acres burned
Alaska Fire Service
-
fires
-
acres burned
State of Alaska
18
fires
7.4
acres burned
US Forest Service
2
fires
.7
acres burned

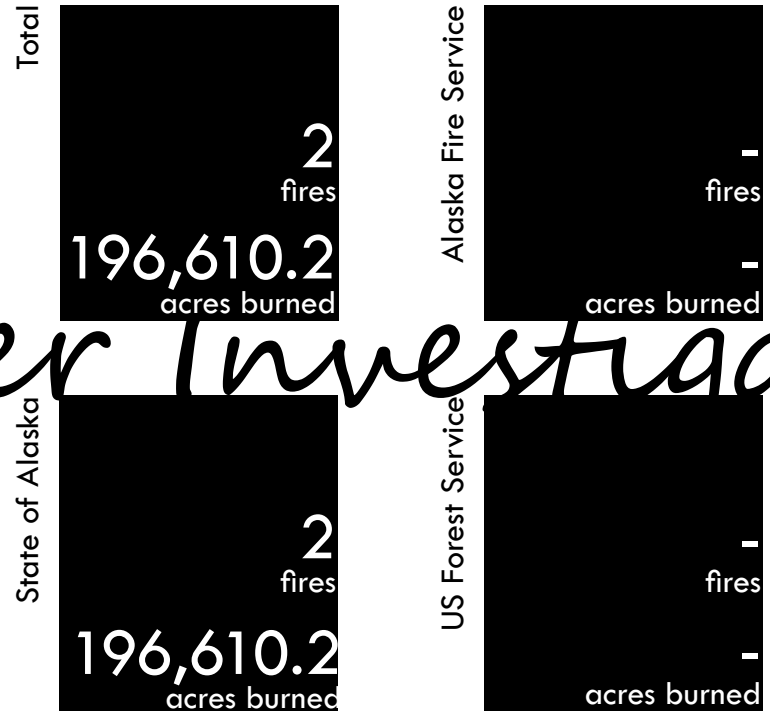

Incendiary
Total
20
fires
19.6
acres burned
Alaska Fire Service
10
fires
17.7
acres burned
State of Alaska
9
fires
1.7
acres burned
US Forest Service
1
fires
.2
acres burned


Total
54
fires
10,630.6
acres burned
Alaska Fire Service
38
fires
7,344.6
acres burned
Lightning
State of Alaska
16
fires
3,286.0
acres burned
US Forest Service
-
fires
-
acres burned

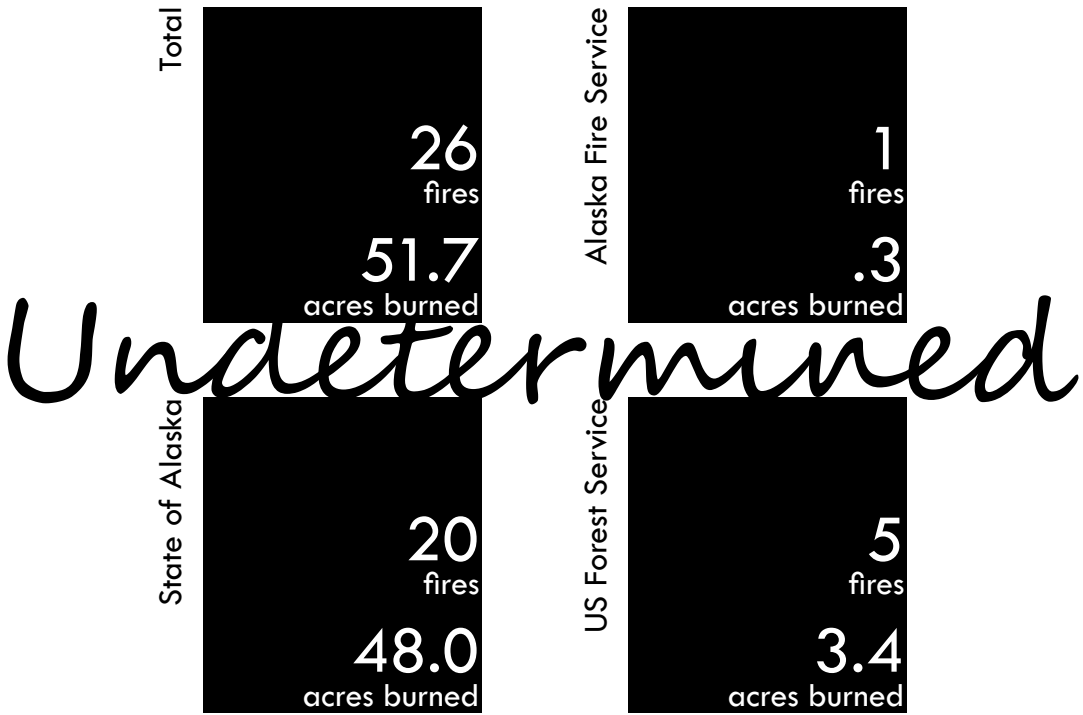
Miscellaneous




Total
1
fires
.1
acres burned
Alaska Fire Service
-
fires
-
acres burned
Smokina
State of Alaska
1
fires
.1
acres burned
US Forest Service
-
fires
-
acres burned



Under Investigation


Total
26
fires
51.7
acres burned
Alaska Fire Service
1
fires
.3
acres burned
Undetermined
State of Alaska
20
fires
48.0
acres burned
US Forest Service
5
fires
3.4
acres burned

Fire Size Class

This data standard provides a standard code and definition for classifying a fire into one of several ranges of fire size based on the number of acres within the final fire perimeter.

Fire Size Class

264


Fire
Size
Class
more than
one-fourth acre,
but less than 10
acres
B
85


Fire
Size
Class
10 acres or more, but
less than 100 acres
C
25

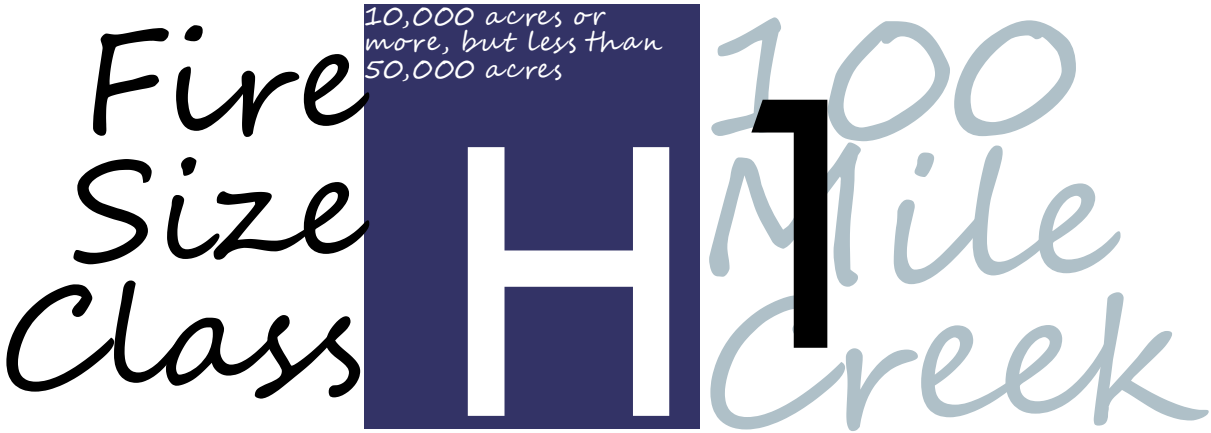

Fire
Size
Class
100 acres or more, but less than 300 acres
D
6


Fire
Size
Class
300 acres or more,
but less than 1,000
acres
E
7

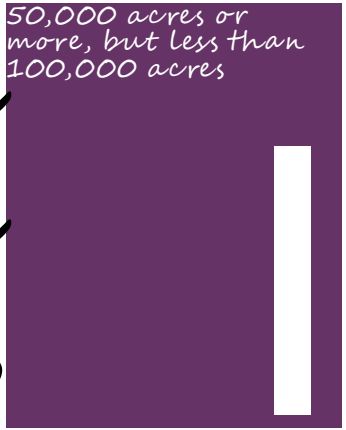
Fire Size Class

25


Fire
Size
Class
5,000 acres or more, but less than 10,000 acres
G
O


Fire
Size
Class
10,000 acres or more, but less than 50,000 acres
H
100
Mile
Creek

Fire Size Class



O

Fire Size Class J

100,000 acres or more, but less than 500,000 acres

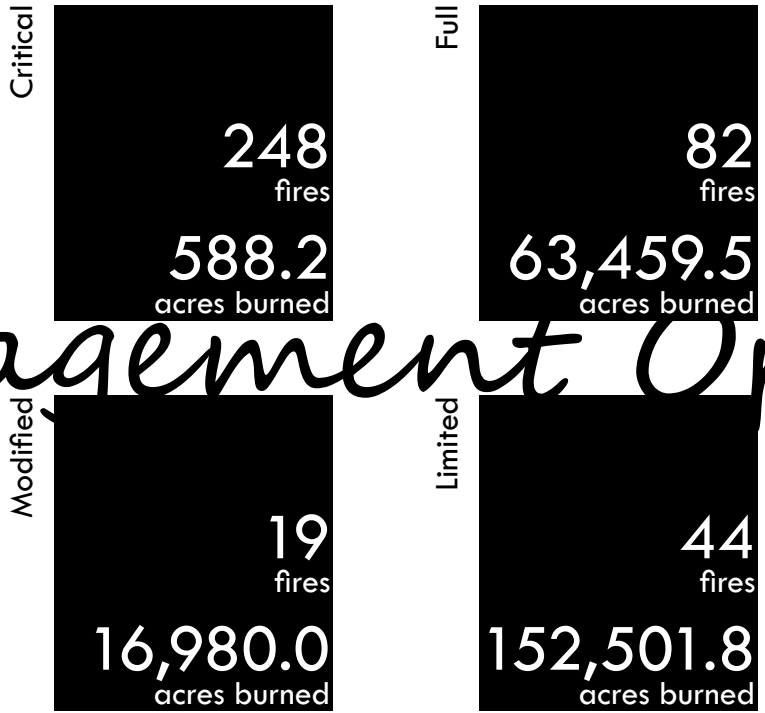
1

Funny River

Management Option

Defined in the *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan*. The four fire management options set the resource assignment priorities and describe the standard response to a wildland fire within the option boundaries. Values-at-risk, ecological considerations and suppression costs were factors used to develop the management option criteria.

Management Option



Critical Protection

Suppression action provided on a wildland fire that threatens human life, inhabited property, designated physical developments and structural resources such as those designated as National Historic Landmarks. The suppression objective is to provide complete protection to identified sites and control the fire at the smallest acreage reasonably possible. The allocation of suppression resources to fires threatening critical sites is given the highest priority.

Full Protection

Suppression action provided on a wildland fire that threatens uninhabited private property, high-valued natural resource areas, and other high-valued areas such as identified cultural and historical sites. The suppression objective is to control the fire at the smallest acreage reasonably possible. The allocation of suppression resources to fires receiving the full protection option is second in priority only to fires threatening a critical protection area.

Modified Protection

Suppression action provided on a wildland fire in areas where values to be protected do not justify the expense of full protection. The suppression objective is to reduce overall suppression costs without compromising protection of higher-valued adjacent resources. The allocation of suppression resources to fires receiving the modified protection option is of a lower priority than those in critical and full protection areas. A higher level of protection may be given during the peak burning periods of the fire season than early or late in the fire season.

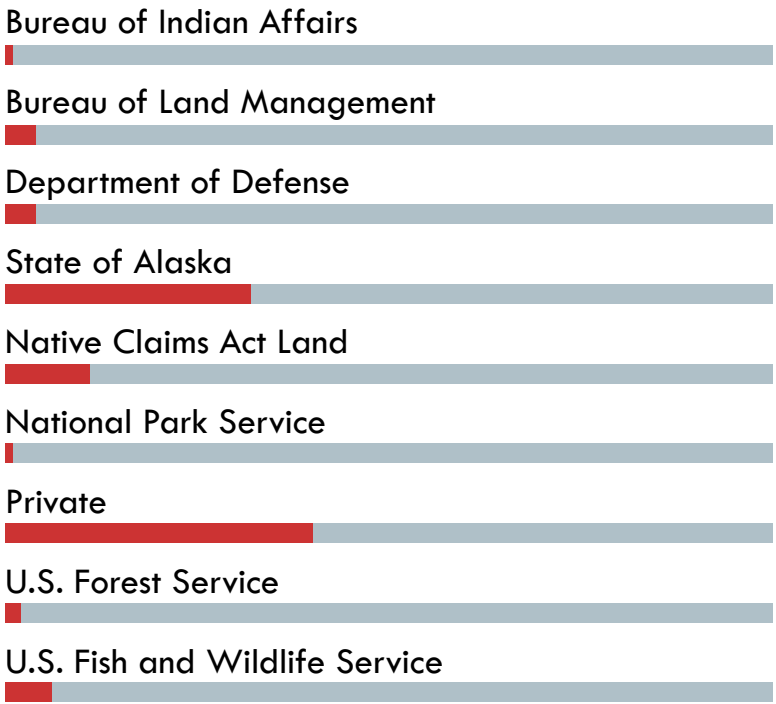
Limited Protection

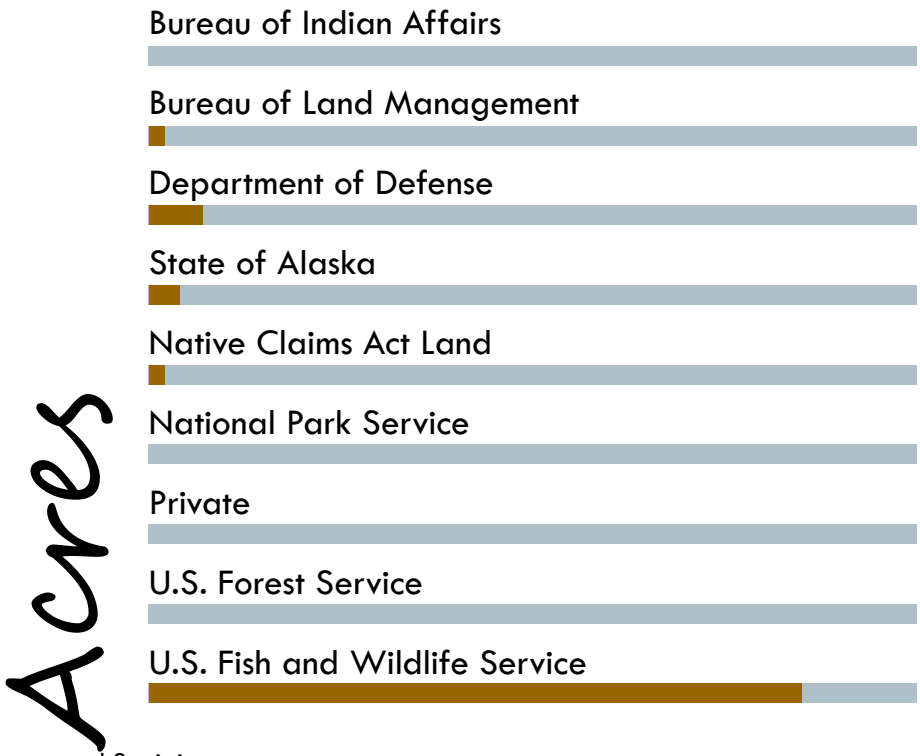
Lowest level of suppression action provided on a wildland fire in areas where values to be protected do not justify the expense of a higher level of protection, and where opportunities can be provided for fire to help achieve land and resource protection objectives. The suppression objective is to minimize suppression costs without compromising protection of higher-valued adjacent resources. The allocation of suppression resources to fires receiving the limited protection option is of the lowest priority. Surveillance is an acceptable suppression response as long as higher valued adjacent resources are not threatened.

Landowner

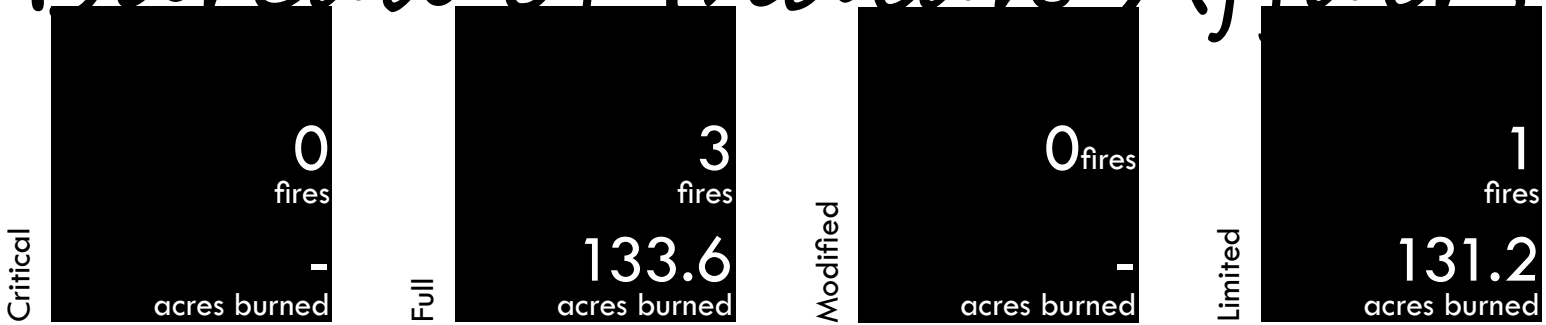
Number of fires is based on ownership and management option at point of origin. Acreage shown is actual acres burned by owner and management option, i.e. fires that burned on multiple ownerships are counted as fire based on the ownership at point of origin, but the acreage burned is divided and shown based on the owner where the acres burned.

Fires


Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Department of Defense
State of Alaska
Native Claims Act Land
National Park Service
Private
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

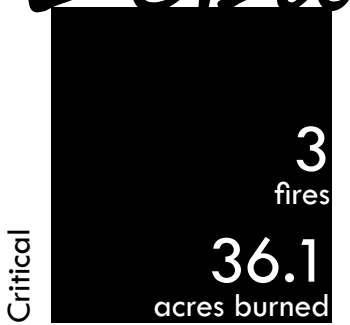

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Department of Defense
State of Alaska
Native Claims Act Land
National Park Service
Private
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Acres

Bureau of Indian Affairs

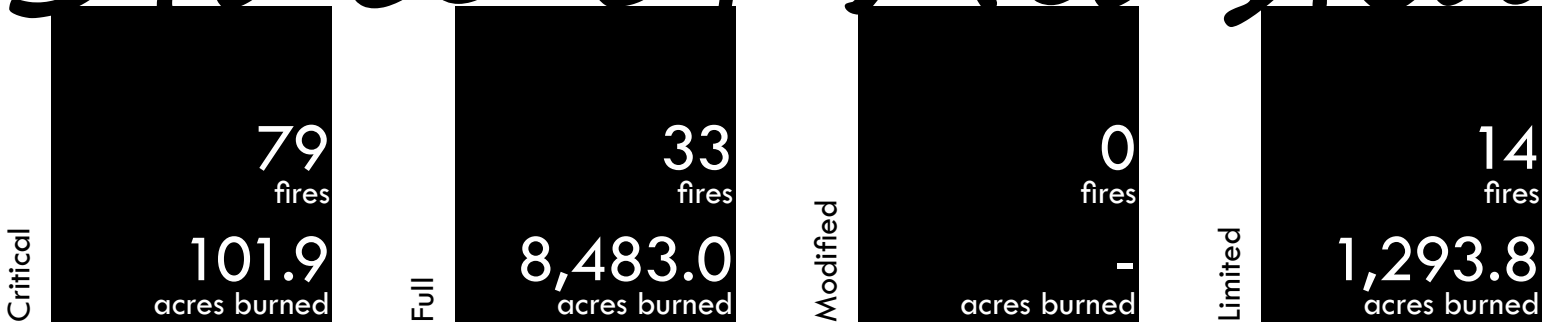


Bureau of Land Management

Department of Defense



State of Alaska



Native Claims Act Lands

National Park Service

Private


Critical
145
fires
112.6
acres burned
Full
12
fires
331.7
acres burned
Modified
0
fires
-
acres burned
Limited
1
fires
3.7
acres burned

U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ten Year Comparison

Statewide

		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	339	389	273	377	358	331	292	298	251	310
	Acres	222,898.9	161,082.1	33,813.1	25,235.2	107,029.1	56,720.8	42,857.9	205,695.5	132,772.4	182,841.9
Lightning	Fires	54	212	143	138	333	196	75	211	57	314
	Acres	10,630.6	1,158,784.6	253,074.8	267,782.8	1,018,707.8	2,894,872.1	60,791.5	443,715.9	133,496.4	4,480,977.3
TOTAL	**Fires**	**393**	**601**	**416**	**515**	**691**	**527**	**367**	**509**	**308**	**624**
	Acres	**233,529.5**	**1,319,866.7**	**286,887.9**	**293,018.0**	**1,125,736.9**	**2,951,592.9**	**103,649.4**	**649,411.4**	**266,268.8**	**4,663,819.2**
% Fires	Human	86%	65%	66%	73%	52%	63%	80%	59%	81%	50%
	Lightning	14%	35%	34%	27%	48%	37%	20%	41%	19%	50%

Alaska Fire Service

		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	23	31	25	38	63	40	77	81	31	29
	Acres	24,180.2	156,417.3	16,814.7	1,030.7	11,390.4	38,841.2	38,665.4	115,456.6	289.2	143,834.1
Lightning	Fires	38	100	109	94	268	112	31	135	17	190
	Acres	7,344.6	572,354.6	243,473.4	146,143.1	845,245.8	1,787,734.9	56,454.6	397,976.5	95,028.7	3,798,887.3
TOTAL	**Fires**	**61**	**131**	**134**	**132**	**331**	**152**	**108**	**216**	**48**	**219**
	Acres	**31,524.8**	**728,771.9**	**260,288.1**	**147,173.8**	**856,636.2**	**1,826,576.1**	**95,120.0**	**513,433.1**	**95,317.9**	**3,942,721.4**
% Fires	Human	38%	24%	19%	29%	19%	26%	71%	38%	65%	13%
	Lightning	62%	76%	81%	71%	81%	74%	29%	63%	35%	87%

State of Alaska

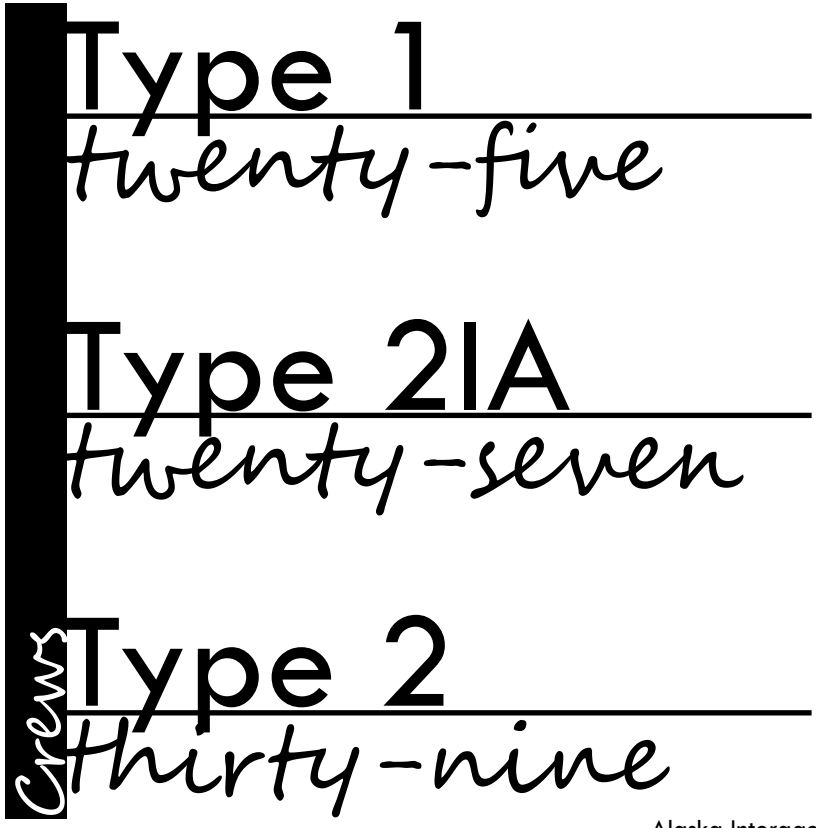
		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	288	335	235	312	267	249	210	208	209	224
	Acres	198,712.4	4,661.1	17,023.8	24,199.6	95,634.0	17,858.5	4,191.8	90,236.7	132,475.5	38,669.1
Lightning	Fires	16	112	34	44	63	81	44	76	40	122
	Acres	3,286.0	586,430.0	9,574.4	121,639.7	173,454.4	1,107,136.5	4,336.9	45,739.4	38,467.7	682,075.4
TOTAL	**Fires**	**304**	**447**	**269**	**356**	**330**	**330**	**254**	**284**	**249**	**346**
	Acres	**201,998.4**	**591,091.1**	**26,598.2**	**145,839.3**	**269,088.4**	**1,124,995.0**	**8,528.7**	**135,976.1**	**170,943.2**	**720,744.5**
% Fires	Human	95%	75%	87%	87%	81%	75%	83%	73%	84%	65%
	Lightning	5%	25%	13%	13%	19%	25%	17%	27%	16%	35%

U.S. Forest Service

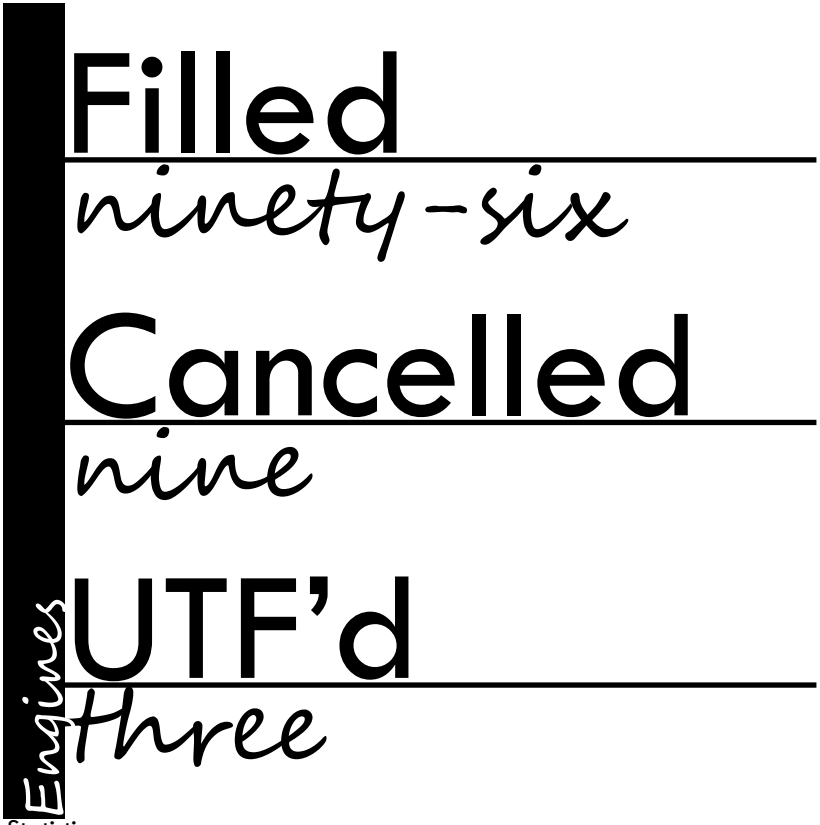
		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	28	23	13	27	28	42	5	9	11	57
	Acres	6.3	3.7	1.6	4.9	4.7	21.1	0.7	2.2	7.7	338.7
Lightning	Fires	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	2
	Acres	-	-	-	-	7.6	0.7	-	-	-	14.6
TOTAL	**Fires**	**28**	**23**	**13**	**27**	**30**	**45**	**5**	**9**	**11**	**59**
	Acres	**6.3**	**3.7**	**1.6**	**27.0**	**12.28**	**21.8**	**0.7**	**2.2**	**7.7**	**353.3**
% Fires	Human	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%	93%	100%	100%	100%	97%
	Lightning	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	7%	0%	0%	0%	3%

Resources


Incident Management Teams
Type 1
one
One Hundred Mile Creek
Type 2
two
Funny River and Tyonek



Orders	
Filled	50
Cancelled	25
UTF'd	11


Engines
Filled
ninety-six
Cancelled
nine
UTF'd
three

Overhead

Filled

one thousand four hundred forty

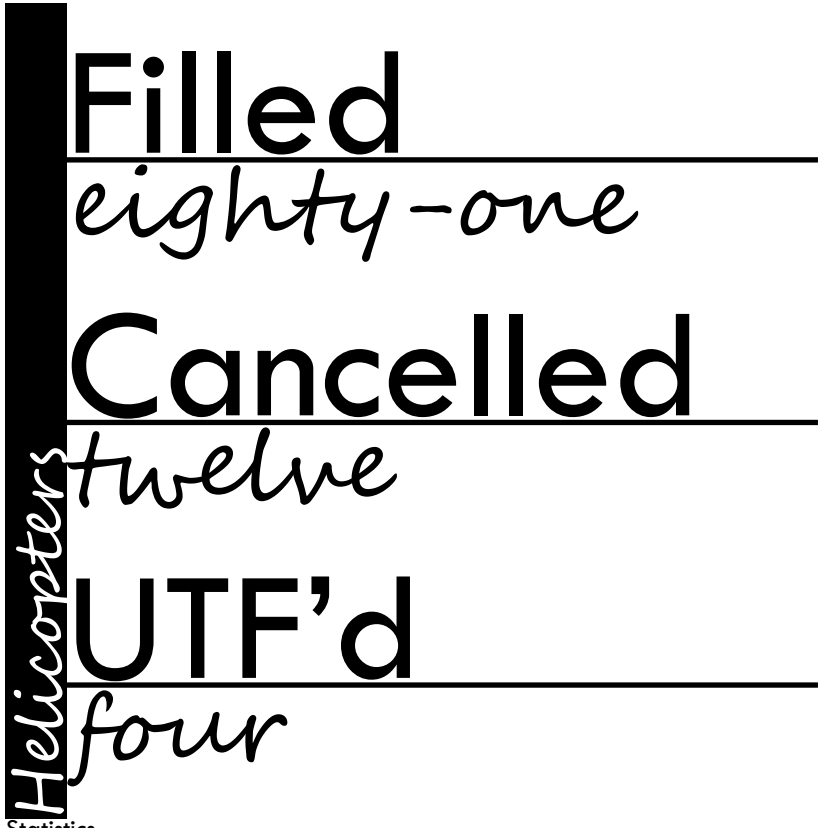
one thousand one hundred fifty by Alaskans
three hundred and seventeen by the Continental US

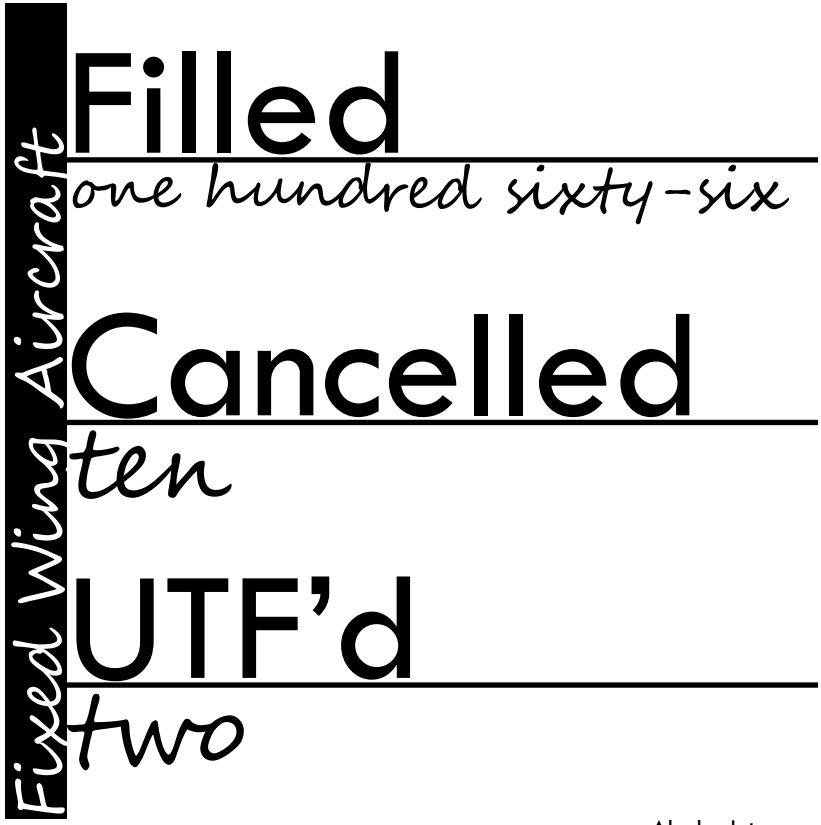
Cancelled

ninety-seven

UTF'd

sixty-four


Helicopters
Filled
eighty-one
Cancelled
twelve
UTF'd
four


Fixed Wing Aircraft
Filled
one hundred sixty-six
Cancelled
ten
UTF'd
two

Appendix

Fires and Acres by Landowner and Management Option

Agency	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0	-	3	133.6	0	-	1	131.2	4	264.8
Bureau of Land Management	0	-	1	55.0	6	925.0	8	2,980.2	15	3,960.2
Department of Defense	3	36.1	5	149.5	1	15,926.7	6	403.1	15	16,515.4
State of Alaska	79	101.9	33	8,483.0	0	-	14	1,293.8	126	9,878.7
Native Claims Act Land	16	255.3	19	3,677.8	6	115.9	1	3.0	42	4,052.0
National Park Service	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	752.2	2	752.2
Private	145	112.6	12	331.7	0	-	1	3.7	158	448.0
U.S. Forest Service	1	0.1	5	0.6	2	0.2	1	0.1	9	1.0
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	4	82.2	3	50,628.3	4	9.3	11	146,937.4	22	197,657.2
TOTALS	**248**	**588.2**	**81**	**63,459.5**	**19**	**16,977.1**	**45**	**152,504.7**	**393**	**233,529.5**

Bureau of Indian Affairs Fires and Acres by Management Option

	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
TOTALS	**0**	**-**	**3**	**133.6**	**0**	**-**	**1**	**131.2**	**4.0**	**264.8**

Bureau of Land Management Fires and Acres by District Office and Management Option

Office	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Anchorage	0	-	0	-	3	234.0	4	2,327.4	7	2,561.4
Fairbanks	0	-	1	55.0	3	691.0	3	589.9	7	1,335.9
State	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	62.9	1	62.9
TOTALS	**0**	**-**	**1**	**55.0**	**6**	**925.0**	**8**	**2,980.2**	**15**	**3,960.2**

Department of Defense Fires and Acres by Installation and Management Option

Installation	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Donnelly Training Area	0	-	0	130.2	1	15,926.7	2	401.3	3	16,458.2
Eielson Air Force Base	0	-	1	3.6	0	-	0	-	1	3.6
Fort Greely	1	1.0	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	1.0
Fort Wainwright	1	0.1	2	15.3	0	-	1	1.5	4	16.9
Tanana Flats	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	0.2	2	0.2
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	1	35.0	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	35.0
Yukon Training Area	0	-	2	0.4	0	-	1	0.1	3	0.5
TOTALS	**3**	**36.1**	**5**	**149.5**	**1**	**15,926.7**	**6**	**403.1**	**15**	**16,515.4**

State of Alaska Fires and Acres by Administrative Unit and Management Option

Administrative Unit	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Alaska Railroad	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
City/Borough*	40	42.0	15	1,426.2	0	-	0	-	55	1,468.2
Dept. of Transportation	3	1.8	2	0.2	0	-	0	-	5	2.0
Dept. of Natural Resources	22	7.0	12	7,055.9	0	-	14	1,293.8	48	8,356.7
Land & Water	3	1.7	2	0.5	0	-	0	-	5	2.2
State Parks	2	0.2	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	0.2
University	2	0.7	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	0.7
Mental Health	2	48.0	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	48.0
Roads	5	0.5	2	0.2	0	-	0	-	7	0.7
TOTALS	**79**	**101.9**	**33**	**8,483.0**	**0**	**-**	**14**	**1,293.8**	**119**	**9,878.7**

Native Claims Act Land Fires and Acres by Regional Corporation and Management Option

Corporation	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Ahtna, Incorporated	1	0.1	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	0.1
Aleut Corporation	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Arctic Slope Regional Corp.	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Bering Straits Native Corp.	0	-	1	2,621.9	2	41.0	0	-	3	2,662.9
Bristol Bay Native Corp.	0	-	1	2.0	0	-	0	-	1	2.0
Calista Corporation	0	-	7	53.6	0	-	0	-	7	53.6
Chugach Alaska Corporation	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated	6	242.0	1	963.0	0	-	0	-	7	1,205.0
Doyon, Limited	8	13.1	6	1.2	2	74.5	0	-	16	88.8
Koniag, Incorporated	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
NANA Regional Corporation	0	-	2	36.0	1	0.3	0	-	3	36.3
Sealaska Corporation	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	3.0	4	3.3
TOTALS	**16**	**255.3**	**19**	**3,677.8**	**6**	**115.9**	**1**	**3.0**	**30**	**4,052.0**

National Park Service Fires and Acres by Park and Management Option

National Park/Preserve	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Denali	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Gates of the Arctic	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Katmai	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Kobuk Valley	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Lake Clark	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Noatak	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	752.2	2	752.2
Wrangell St. Elias	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Yukon Charlie	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
TOTALS	**0**	**-**	**0**	**-**	**0**	**-**	**2**	**752.2**	**2**	**752.2**

Private Fires and Acres by Management Option

	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
TOTALS	**145**	**112.6**	**12**	**331.7**	**0**	**-**	**1**	**3.7**	**158.0**	**448.0**

U.S. Forest Service Fires and Acres Burned by Forest and Management Option

Forest	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Chugach National Forest	1	0.1	3	0.4	0	-	0	-	4	0.5
Tongass National Forest	0	-	2	0.2	2	0.2	1	0.1	5	0.5
TOTALS	**1**	**0.1**	**5**	**0.6**	**2**	**0.2**	**1**	**0.1**	**9**	**1.0**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fires and Acres by Refuge and Management Option

Refuge	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Alaska Maritime	4	0.4	0	-	0	-	0	-	4	0.4
Arctic	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Innoko	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	55.0	2	55.0
Kanuti	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	1.0	1	1.0
Kenai	0	81.8	3	50,335.6	0	-	0	144,755.5	3	195,172.9
Kodiak	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	0.4	1	0.4
Koyukuk	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Nowitna	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Selawik	0	-	0	-	3	9.0	5	1,471.3	8	1,480.3
Yukon Delta	0	-	0	292.7	0	-	2	654.2	2	946.9
Yukon Flats	0	-	0	-	1	0.3	0	-	1	0.3
Tetlin	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
TOTALS	**4**	**82.2**	**3**	**50,628.3**	**4**	**9.3**	**11**	**146,937.4**	**22**	**197,657.2**

Statewide Fires and Acres Burned by Protection Agency and Management Option

Agency	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Alaska Fire Service	3	13.1	12	10,057.4	16	16,976.8	30	4,477.5	61	31,524.8
State of Alaska	239	574.0	54	53,400.4	0	-	11	148,024.0	304	201,998.4
U.S. Forest Service	6	1.1	16	1.7	3	3.2	3	0.3	28	6.3
TOTALS	**248**	**588.2**	**82**	**63,459.5**	**19**	**16,980.0**	**44**	**152,501.8**	**393**	**233,529.5**

Alaska Fire Service Protection Fires and Acres Burned by Zone and Management Option

Zone	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Galena	1	0.1	7	3,047.4	12	975.3	15	3,469.4	35	7,492.2
Military	1	1.0	4	7,009.9	1	15,926.7	6	403.1	12	23,340.7
Tanana	1	12.0	1	0.1	0	-	7	72.1	9	84.2
Upper Yukon	0	-	0	-	3	74.8	2	532.9	5	607.7
TOTALS	**3**	**13.1**	**12**	**10,057.4**	**16**	**16,976.8**	**30**	**4,477.5**	**61**	**31,524.8**

State of Alaska Protection Fires and Acres Burned by Region/Area and Management Option

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Northern Region										
Copper River	3	0.3	5	5.3	0	-	1	0.1	9	5.7
Delta	14	8.5	3	3.1	0	-	0	-	17	11.6
Fairbanks	47	95.7	11	25.0	0	-	1	5.0	59	125.7
Tok	17	2.4	9	3.5	0	-	2	2.5	28	8.4
Southern Region										
Anchorage-Matsu	60	50.8	11	1,914.0	0	-	1	0.7	72	1,965.5
Kenai/Kodiak	95	414.6	9	51,419.3	0	-	1	144,808.4	105	196,642.3
Southwest	1	0.1	6	30.2	0	-	5	3,207.3	12	3,237.6
Haines	2	1.6	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	1.6
TOTALS	**239**	**574.0**	**54**	**53,400.4**	**0**	**-**	**11**	**148,024.0**	**304**	**201,998.4**

U.S. Forest Service Protection Fires and Acres by Management Option

Forest	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Chugach National Forest	3	0.8	7	0.7	0	-	0	-	10	1.5
Tongass National Forest	3	0.3	9	1.0	3	3.2	3	0.3	18	4.8
TOTALS	**6**	**1.1**	**16**	**1.7**	**3**	**3.2**	**3**	**0.3**	**28**	**6.3**

Agency	Village	EFF Wages
AFS	**Allakaket**	$82,057.96
AFS	**Ambler**	$88,161.74
DOF	**Anchorage**	$6,728.20
AFS	**Buckland**	$2,491.90
AFS	**Central**	$155.20
AFS	**Chalkyitsik**	$13,553.66
DOF	**Chevak**	$127,483.09
DOF	**Copper River**	$201,983.94
DOF	**Delta**	$301,261.82
DOF	**Ester**	$4,778.40
DOF	**Fairbanks**	$1,295,041.81
AFS	**Fort Yukon**	$204,143.66
AFS	**Galena**	$20,775.10
AFS	**Grayling**	$40,050.24
AFS	**Holy Cross**	$132,871.92
DOF	**Homer**	$16,870.58
DOF	**Hooper Bay**	$88,360.70
AFS	**Hughes**	$97,452.78
AFS	**Huslia**	$174,209.28
DOF	**Kalskag, Lower**	$20,814.42
DOF	**Kalskag, Upper**	$4,738.91
AFS	**Kaltag**	$134,050.80

Agency	Village	EFF Wages
DOF	**Kenai**	$275,589.53
AFS	**Koyuk**	$8,270.10
AFS	**Koyukuk**	$59,281.28
AFS	**Marshall**	$46,959.34
DOF	**McGrath**	$99,104.94
AFS	**Minto**	$59,143.74
AFS	**Mt. Village**	$99,321.64
DOF	**Nikolai**	$69,687.84
DOF	**Nondalton**	$70,622.61
AFS	**Noorvik**	$34,910.56
AFS	**Nulato**	$45,756.60
DOF	**Palmer**	$893,776.92
AFS	**Pilot Station**	$92,450.06
AFS	**Ruby**	$109,178.20
AFS	**Selawik**	$119,671.07
DOF	**Shageluk**	$3,428.61
AFS	**St. Mary's**	$52,665.16
AFS	**St. Michael**	$48,684.82
AFS	**Stebbins**	$199,263.26
AFS	**Tanana**	$60,828.76
DOF	**Tok**	$294,322.51
AFS	**Venetie**	$192,721.06

Total Wages: $5,993,674.72

Alaska Interagency Coordination Center
Predictive Services Unit

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blm_ak_accint_dispatch@blm.gov