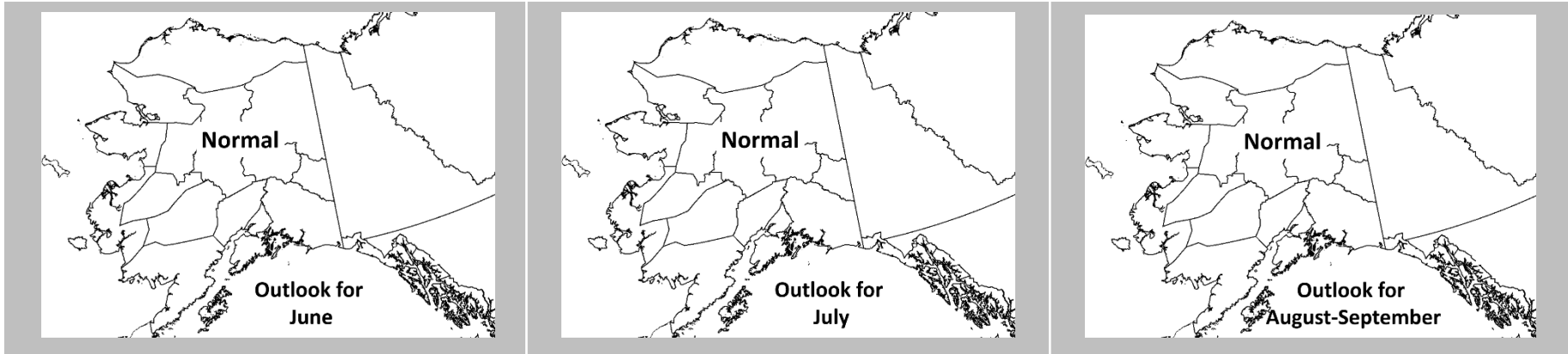


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for June through September is for normal fire activity. Though temperatures are forecast to be above normal for much of western Alaska for the rest of spring, there are not enough indicators to expect any significantly higher fire potential.

Factors:

- Though May has proven to be a bit cooler than normal for much of Alaska, the Climate Prediction Center forecasts June temperatures to have an above normal tendency for western Alaska. For July through September, an area of above temperature exists for most of the state.
- Precipitation forecasts for June show equal chances of above or below normal. For the rest of the summer, the forecast shows above normal precipitation focused over the eastern Interior, extending westward through the Y-K Delta. This area seems to be most focused in July. Historically, precipitation forecasts have little skill as they are notoriously difficult on a seasonal time scale in Alaska.
- Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating system show that though fine fuels are susceptible to rapid drying and wetting, the middle and deeper layers are still fairly damp. In addition, fuels around the state have been slow to green up due to colder temperatures, and some areas still haven't seen grasses green or leaves bud out on trees. It's expected that these two factors counteract, with the lack of green grasses allowing dry fine fuels to ignite, but the damp deep layers preventing large fire spread. By mid-June, grasses should be greened, while the deeper layers will be thawed and more flammable.