



Heidi Strader

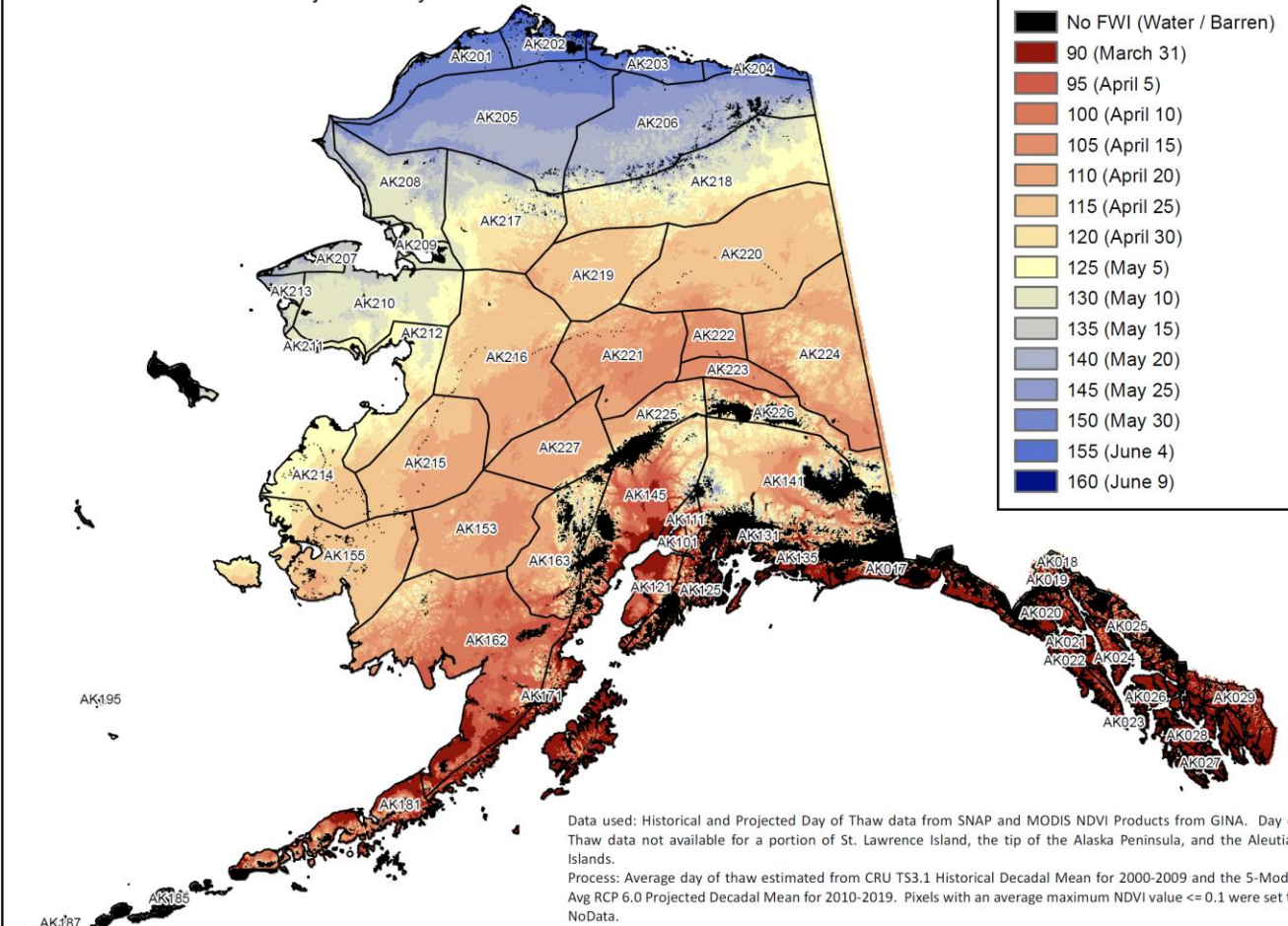
Fire Weather Program Manager

At AICC

# 2025 ALASKA FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

## MAY 1 UPDATE

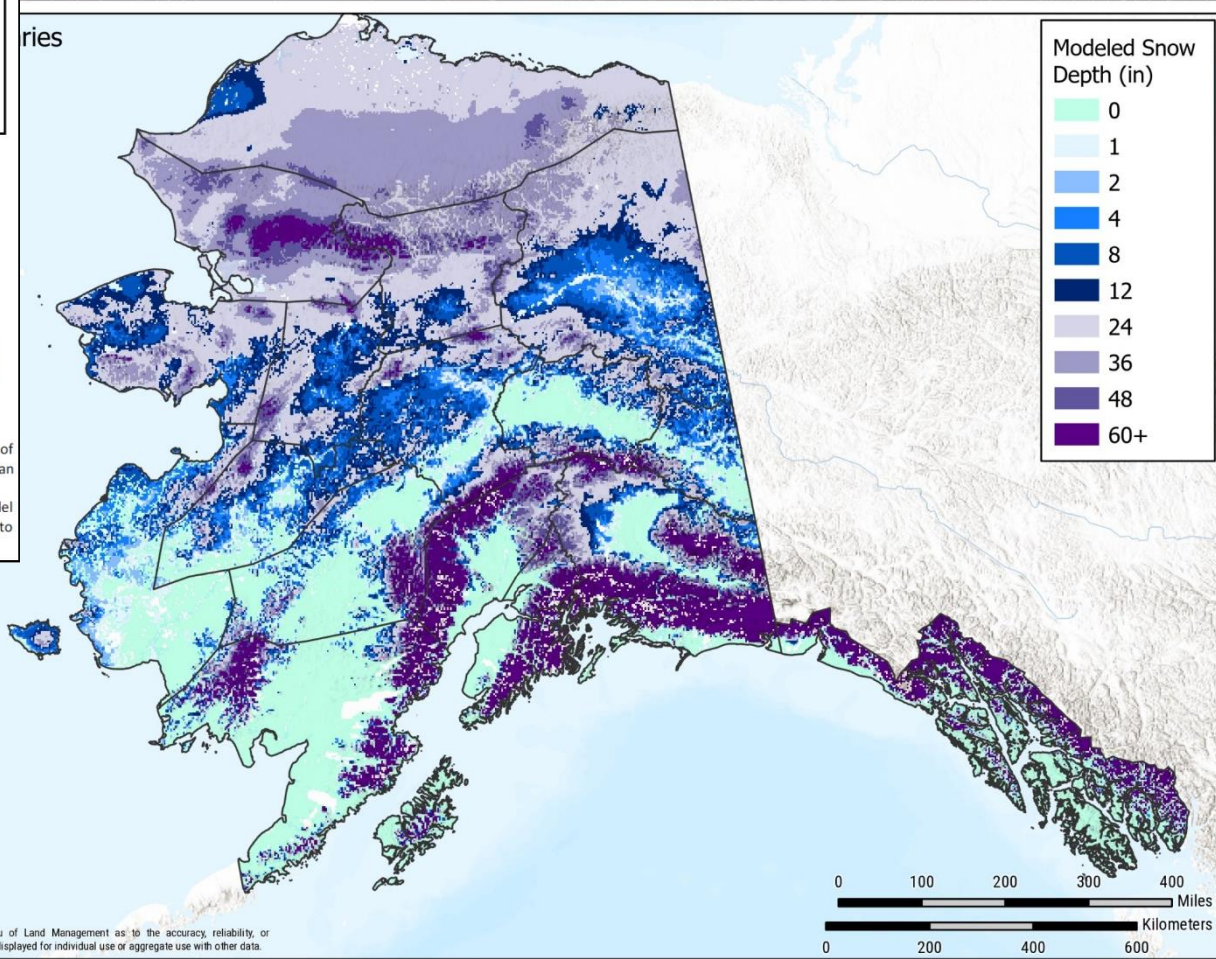




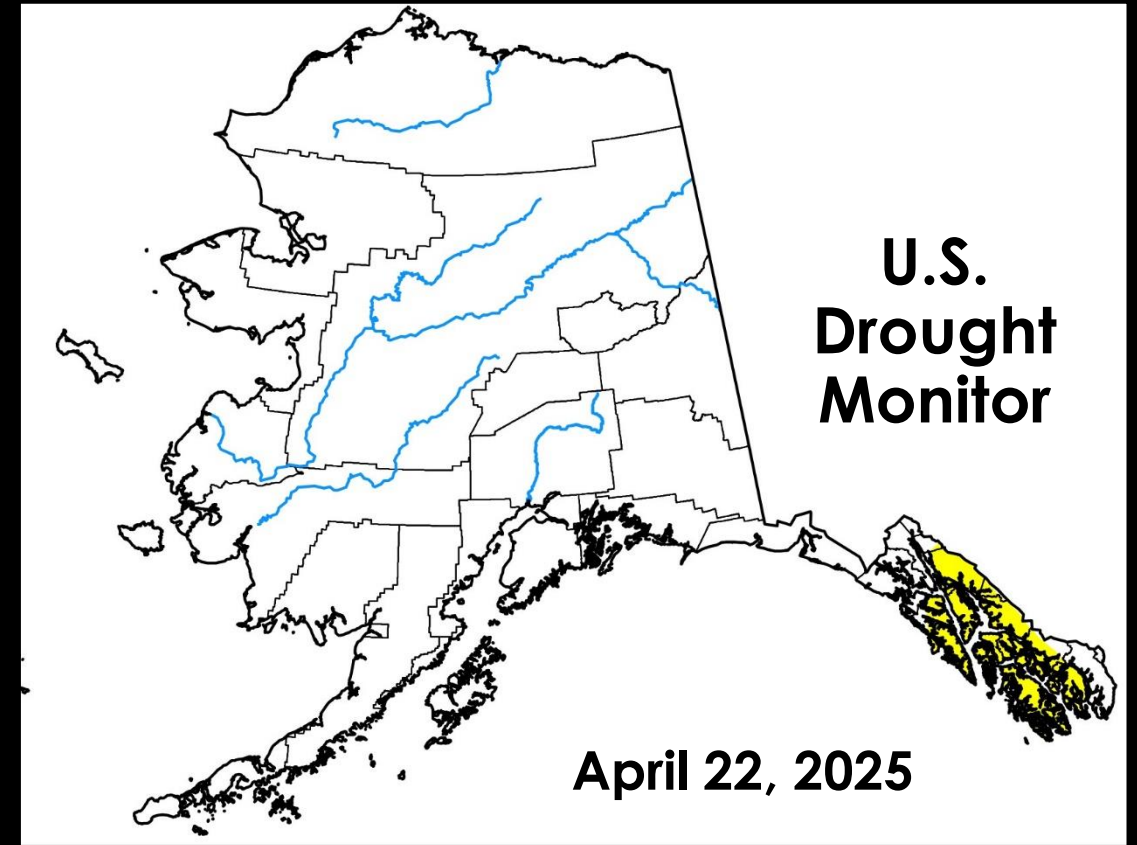
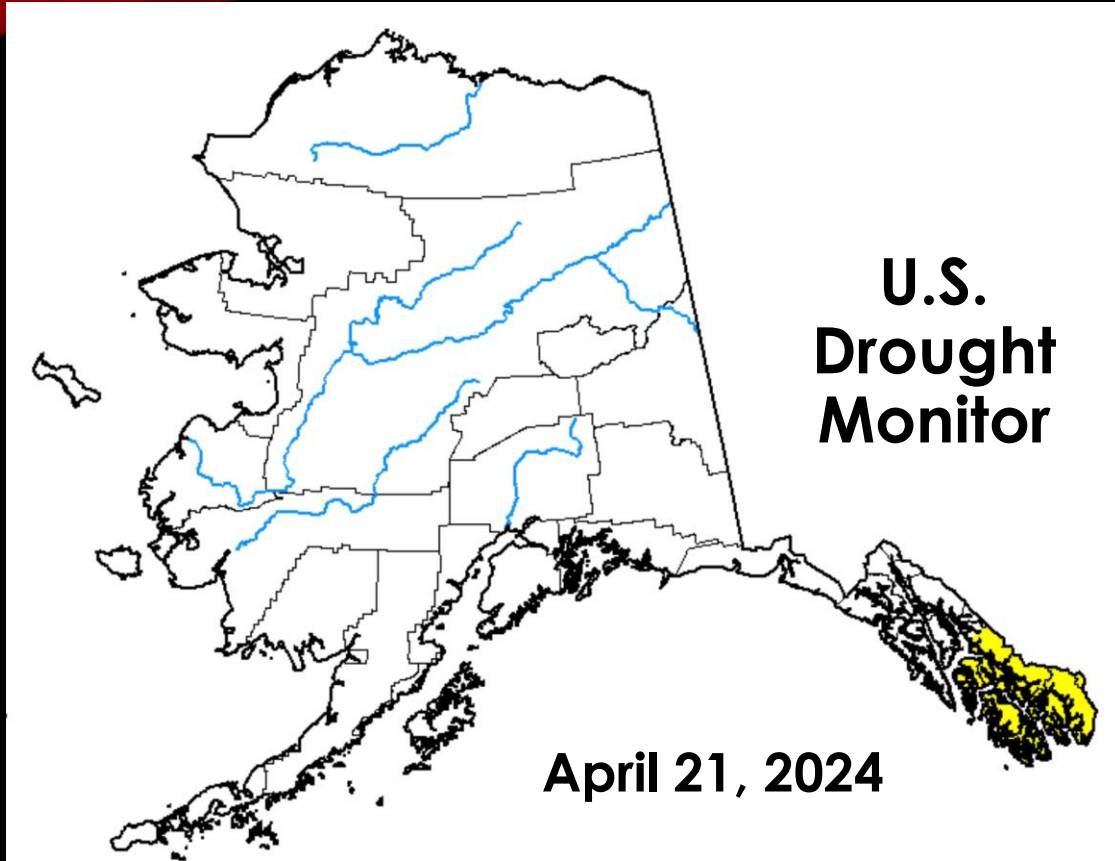
# SNOWPACK

## ASA Alaska Land Information System Modeled Snow Depth

Bureau of Land Management  
 Alaska Fire Service  
 PO Box 35005  
 Fort Wainwright, AK 99703  
 (907) 356-5600



# DROUGHT



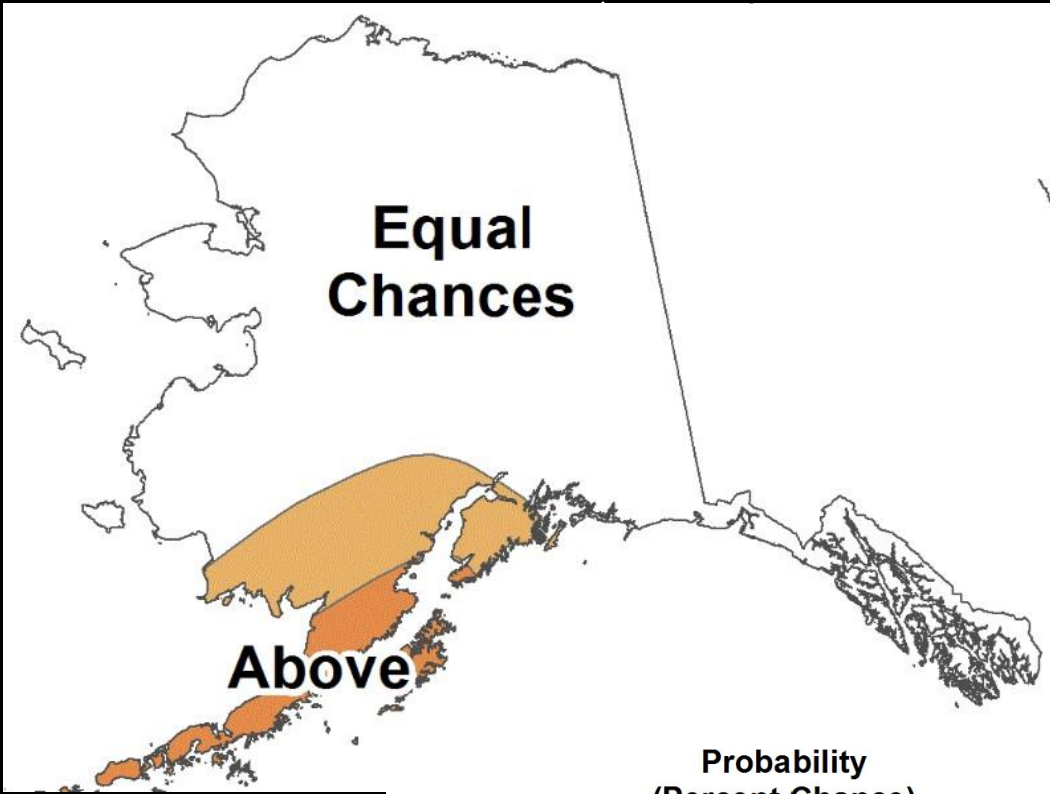
## Drought Classification

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)

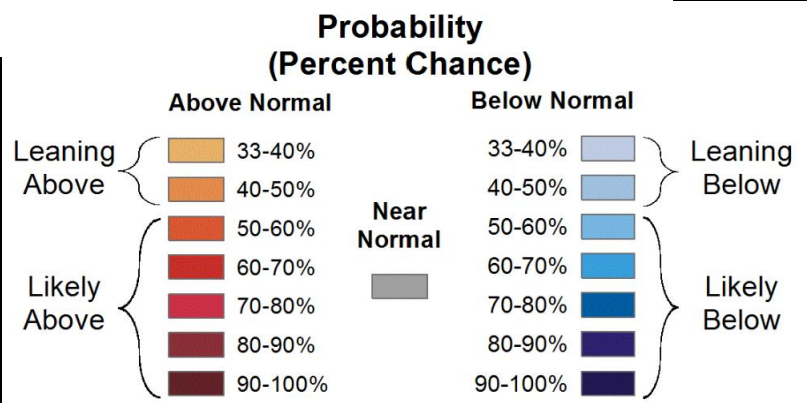
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data



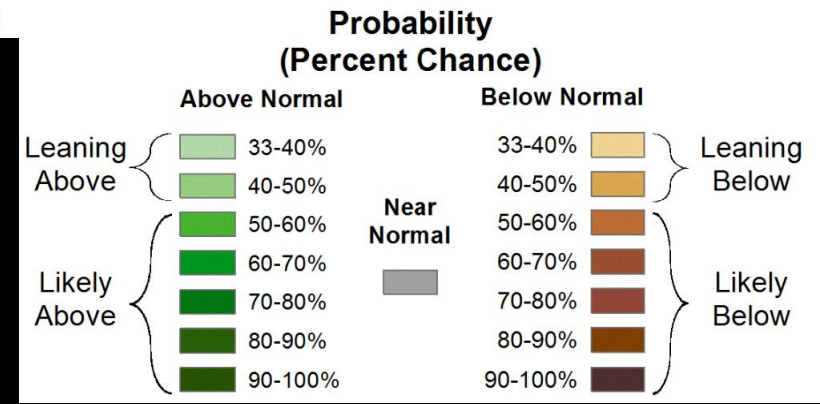
# MAY TEMP & PRECIP



## Temperature



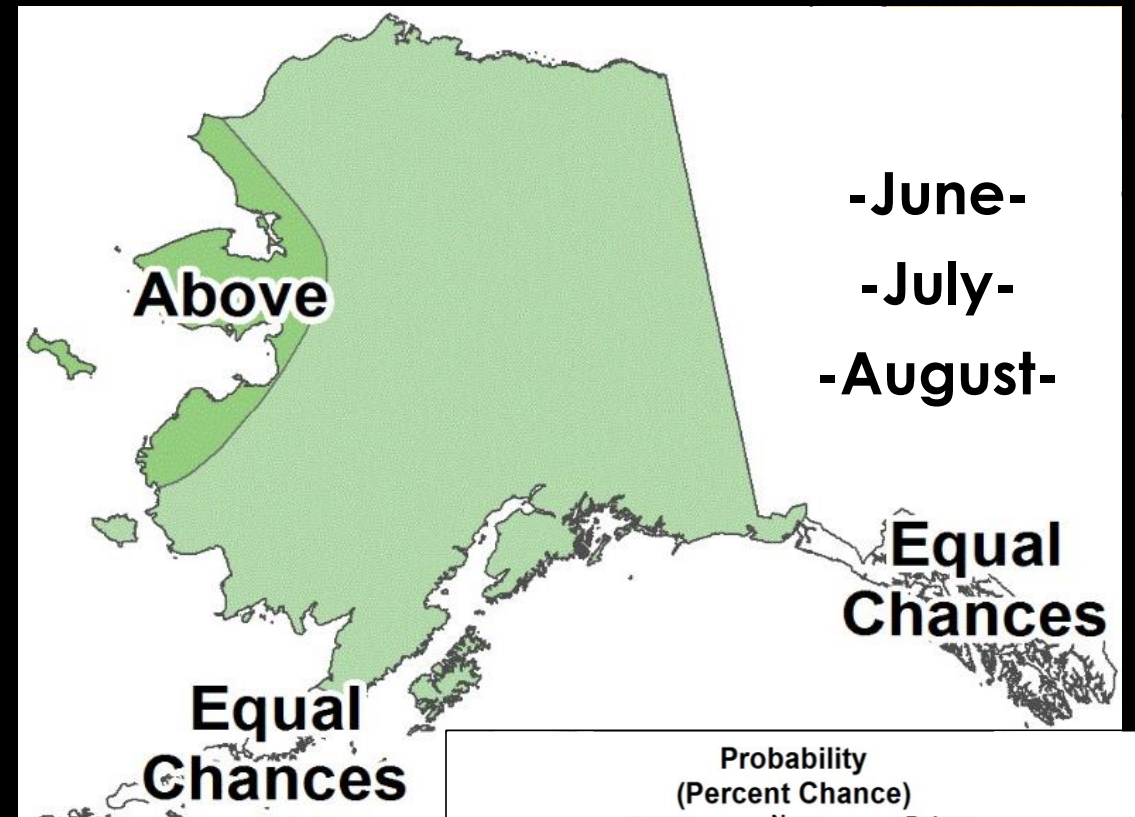
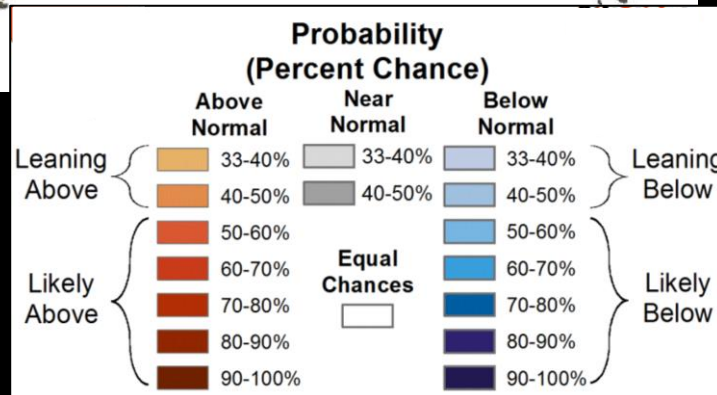
## Precip



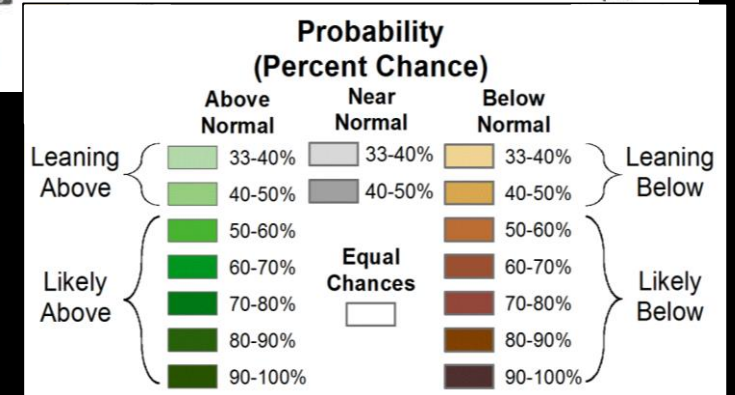
# SPRING-SUMMER TEMP & PRECIP



**Temperature**



**Precip**





# TELECONNECTIONS

EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION

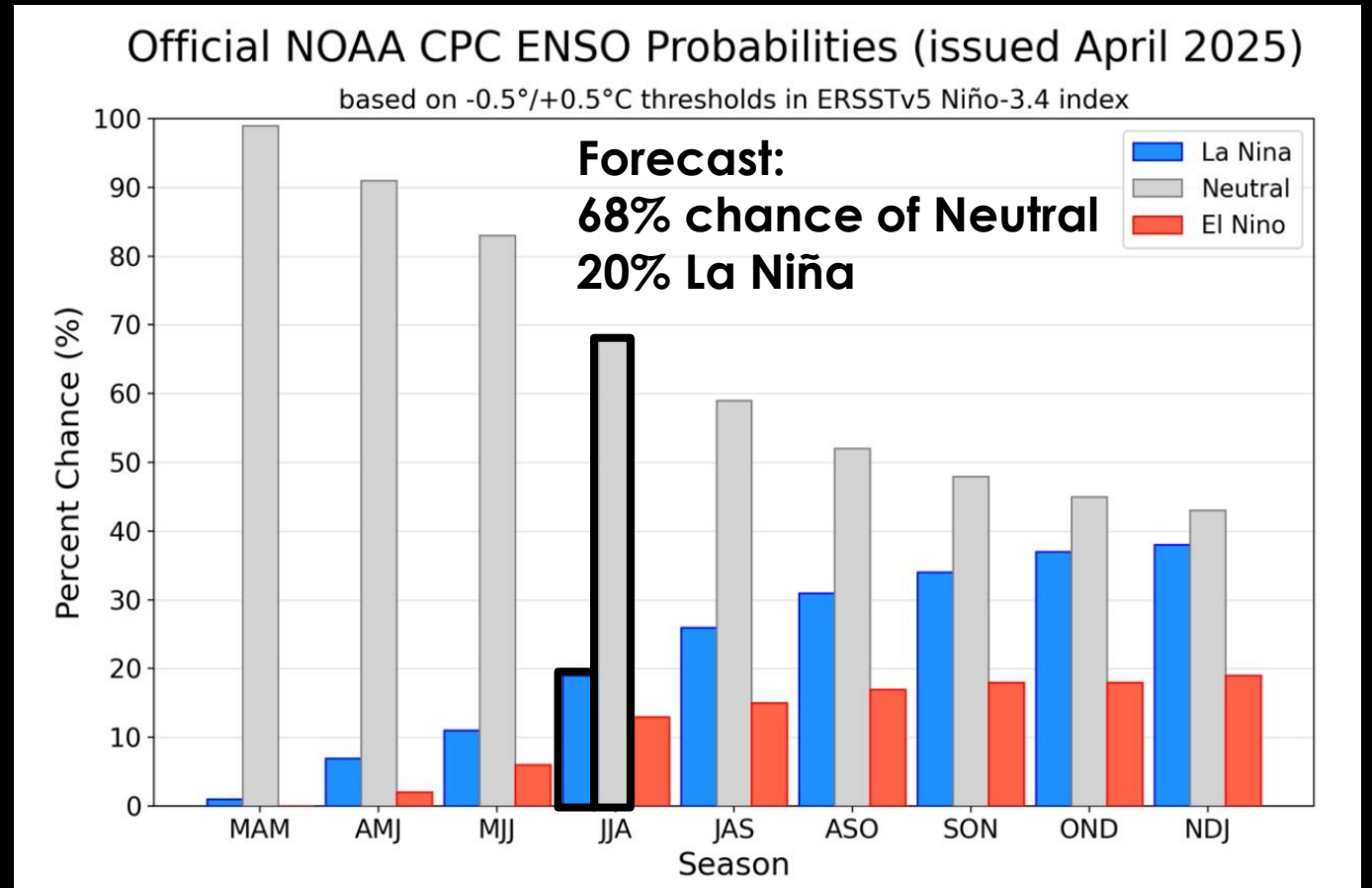


# ENSO FORECAST



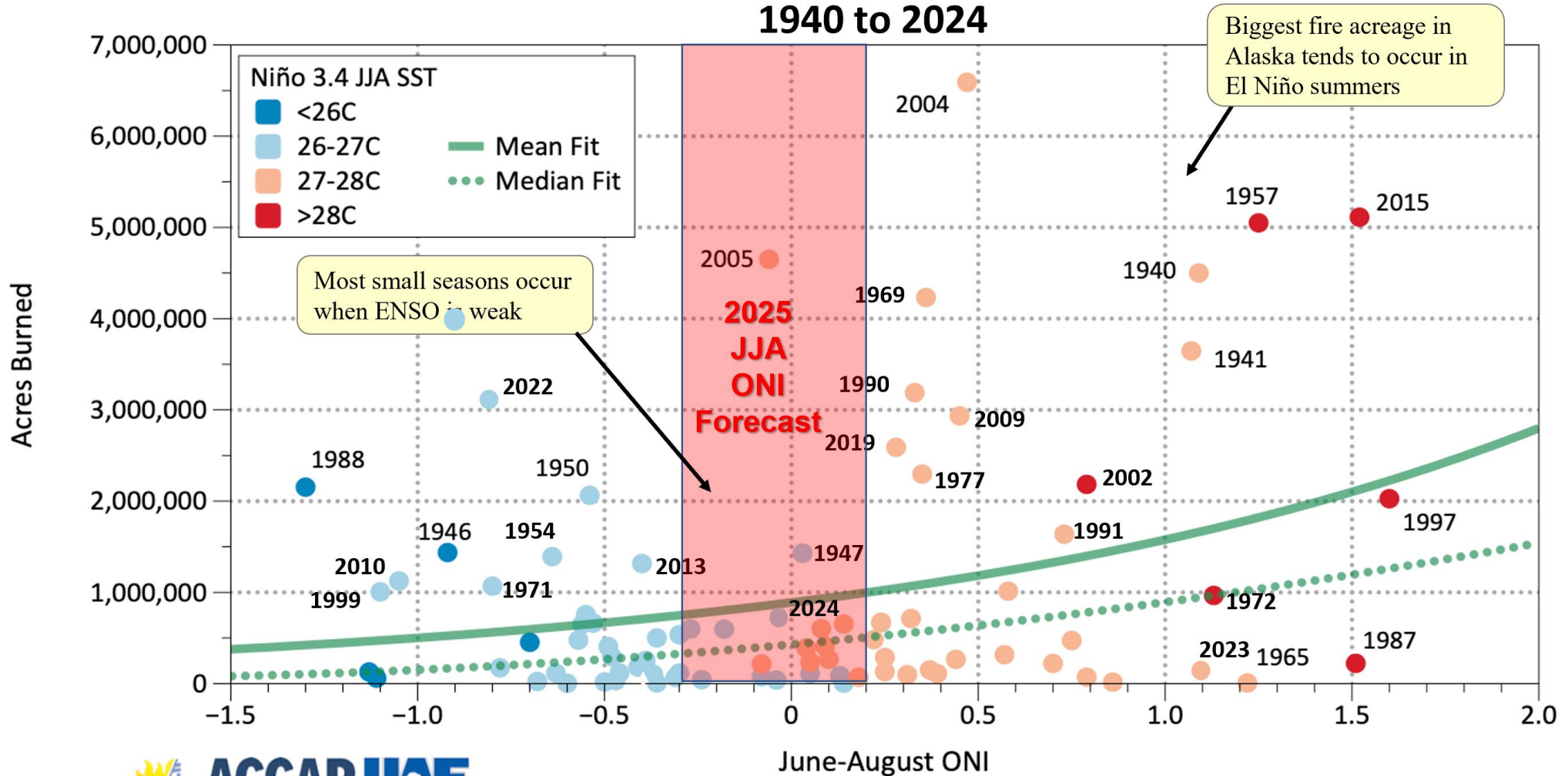
Describes Sea Surface Temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific

- The “**warm phase**” is El Niño
- The “**cold phase**” is La Niña
- “Neutral” is weak, in-between stage



# IS ENSO FORECAST HELPFUL?

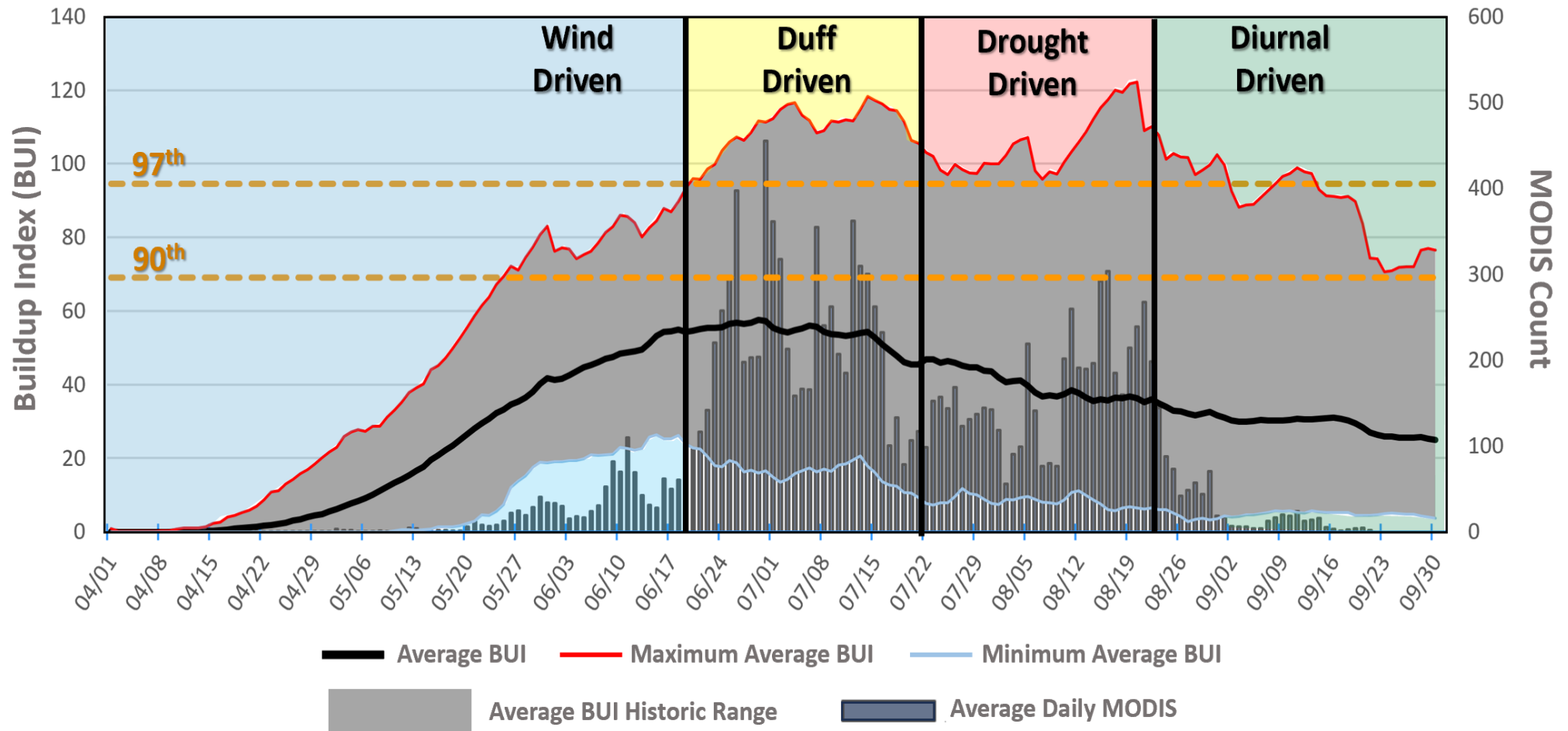
## Alaska Seasonal Wildfire Acreage vs. JJA ONI Index 1940 to 2024





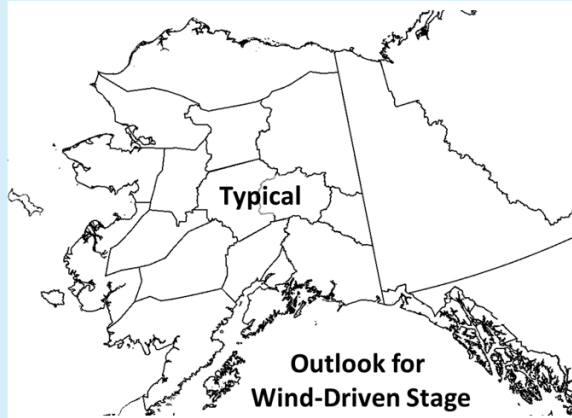
# TYPICAL ALASKA FIRE SEASON

Maximum and Average BUI in Interior PSAs  
with Daily Average MODIS detects 2003-2022



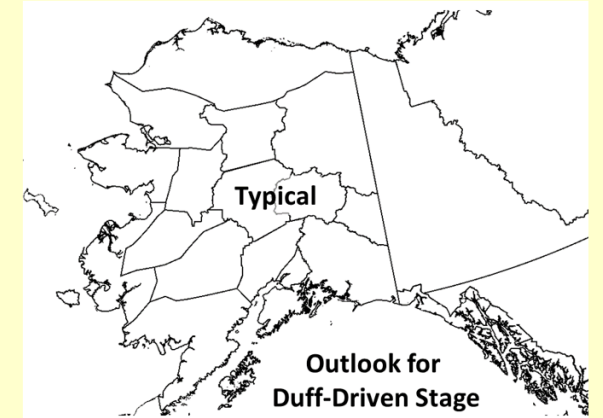
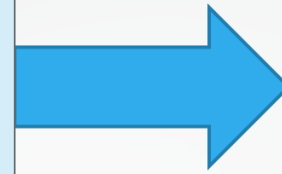
# Alaska's 2025 Fire Potential Outlook

Updated: 4/30/2025

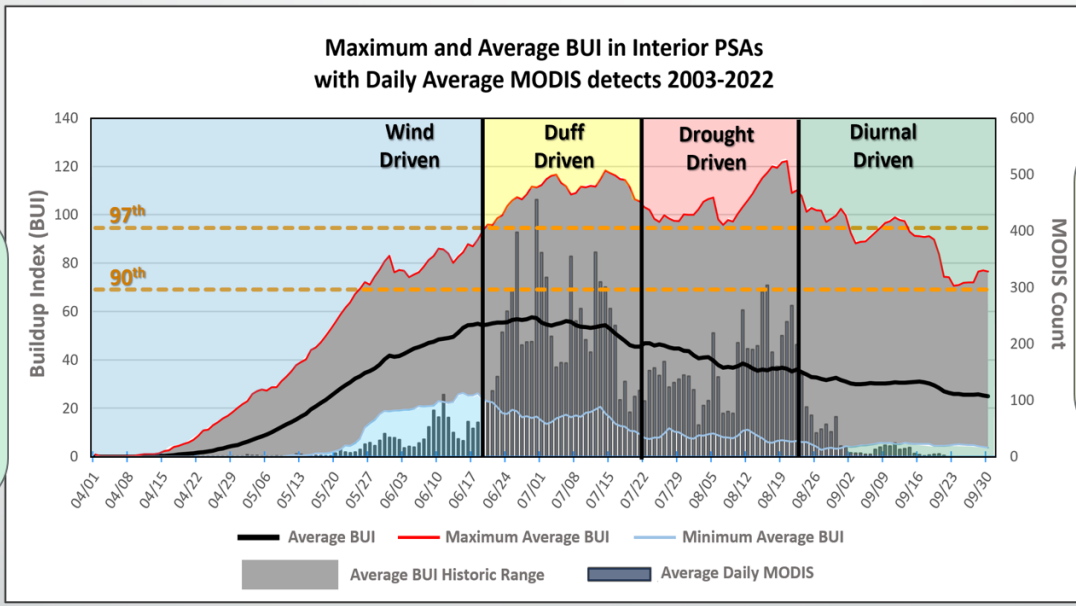


Outlook for Wind-Driven Stage  
Snowmelt – Mid June

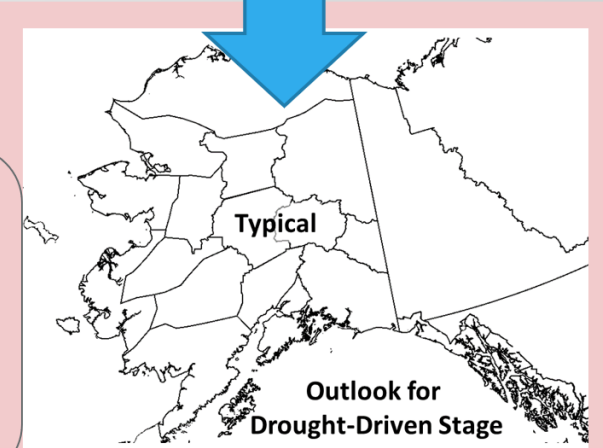
A below normal snowpack throughout the south may lead to an early start to the 2025 Alaska Fire Season. Fuels in Southwest, South Central, and the Panhandle are exposed. A series of snow and rain events has slowed some of the anticipated drying, but surface fuels are quick to change with warmth and sun. [Click](#) for details.



Outlook for Duff-Driven Stage  
Mid June – Mid July

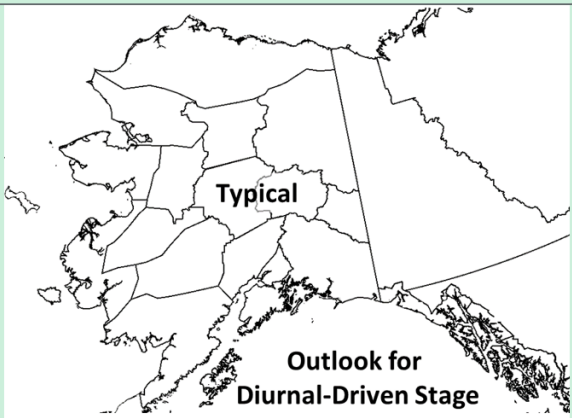


By the heart of fire season, melt date is irrelevant and activity depends on fuel dryness, current weather, and lightning or human ignitions. Resistance to control will increase and there will be some very busy periods driven by lightning, low humidity, and wind events. [Click](#) for details.



Outlook for Drought-Driven Stage  
Mid July – Early August

As mid-summer sets in, expect most areas to have dry deep-duff layers, leading to the stage where fires become more difficult to manage. If fires from the duff stage are uncontrolled, they will exhibit higher resistance to extinguishment and increase acreage during hot, dry periods. [Click](#) for details.



Outlook for Diurnal-Driven Stage  
Early August – Snowfall

With the likelihood of end-of-season rains arriving on time, mid to late August fires will no longer be supported by deeper fuel layers. Existing fires will show some activity during the day, but resistance will be minimal. [Click](#) for details.



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WHAT'S NEXT?

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/weather/outlooks/monthly.pdf>