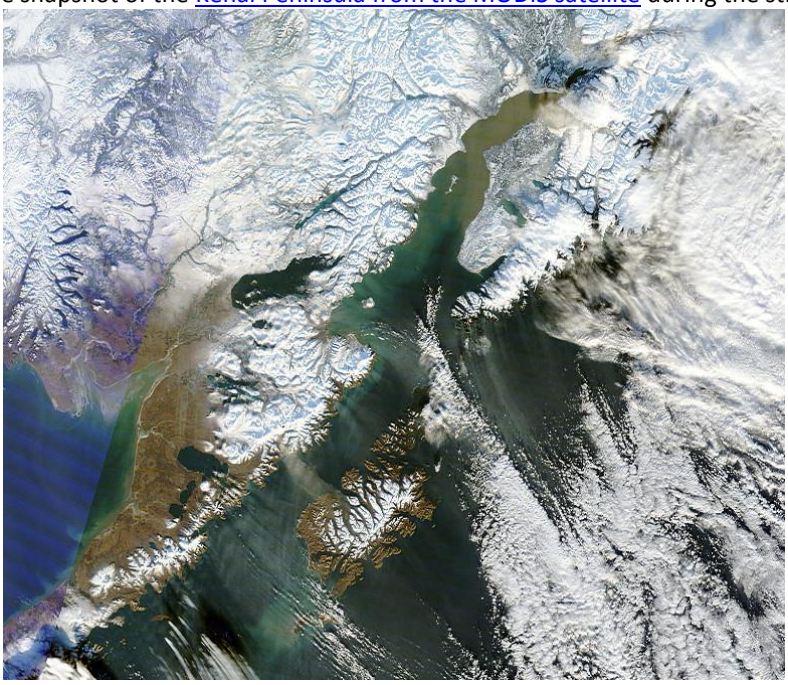
November 2010 Weather Summary

November brought varied weather conditions to Kenai Fjords NP, from heavy snow early in the month, to calm and warm conditions, ice storms, and concluding with 60 mph wind gusts on November 29th . As measured at the Seward airport weather station, Novembers's average temperature near Kenai Fjords NP was 32.5 degrees F (0.8 degrees F above the 30-year average November temperature). Total rainfall for November was 5.45 inches, 1.7 inches less than the 30-year average for this month. November 23rd was the warmest day of the month with a high of 44 degrees F; November 10th was the coldest day with a low of 17 degrees F.

Also of note:

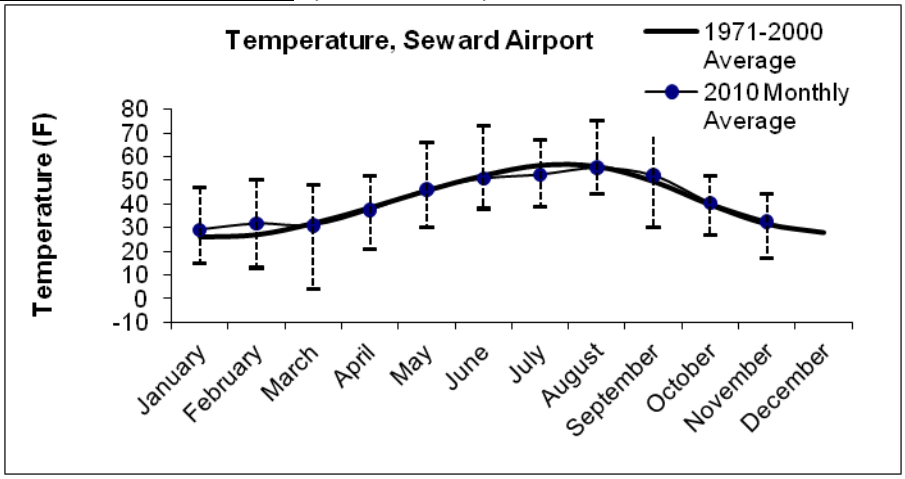
- The National Weather Service prepared a summary of weather conditions during the mid-November mild spell, when we experienced conditions known as an Omega block.
- NASA prepared an image and description of strong November winds creating a dust storm in the Gulf of Alaska.
- Do you use weather observations in Alaska? If so, the National Weather Service is sharing their information and asking for feedback.
- The Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) is in the process of transitioning to a new and more user friendly data portal. Beginning 2011 we'll highlight a few of the new features.
- The National Weather Service's one month weather outlook (Deccember 2010) is for below normal temperatures and equal chances of above, near, or below median precipitation. The three month outlook (December-January-February 2010-11) is for below average temperatures and equal chances for below, near, and above average precipitation over central and southern Alaska. The interior and southern portions of the state are currently drier than normal. A dry winter may set Alaska up for a greater chance of above normal wildfire conditions in the spring. La Niña conditions are expected to last at least into the Northern Hemisphere spring 2011. http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/
- NOAA climate services portal serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA's extensive climate information, data, products, services, and the climate science magazine *ClimateWatch* . http://www.climate.gov/
- Additional, detailed climate information is available from the UAF Alaska Climate Research Center monthly state-wide summaries http://akclimate.org/Summary/current_sum.html

A satellite snapshot of the Kenai Peninsula from the MODIS satellite during the strong winds on November 29th.



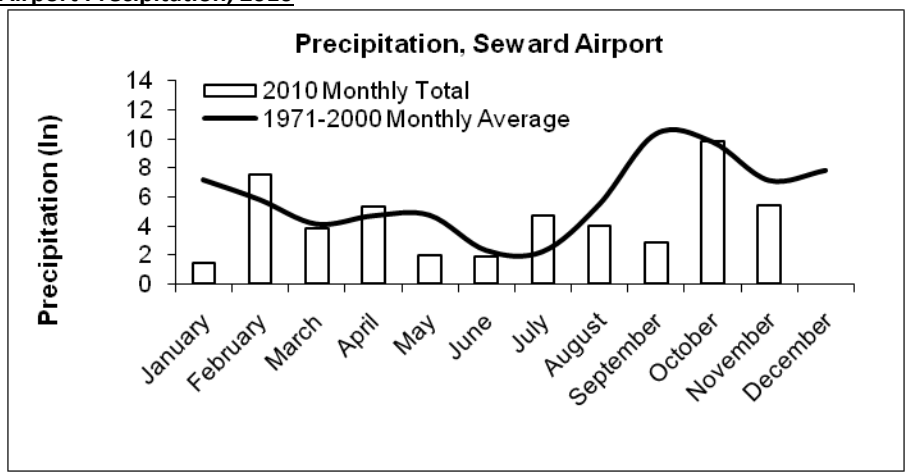
Read more to find out about the local climate for October 2010

Seward Airport Temperature, 2010 (station #26438)



Monthly temperature (F) at Seward airport. 1971-2000. Average is 30-year climate normal. 2010 Monthly average values are shown with thin solid line. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with dashed vertical lines.

Seward Airport Precipitation, 2010



Monthly precipitation (inches) at Seward airport. 1971-2000 monthly average is 30-year climate normal.

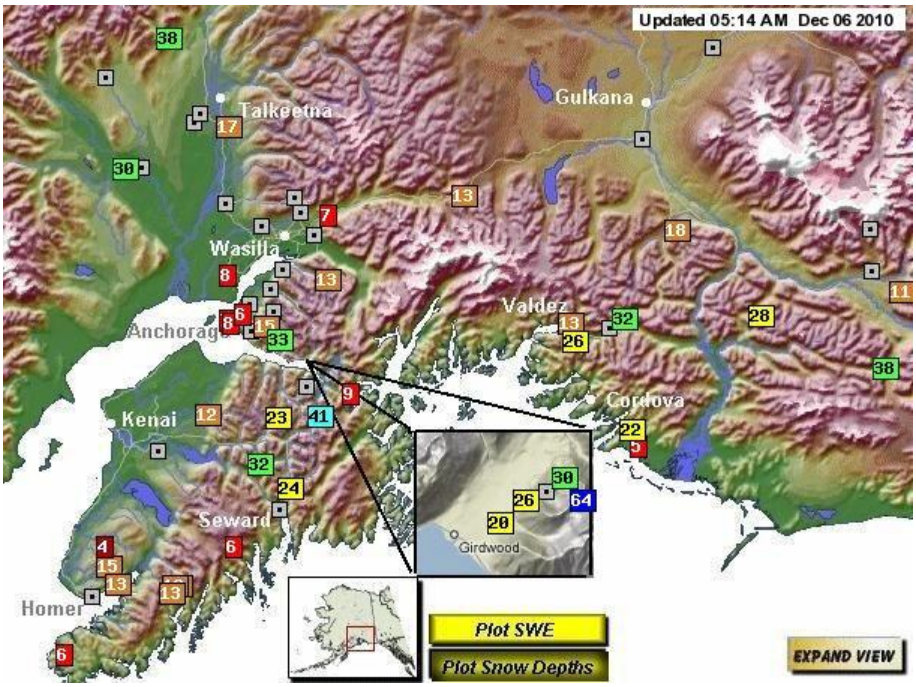
Rivers

Resurrection River *at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center. The Resurrection River stage height is currently well below the flood action stage.*

Exit Creek *water level (stage height) data is not collected in winter.*

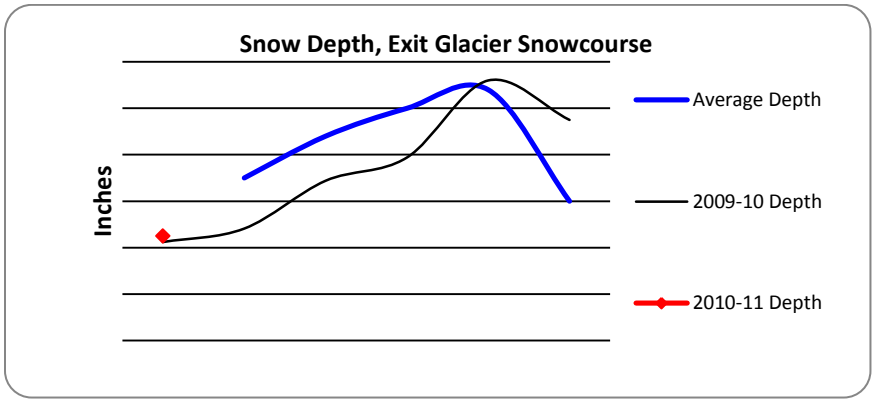
Snow & Ice

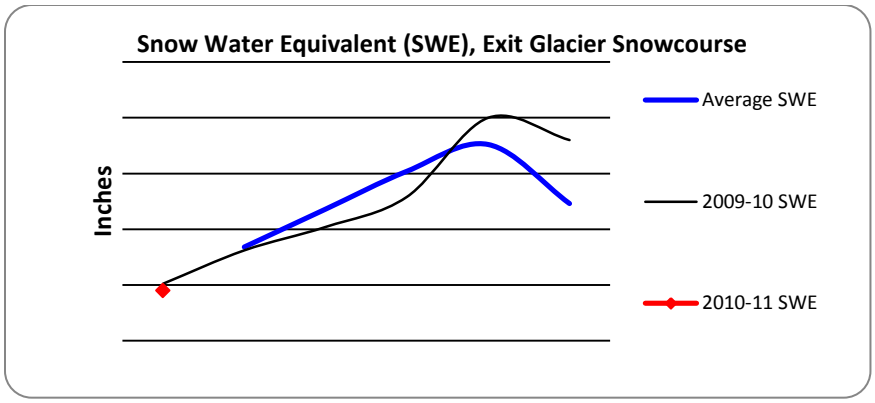
Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on Dec. 6 by the National Weather Service.



Snow is monitored by the [Natural Resources Conservation Service] with most measurements and reporting take place December to May.

Snow depth at Exit Glacier Ranger Station on December 1st was 22.5 inches with a water equivalent of 4.5 inches, similar to last year at this time.





Weather Station data (map of [some] stations Western Region Climate Center or MesoWest)

- Seward Airport
- Seward Hwy MP#12
- Grouse Crk Divide
- Exit Glacier
- Harding Icefield
- McArthur Pass
- Nuka Glacier
- Pilot Rock
- Buoy 76-Cape Cleare

Weather Forecasts

- Seward Summary
- Marine Forecast
- Surface Map
- Graphical Forecast
- 4-8 Day Forecast