

February 2014 Weather Summary

The Kenai Fjords area saw a return to more typical temperatures in February when the average monthly temperature dropped below freezing, yet remained slightly above the 30-year normal (1981-2010) for the month. Precipitation amounts dried up significantly from the previous month. While January received 150% of normal precipitation, February received only 10% of normal. The little measurable precipitation that was recorded arrived during the second half of the month and was unsuccessful in bringing snowpack levels back up to normal. See below to learn more about February's thin snowpack.

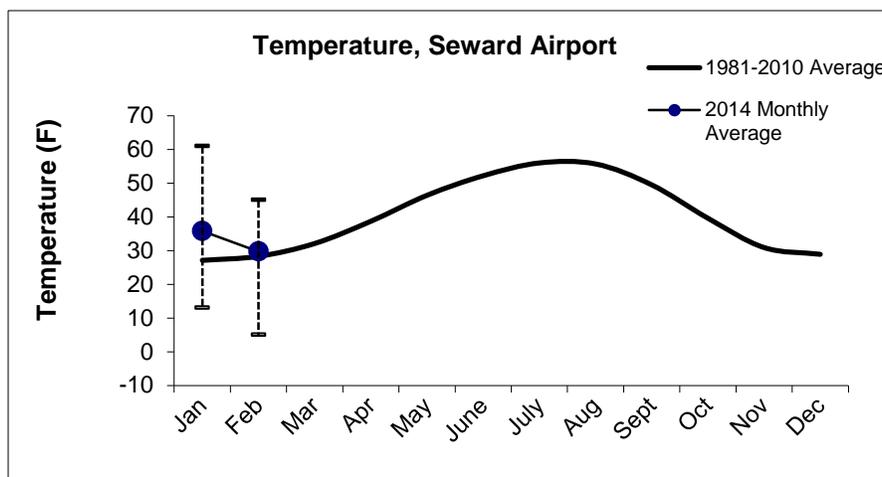
As recorded at the Seward airport, total precipitation was 0.62 inches (10% of normal), 5.43 inches below the 30-year average (1981-2010) for the month. The monthly average temperature for February was 29.7 degrees F; 1.4 degrees F above the 30-year average. Winds were variable throughout the month with a maximum daily average wind speed of 21.8 mph recorded on February 9th. A maximum wind gust of 47 mph was recorded on February 10th.

Also of note:

- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) three month weather outlook (March-April-May) favors above-normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the Kenai Fjords area.
- Climate Central reports on new research published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* indicating that [continued greenhouse warming may increase the frequency of extreme El Niño events](#).
- NASA's Earth Observatory published imagery of a [large landslide that occurred in Glacier Bay National Park in mid-February](#).
- *Geophysical Research Letters* published new research indicating that the [Arctic melt season is increasing at the rate of five days per decade](#) and discusses implications to climate change monitoring and shipping and resource industries.
- 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](#).

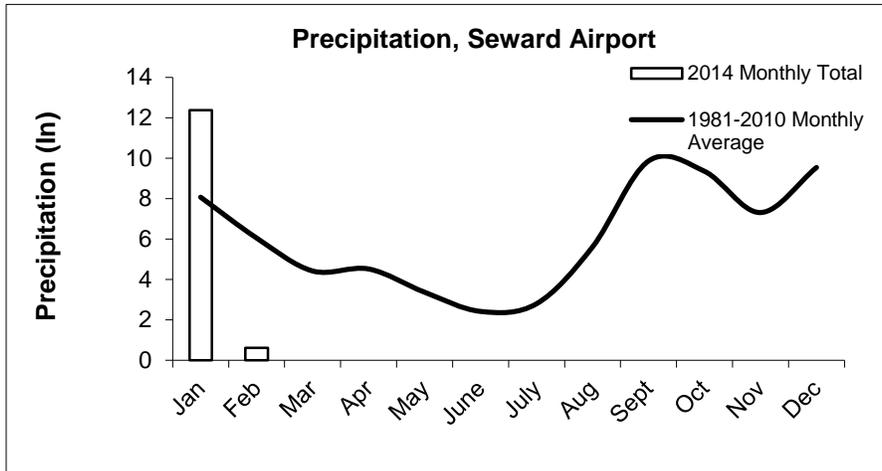
Read more to find out about the local climate for February 2014

Seward Airport Temperature, February 2014 (station 26438)



Monthly and 30-year average temperature (F) at Seward airport. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with a dashed vertical line.

Seward Airport Precipitation, February 2014 (station 26438)



Monthly and 30-year average precipitation (inches) at Seward airport.

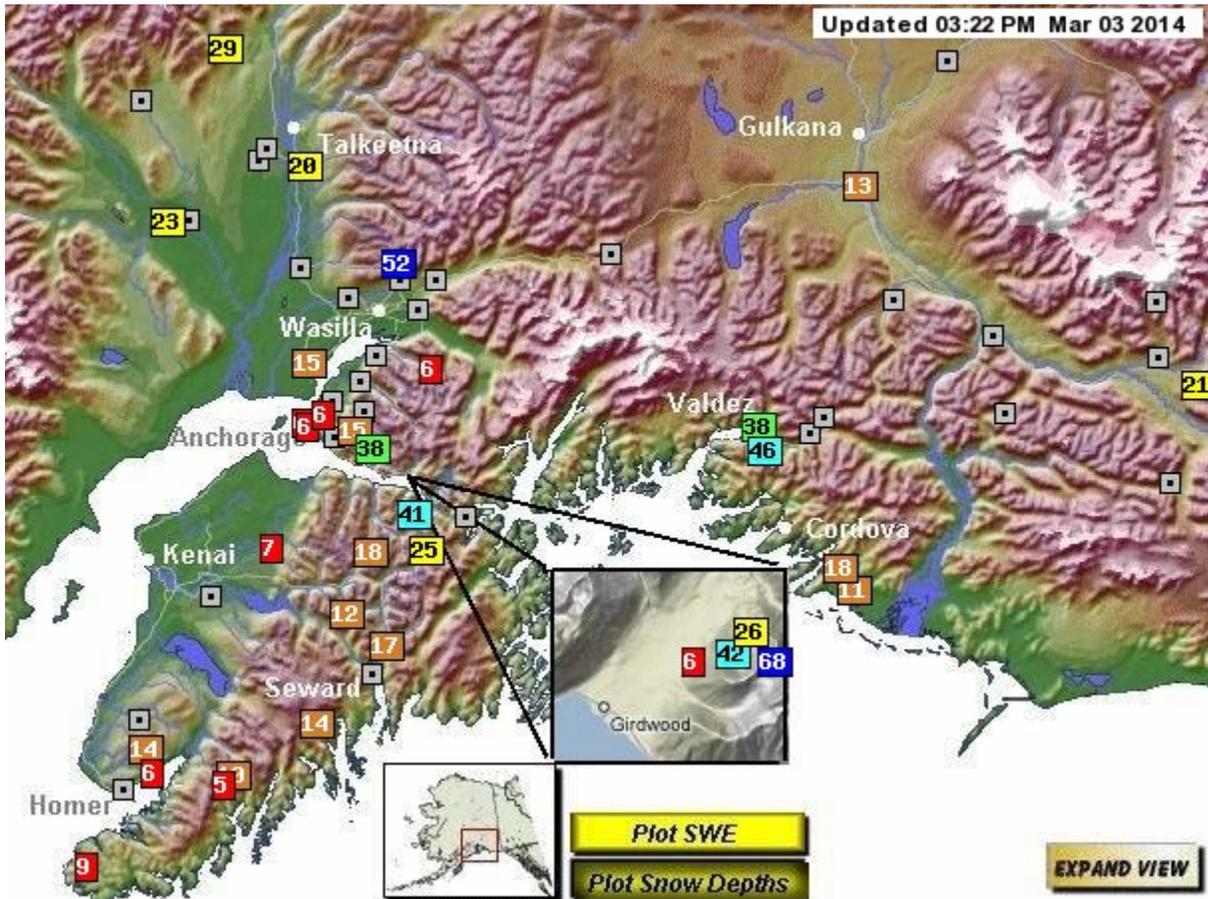
Rivers

Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=pafc>.

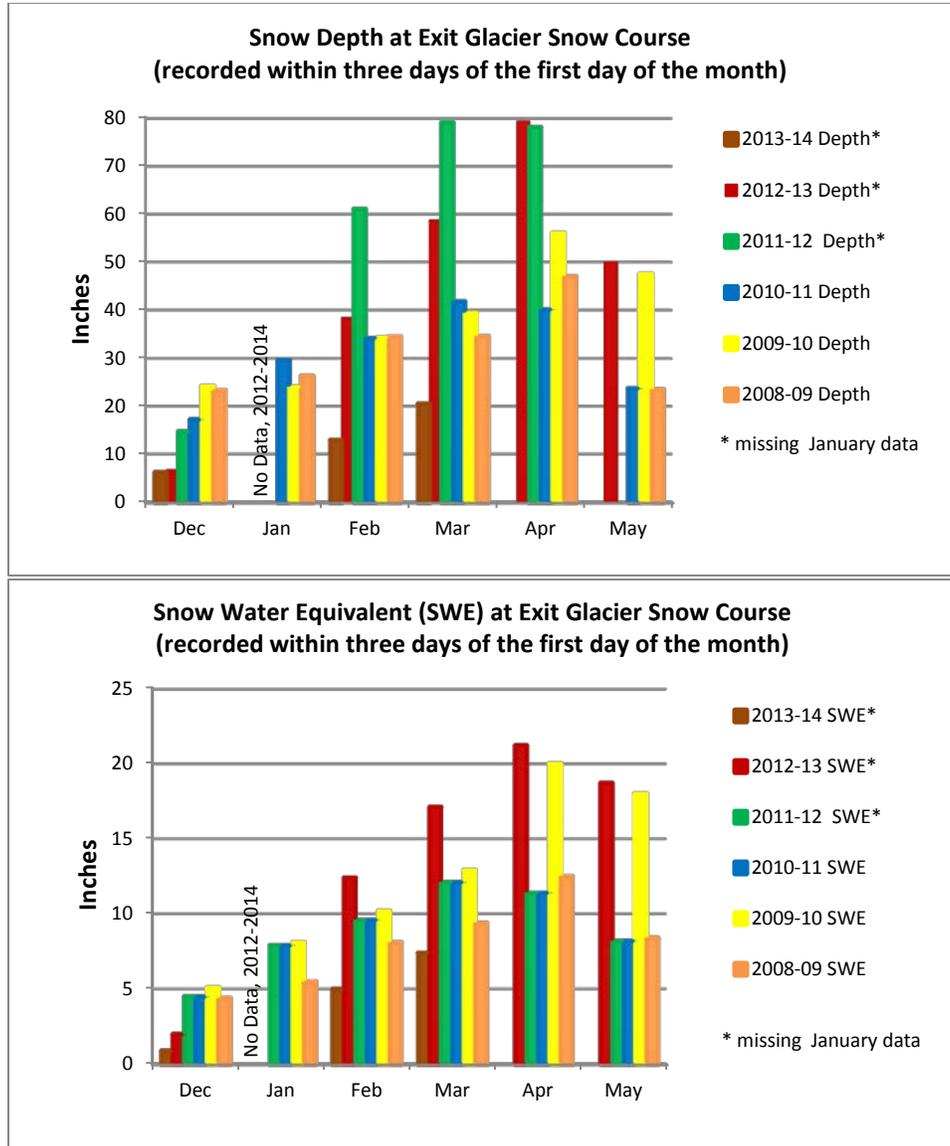
Exit Creek water level (stage height) data is only collected during the summer, beginning in May and ending in August.

Snow & Ice



Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on March 3, 2014: http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov/sd_pafc_sites.html. Snow is monitored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.ambc.org/> with most measurements and reporting taking place December to May.

Results of snow depth monitoring at the Exit Glacier snow course on February 28th indicate the snowpack was 20.7 inches deep, the lowest March 1st snow depth recorded at Exit Glacier since monitoring began in winter 1987-88. The second shallowest snowpack at the March 1st measurement was recorded in 2006 with a snow depth of 27.7 inches, 7 inches more than this year. Snow water equivalent of the March 1st snowpack was 7.4 inches, 9.7 inches less than this time last year.



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

- [Seward Airport](#)
- [Grouse Crk Divide](#)
- [Exit Glacier SNOTEL](#)
- [McArthur Pass](#)
- [Pilot Rock](#)

- [Seward Hwy MP#12](#)
- [Exit Glacier](#)
- [Harding Icefield](#)
- [Nuka Glacier](#)
- [Buoy 76-Cape Cleare](#)

- [Pedersen Lagoon](#)

Weather Forecasts

- [Seward Summary](#)
- [Marine Forecast](#)
- [Surface Map](#)

- [Graphical Forecast](#)
- [4-8 Day Forecast](#)