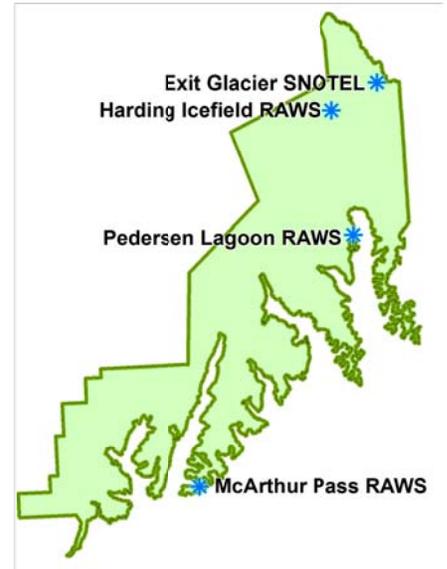


## May 2012 Weather Summary

Despite a rainy start and a snowy Mother's Day, Kenai Fjords experienced nearly normal precipitation and slightly below normal temperatures in May. As recorded at the Seward airport, total precipitation for the month was 3.23 inches (96% of normal), 0.14 inches below the monthly average. The monthly average temperature was 43.5 degrees F; only 2.9 degrees F below the 30- year May average (1981-2010). May 23<sup>rd</sup> was the warmest day of the month with a high of 66 degrees F; May 3<sup>rd</sup> was the coldest day with a low of 28 degrees F. The highest wind gusts of the month were recorded on May 2<sup>nd</sup> when the Seward airport recorded a maximum wind gust of 38 mph. May 1<sup>st</sup> was the windiest day of the month at the Seward airport with an average wind speed of 14.4 mph.

If you are planning a trip in Kenai Fjords this summer and want to know what the weather is like on the outer coast, on the northern part of the Harding Icefield, or at Exit Glacier, check out one of the automated weather stations located in the park. The Southwest Alaska Network of the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program maintains three remote automated weather stations (RAWS) distributed along the eastern edge of the park from McArthur Pass on the outer coast to Pedersen Lagoon in Aialik Bay to the Harding Icefield above Exit Glacier. To access real time data for any RAWS located in the state, visit <http://www.raws.dri.edu/akF.html> or check at the bottom of this summary for direct links to the individual RAWS in Kenai Fjords. For current weather conditions at Exit Glacier near the Nature Center, the Natural Resource Conservation Service maintains a SNOTEL weather station; real-time data for this station is accessible at [http://ambcns.org/cgi-bin/siteCurrent.cgi?site=EXIT\\_GLACIER](http://ambcns.org/cgi-bin/siteCurrent.cgi?site=EXIT_GLACIER). Links to additional weather stations located near Kenai Fjords National Park are provided at the end of this summary.

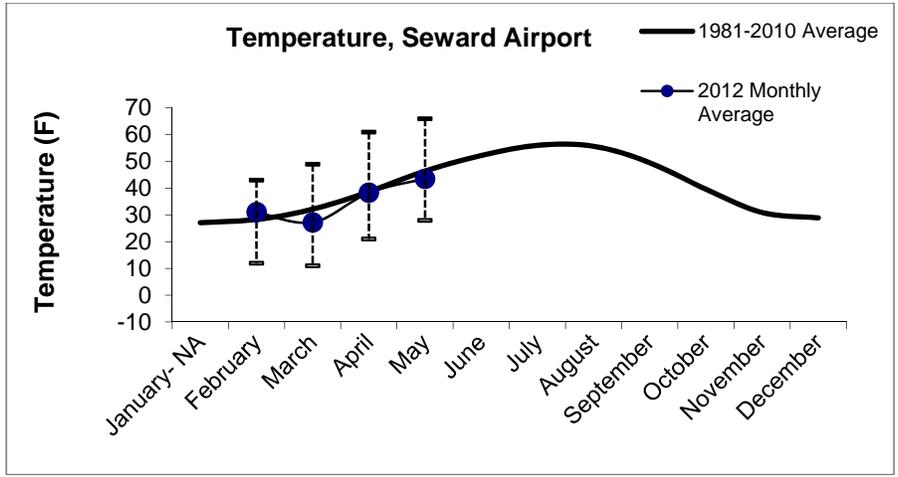


Also of note:

- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) three month weather outlook (June-July-August) favors normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the Kenai Fjords area.
- The journal of Nature Geoscience published a [study](#) indicating that seagrasses can hold as much carbon as the world's temperate and tropical forests and play an important role in mitigating climate change.
- The journal Nature Geoscience is the first to document leakage of deep geologic methane from warming permafrost and retreating glaciers. [Read more...](#)
- The journal [Nature](#) reports on a recent study that shows that, in addition to melting ice sheets and glaciers, human water use has a major impact on sea-level change.
- 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](#).

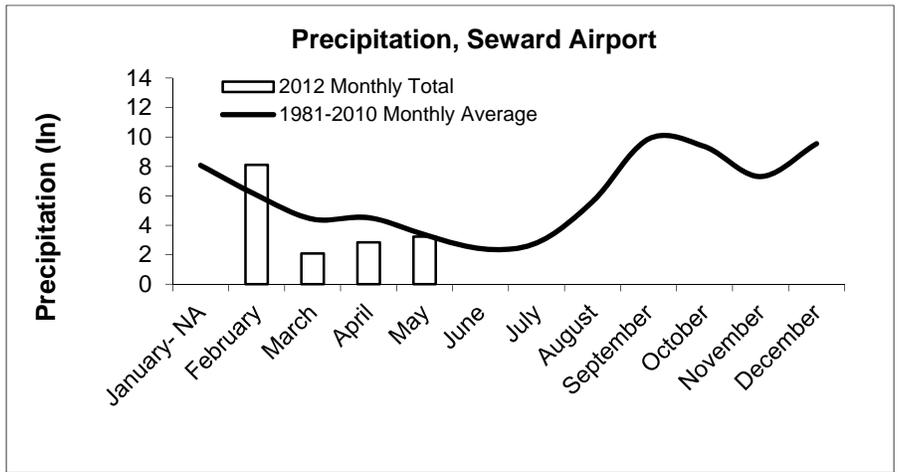
***Read more to find out about the local climate for May 2012***

**Seward Airport Temperature, May 2012** (station 26438)



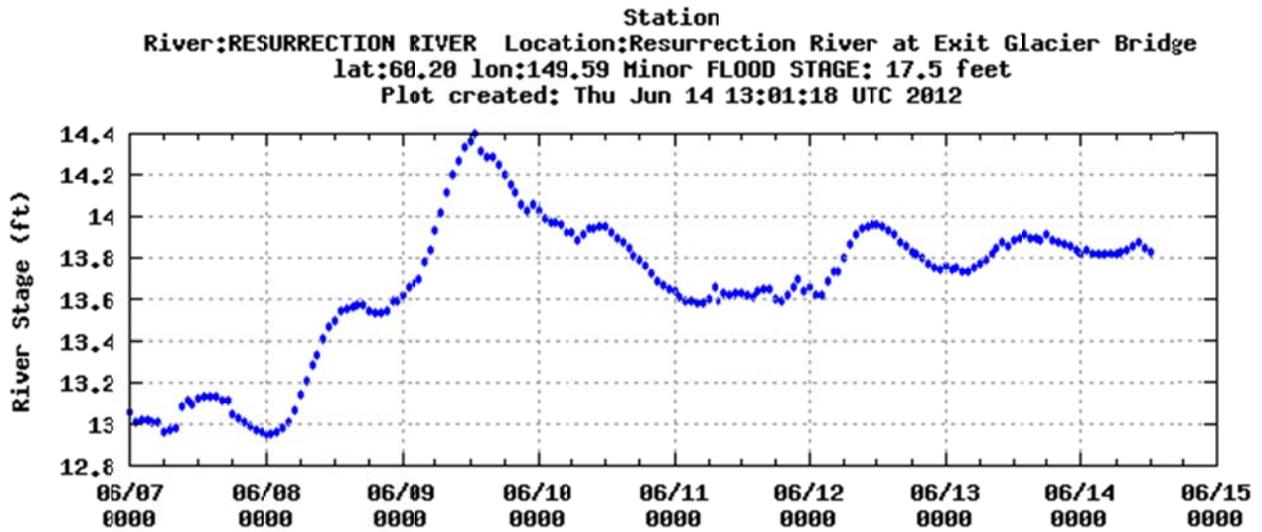
Monthly and 30-year average temperature (F) at Seward airport. 2012 monthly average values are shown with thin solid line. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with dashed vertical lines.

**Seward Airport Precipitation, May 2012** (station 26438)

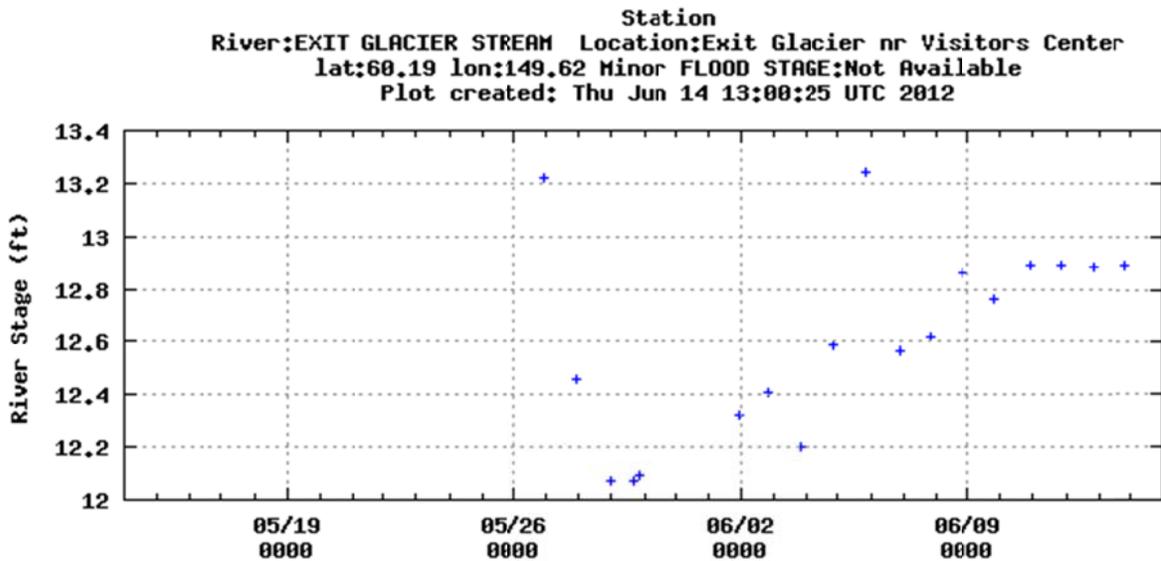


Monthly and 30-year average precipitation (inches) at Seward airport.

Rivers



*Resurrection River* at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=paafc>. Forecasts for the Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge are issued during the warm season and as needed at other times of the year. Resurrection River stage height is currently well below the flood action stage.



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

**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](#)