

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE YUKON DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ALASKA

LOCATION: The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge is located in southwestern Alaska. It covers several million acres of the deltas and lower reaches of the Yukon and Kuskowim Rivers. The landscape is essentially tundra and muskeg, with occasional patches of scrubby forest and thickets along some of the watercourses and around the many lakes. There are thousands of lakes and ponds. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level. Bethel is the transportation and service center for the area.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	6:36	9:00	11:45	14:37	17:20	19:02	18:17	15:48	13:00	10:10	7:29	5:49
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:43	5:01	6:33	7:49	7:43	6:29	5:19	3:39	3:55	3:16	2:31	1:56
AREA OF BLUE SKY	37%	43%	40%	34%	25%	20%	17%	14%	20%	25%	30%	34%
LOW FOR MONTH	-28°	-27°	-20°	-6°	19°	34°	41°	38°	27°	8°	-10°	-24°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-1°	0°	3°	17°	32°	43°	47°	46°	38°	24°	11°	0°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	14°	15°	21°	34°	49°	61°	63°	60°	52°	37°	23°	14°
HIGH FOR MONTH	37°	36°	40°	48°	65°	74°	78°	72°	63°	50°	40°	37°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	100%	100%	93%	52%	3%	0%	0%	20%	83%	96%	99%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	76%	73%	75%	72%	63%	61%	67%	73%	70%	76%	80%	78%
DRY DAYS	70%	71%	69%	71%	68%	61%	50%	38%	45%	62%	63%	65%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	94%	92%	94%	92%	86%	82%	72%	78%	88%	89%	90%
TOTAL PRECIPITATION	0.8"	0.7"	0.8"	0.6"	0.8"	1.3"	2.2"	3.7"	2.7"	1.5"	1.0"	1.0"
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.3"	7.8"	9.8"	4.8"	1.5"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	3.8"	8.5"	10.2"
SNOWY DAYS	27%	27%	32%	25%	7%	0%	0%	0%	1%	17%	33%	34%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	12%	11%	14%	14%	15%	10%	13%	20%	15%	13%	14%	14%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 39% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 23% in August, to a high of 56% in February and March. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -34°, and the highest should be near 79°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 3° cooler than actual ones. During the winter months, strong gravity winds draining from the mountains can produce increases in temperature of 50° in less than a day's time. Due to their increasing temperatures, dryness, and wind speeds, such *foehn* winds can both melt and evaporate considerable snow cover in a matter of hours.