

Spot Forecast for Ptarmigan Complex

BLM – National Weather Service, Fairbanks, AK

Issued: 6:32 AM AKDT Thursday, July 17, 2025

Forecast Start Time: 7:00 AM AKDT, July 17, 2025

If conditions become unrepresentative, contact the National Weather Service.

Discussion

A high pressure ridge has strengthened over the eastern Interior. Humidities remain up this morning due to the recent light rainfall. A warming and drying trend develops Thursday into Saturday. We have lowered the forecast for afternoon humidities the next couple days. Winds will remain light through the weekend. The atmosphere will become more unstable each day, supporting an increase in fire activity. There will also be an increasing chance for isolated showers and thunderstorms over the higher terrain each afternoon. Saturday afternoon could have scattered shower and thunderstorm coverage. Beyond this weekend, a moist southwest flow is expected to develop next week with more widespread light rain expected Monday into Tuesday.

Rest of Today

Sky/Weather: Partly sunny (60–70% coverage), slight chance of rain showers later this afternoon

Chance of Wetting Rain (CWR): 1%

Thunderstorm Coverage: None

Max Temperature: Around 70°F

Min Humidity: 37%

20-ft Winds: Northeast winds 2–6 mph

Ridgetop Winds: Northeast at 5 mph

Mixing Height: 800 ft AGL increasing to 4,000 ft AGL in late morning and afternoon

Transport Winds: North around 5 mph

Inversion Burnoff: Around 12:00 PM AKDT

Tonight

Sky/Weather: Mostly cloudy (50–60% coverage), slight chance of rain showers

CWR: 2%

Thunderstorm Coverage: None

Min Temperature: Around 46°F

Max Humidity: 86%

20-ft Winds: East winds 2–6 mph

Ridgetop Winds: East at 5 mph

Mixing Height: 3,800 ft AGL decreasing to 400 ft AGL in the late evening and overnight

Transport Winds: Northeast around 3 mph

Inversion Setup: Around 10:00 PM AKDT

Friday

Sky/Weather: Partly sunny (50–60% coverage), scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon

CWR: 5%

Thunderstorm Coverage: Isolated

Max Temperature: Around 73°F

Min Humidity: 31%

20-ft Winds: East winds 3–7 mph; gusty and erratic winds expected near any thunderstorms

Ridgetop Winds: East at 5 mph

Mixing Height: 400 ft AGL increasing to 5,200 ft AGL in the late morning and afternoon

Transport Winds: Northeast around 5 mph

Inversion Burnoff: Around 10:00 AM AKDT

Forecast Days 3 Through 5

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. Highs in the upper 70s. Northeast winds around 8 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms possible. Lows in the lower 50s. Highs in the mid 70s. Light winds.

Monday: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Lows in the mid 50s. Highs in the lower 70s. West winds around 10 mph.