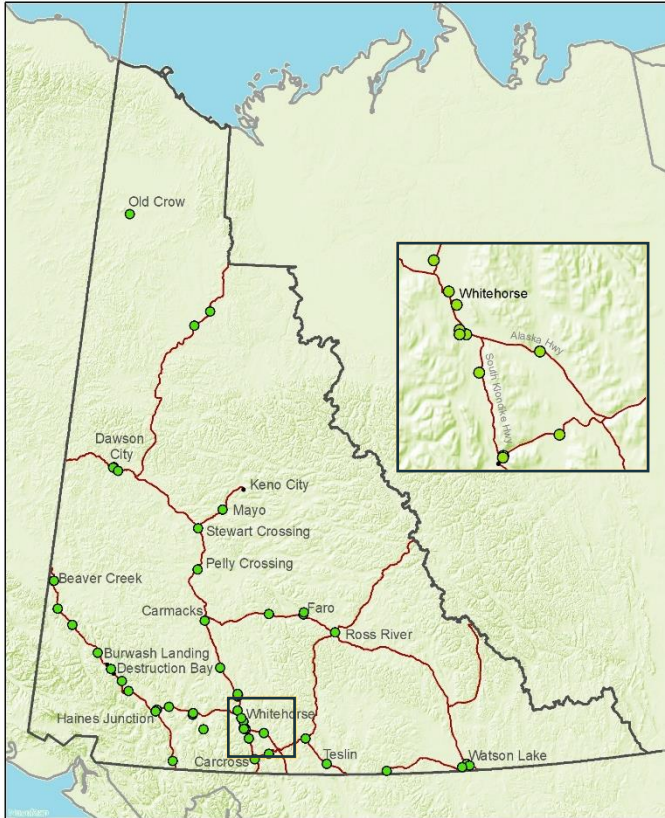




Yukon Observation Well Network



YOWN well locations as of November, 2019

Project summary

The Yukon Observation Well Network (YOWN) operated by the Water Resources Branch is used to monitor levels and quality of groundwater across the territory.

The monitoring results are used to:

- manage groundwater resources;
- enhance understanding of key aquifers;
- evaluate potential and real impact of human activities on groundwater; and
- evaluate long-term groundwater trends due to climate change.

The network was adapted from a Yukon-wide program which began with the installation of one observation well in the Wolf Creek drainage basin in 2001. Under the 2014 Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan, the network was renamed and the project scope broadened to increase our understanding of groundwater across the territory. The YOWN grew from eight wells in 2013 to 49 wells in November 2019.

What it means for you

Groundwater and surface water are a single resource. Nearly all surface water features (streams, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands) interact with groundwater, so management of one component is only partly effective. The groundwater quality and quantity data collected from YOWN allow us to assess current groundwater conditions across the territory. YOWN provides an early warning system for changes in groundwater levels and changes in water quality from natural or human-made causes. An accurate assessment of current and emerging trends in ambient groundwater conditions benefits evidence-based decision-making related to groundwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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The groundwater technologist collects a groundwater sample from a YOWN well.