



Snowpack and meteorological monitoring: an overview

Monitoring snow and meteorological conditions in the Yukon

The Government of Yukon's Water Resources Branch (WRB) operates snow and meteorological monitoring to better understand the evolution of snowpack over time in the Yukon. These stations measure snow depth and snow water equivalent (SWE) – which is the amount of water released from the snowpack when it melts.

Snow Course Network

57 snow courses

- Snowpack is measured in March, April and May each year at 57 sites - called snow courses - across the territory. Partners located in the communities help with data collection. Snow depth, density and SWE are collected by samplers at each site.

SnowMet Network

7 stations

- WRB's meteorological network, called the SnowMet Network, provides real-time data to understand snowpack and weather conditions across the territory. Along with snow data, weather data helps us provide accurate flood forecasts.



Withers Lake snow and meteorological (SnowMet) monitoring station.



WRB staff collecting samples at the Mt McIntyre snow course.

Why monitor these parameters?

Snow and meteorological data help us understand:

- flood and wildfire risk,
- current conditions for flood forecasting,
- infrastructure design,
- extreme weather events, and
- changes in the water cycle linked to climate change.

What happens with the data?

Snow weather data is used to create the Snow Survey Bulletin and Water Supply Forecasts each spring, [available on Yukon.ca](http://www.yukon.ca). The data informs flood forecasting, flood mapping and infrastructure design. Trends over time are reported in the State of the Environment Report.



Yukon Snow and Meteorological Station Networks

