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# Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation



**Yukon Wetland Policy  
Round Table Meetings  
April 10 & 11, 2018  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Northern Region  
Nathalie Lowry**

# Canadian Wildlife Service Responsibilities

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- Conservation and protection of migratory birds under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and its Regulations
- Protection of species at risk under the federal *Species at Risk Act*
- Administration and management of  
National Wildlife Areas and  
Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
- Coordinating the effective implementation of  
the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation



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# Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation

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- The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (FPWC) is a policy of the Government of Canada – each federal department and agency is responsible for achieving its objective
- The objective of the FPWC is to *promote the conservation of Canada's wetlands to sustain their ecological and socio-economic functions, now and in the future*
- The FPWC applies to federal lands and waters and to all actions for which the federal government has decision-making authority that will potentially impact wetlands
- The FPWC applies to wetlands in Canada regardless of their type, size or other considerations



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- The FPWC has an overarching goal to commit all federal departments to no net loss of function and no further loss of area in certain circumstances
- Triggers for the FPWC in the Yukon:
  - Projects on federal land (e.g., Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area, National Parks) that may impact wetlands
  - In areas affected by the implementation of federal programs where the continuing loss or degradation of wetlands has reached critical levels
  - Where federal activities (e.g., issuance of permits and authorizations) affect wetlands designated as ecologically or soci-economically important to a region



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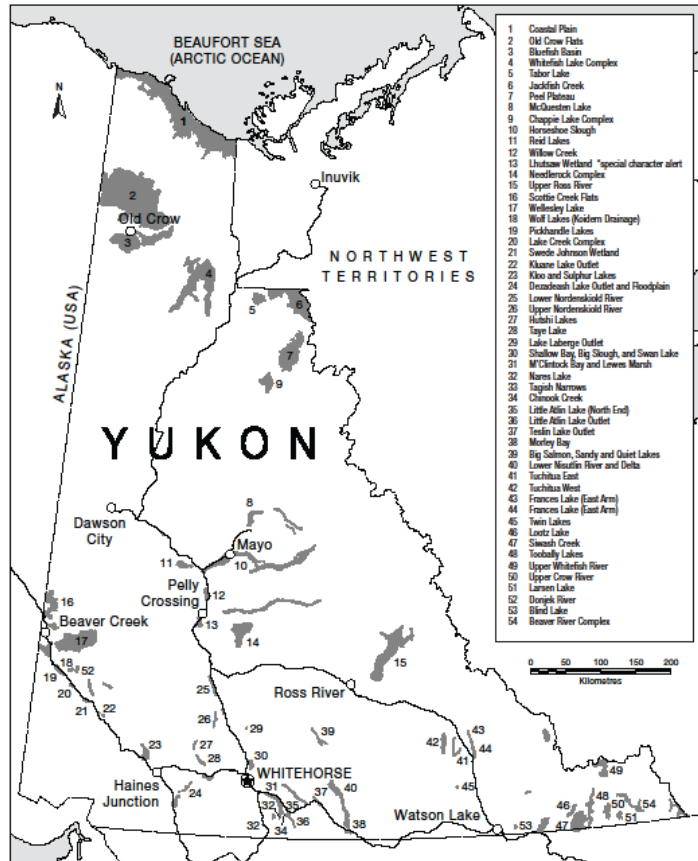
- Designation of wetlands considered ecologically or socio-economically important to a region is a collaborative process specific to each region (e.g., Provinces and Territories)
- In the Yukon, wetlands considered ecologically a/o socio-economically important to the region could include:
  - Yukon North Slope
  - Old Crow Flats (Ramsar site)
  - Wetlands within Habitat Protection Areas/Special Management Area's
  - List of major wetland complexes identified by the Wetlands Technical Committee (database held by YG-Environment)
  - All early open water spring staging areas (e.g., Important Bird Areas identified in the Yukon include Tagish Narrows, Shallow Bay, McIntock Bay/Lewes Marsh, Nares Lake, )
  - Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area

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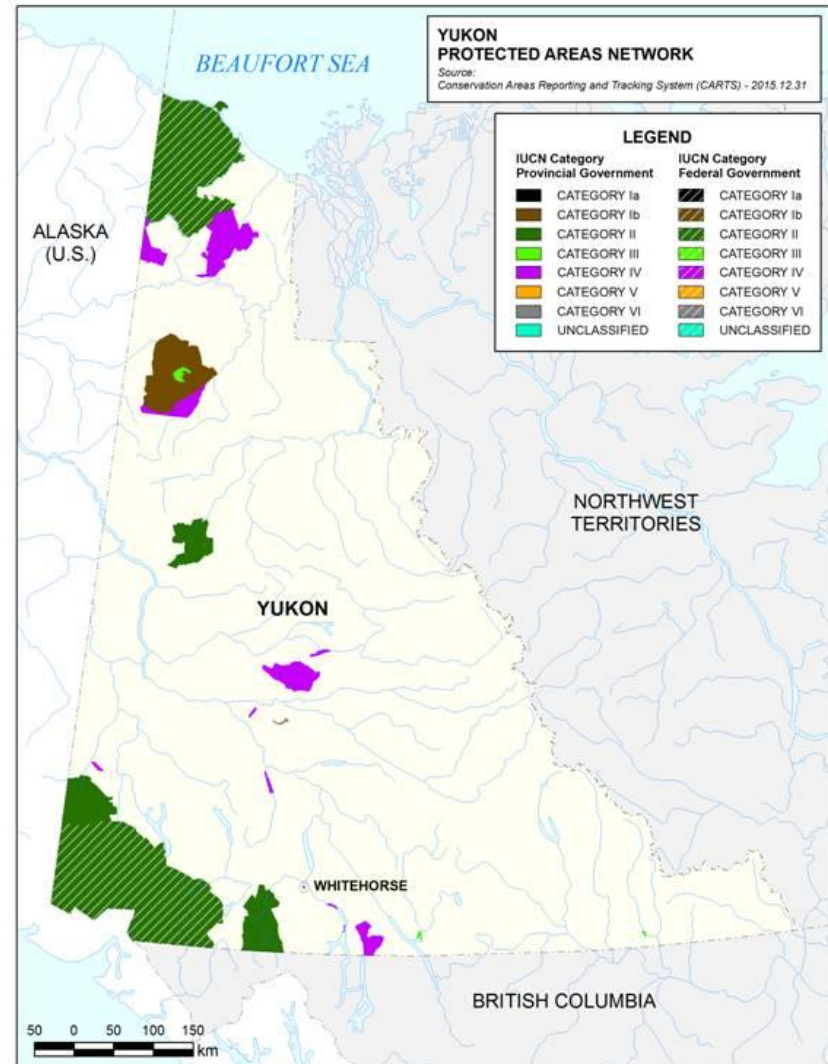
Figures included to demonstrate that many of the significant wetland complexes identified in the Yukon (2005 Yukon State of the Environment Report) are within Protected Areas, but not all of them.

Map 5.2. Significant Yukon Wetlands



Source: Yukon department of Environment

Yukon State of the Environment Report 2005 ..... 41



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# Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation

- Existing supporting documents:
  - The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (GoC 1991)
  - The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation Implementation Guide for Federal Land Managers (Lynch-Stewart et al. 1996)
  - Wetlands Environmental Assessment Guideline (Milko 1998)
  - Wetland Ecological Functions Assessment: An Overview of Approaches (Hanson et al. 2008)
  - A Framework for the Scientific Assessment of Potential Project Impacts on Birds (Hanson et al. 2009)
  - Operational Framework for Use of Conservation Allowances (EC 2012)

