

Bow River Reservoir Options

Phase 2: Feasibility Study

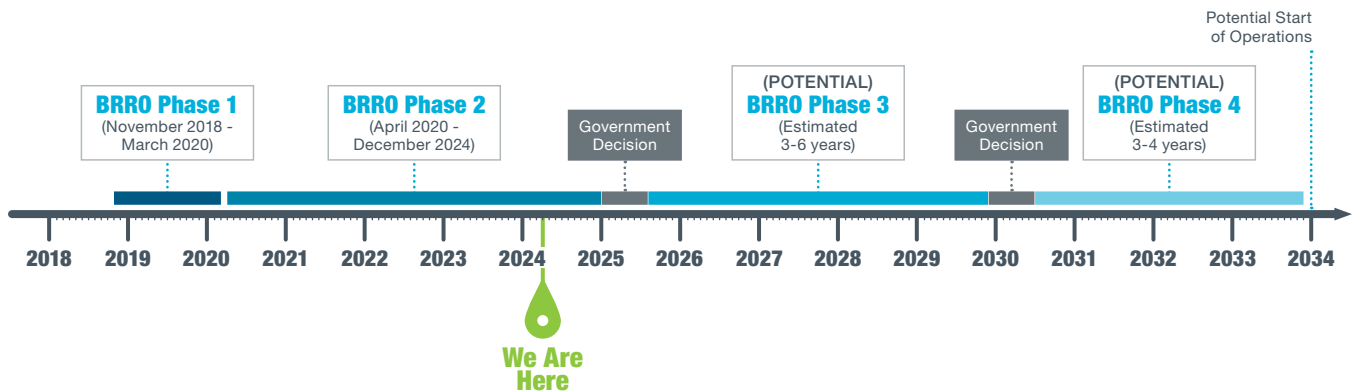
April 2024 Update

Thank you for your continued interest in the Bow River Reservoir Options (BRRO) initiative. As part of our commitment to provide regular updates on the initiative, we would like to share information on the results of Round 1 engagement and the plans for Round 2 engagement with you.

The current stage of the initiative is indicated in the graphic below. For more details on the BRRO initiative, including feasibility study updates and engagement opportunities, please visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/bow-river-reservoir-options.aspx>.

We look forward to continuing our discussions with you.

- The Bow River Reservoir Options Study Team



Round 1 Engagement Results

From June 16 to June 30, 2021, we invited Albertans to share their thoughts on the three options of the Bow River Reservoir initiative through an online survey and virtual open house.

Almost 900 comments were received from the end of the Phase 1: Conceptual Assessment (March 2020) to the end of Round 1 of the Phase 2: Feasibility Study (March 2023). Comments were similar to what was heard in Phase 1, but there were more comments about engineering, construction, water management and operations, and fewer comments related to protecting Calgary and Cochrane.

Overall, the most common feedback was:

- Protect parks and the environment
- Don't impact homes and property
- Further study is required on alternatives to building a dam
- More direct engagement is needed with property owners
- Water management and operations are important to consider

You can view the [Round 1 'What we heard' report](#) online. The report analyzes the data and insights gained from stakeholder and public feedback collected from March 2020 to March 2023. Indigenous engagement input is being shared directly with the community or organization that provided it.

The feasibility study continues to evaluate all three reservoir options. No option has been identified as a preferred option at this time. At the completion of the feasibility study, the Alberta government will consider the study findings when making a decision on if there is a preferred single option that should proceed to Phase 3: Engineering and Regulatory Approval Process.

Round 2 Engagement

The feasibility study continues to look at reservoir options in the Bow River basin upstream of Calgary. This round of engagement focuses on the Relocated Ghost Dam and Glenbow East options only:

- **Relocated Ghost Dam:** An expansion of the existing Ghost Reservoir
- **Glenbow East:** A new reservoir between Cochrane and the Bears paw Dam at the western edge of Calgary

Note: The Morley option is not ready for public engagement at this time.

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas is seeking feedback on the Bow River Reservoir Options initiative as part of the Phase 2: Feasibility Study. Your feedback will help the Alberta government assess options to mitigate the impacts of both flood and drought on the Bow River.

Environment and Protected Areas is collecting feedback, through a questionnaire, to finalize the Option Evaluation Framework. The framework will be used to enhance understanding of potential impacts and benefits of each reservoir option. Evaluation factors for the framework were developed based on the work completed by the study team as well as input gathered throughout the BRRO initiative from Indigenous communities and organizations, stakeholders, and the public.



Project Implementation & Performance Objectives Factors

- New live storage capacity – overall resilience
- Flood attenuation potential
- Drought mitigation potential
- Water management flexibility
- Implementation & operations challenges



Social Factors

- Home & building impacts
- Indigenous land use
- Historical, cultural & palaeontological site impacts
- Recreation impacts / new opportunities
- Construction period impacts
- Municipal impacts
- Park / park type, Crown land impacted



Environmental Factors

- Soil & terrain
- Vegetation
- Wetlands
- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Hydrology
- Surface water quality
- Hydrogeology (groundwater)



Economic Factors

- Total cost
- Benefit-cost assessment
- Modifications to existing major infrastructure
- Future development opportunities lost
- Site conditions additional cost risk

Find out more and participate in this engagement by visiting the [Virtual Information Centre](#). The questionnaire will be available 24/7 from April 15 through May 6, 2024. The Virtual Information Centre will continue to remain available on the BRRO initiative website after that time. Mail outs have also been sent to Indigenous communities and organizations and property owners.

Learn more at: <https://www.alberta.ca/bow-river-reservoir-options.aspx>
Contact us today at epa.bowbasin@gov.ab.ca or call 310-3773, toll-free.
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Spotlight on: Option Evaluation Framework

The Option Evaluation Framework will assist the Government of Alberta to evaluate and compare the reservoir options. The Option Evaluation Framework is a type of decision-making tool used to help evaluate complex options. It involves identifying factors (i.e. flood attenuation potential, Municipal impacts, vegetation impacts, total cost, etc.) and assigning them a numerical value of importance. This is what we are looking for public input on. The screening criteria from the [Bow River Reservoir Options–Phase 1: Conceptual Assessment \(2018-2020\)](#) were the starting point for the Option Evaluation Framework. Each factor is made up of many inputs, based on work completed by the study team as well as input provided by Indigenous communities and organizations, stakeholders, and the public.

The study team will develop metrics for each factor - a way to quantify its benefits and impacts. Each metric will have a scale, and each factor will be scored using the metric and its scale. Scoring of factors and categories will be included in the feasibility study report. Once all the individual factors have a score, they will be added up to provide an unweighted score for each category. Environment and Protected Areas will develop weightings for the categories and factors. Then, each option (in this case, each of the Bow River reservoir location options) is assessed at how well it meets each category. The scores for each category and the weighting determined by Environment and Protected Areas will help the Alberta government determine if there is a preferred single option that should proceed to Phase 3. Other information provided in the feasibility study report and other things outside the feasibility study will also be considered in making this decision.

