



Bow Basin Water Management Options

Conceptual Assessment Public Information Session

Alberta

wood.

waterSMART!
Water Management Solutions

Understanding Our Stakeholders

Place a sticker where you live or own property



Dam site locations are approximate, and may be moved upstream or downstream by as much as one kilometre, or more. Similarly, reservoir levels are approximate, and could be adjusted up or down by as much as one metre, or more.

Background

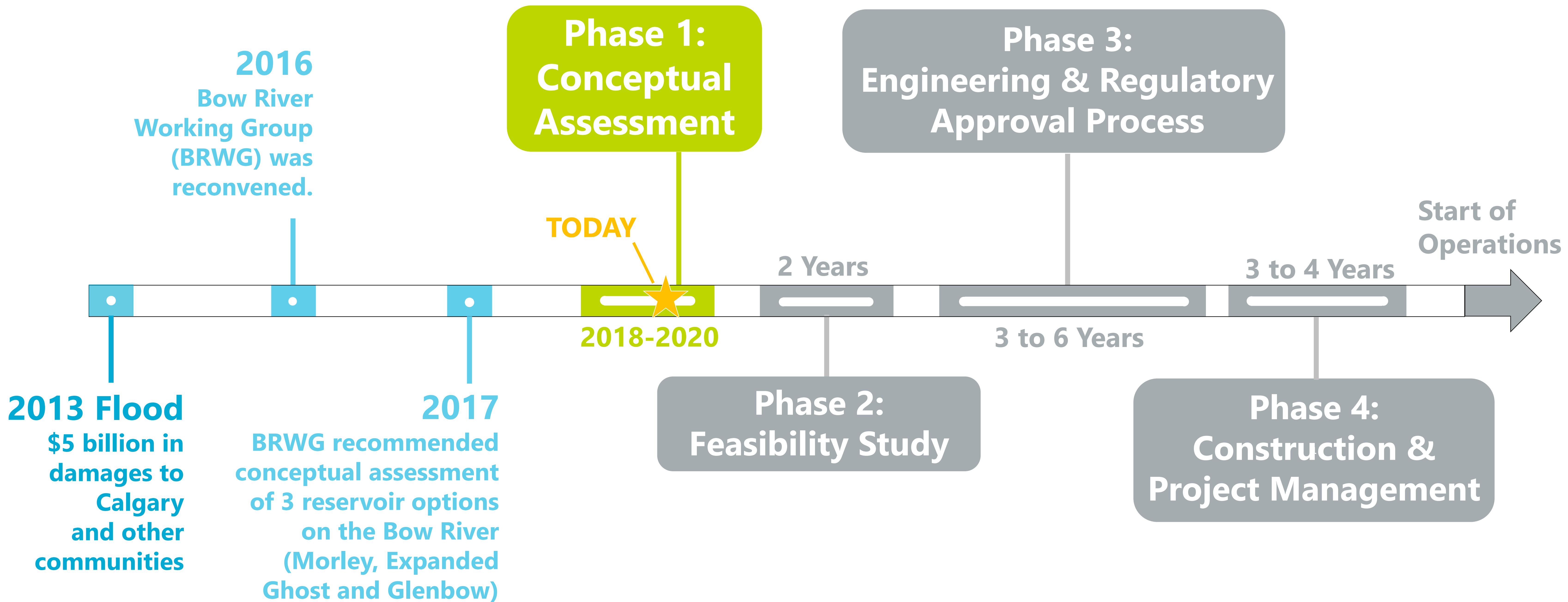
Bow River Working Group (BRWG)

The BRWG is a multi-stakeholder group of water managers and users including Provincial Ministries, Municipalities, First Nations, Non-Government Organizations, Industry and Irrigation Districts.

Following the 2013 flood, which resulted in over \$5 billion in damages, the Government of Alberta asked the BRWG to study and provide recommendations on how to reduce flood and drought risks while protecting the long-term health of the Bow River Basin. In 2017, the BRWG completed its assessment and submitted a report entitled: *"Advice to Government on Water Management in the Bow Basin"*.

As one of its findings, the BRWG identified new reservoir storage on the Bow River upstream of Calgary as a means of reducing flood and drought risk, and recommended that conceptual assessments of three options be completed: Morley Reservoir, Expanded Ghost Reservoir and Glenbow Reservoir.

Project Timeline



- Project implementation will take a minimum of 12 years.
- Findings of each project phase will be reviewed and evaluated to determine next steps, if any.

Option Assessment Process

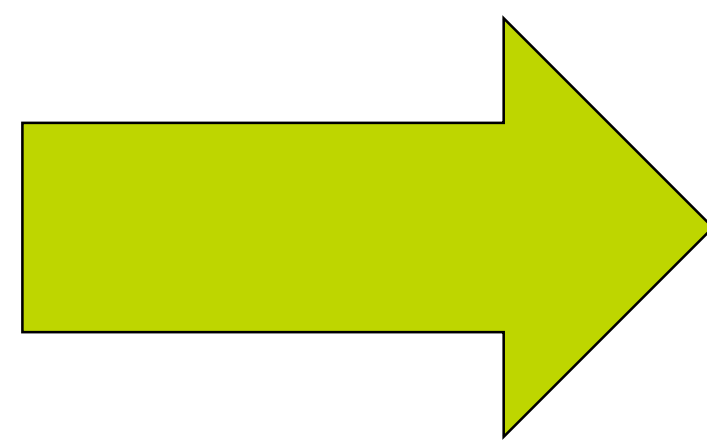
15 Options to 3 Options

3 Options

3 Options to 1 Option

1 Dam Site

1 Dam Site



Findings of each project phase will be reviewed and evaluated to determine next steps, if any.

Bow River Working Group

The Bow River Working Group (BRWG) reviewed 15 previously identified reservoir storage options within the Bow River basin upstream of Calgary, and recommended conceptual assessment of three options (Morley Reservoir, Expanded Ghost Reservoir and Glenbow Reservoir) in its 2017 "Advice to Government" report.

Phase 1: Conceptual Assessment (Current Study)

As a first step, the Conceptual Assessment rigorously reviewed potential dam site options for each of the three reservoirs (four for Morley, two for Ghost, and four for Glenbow), and a single preferred site was selected for each of the three reaches of river. The on-going study is evaluating the three reservoir options, as determined through the site screening process.

Phase 2: Feasibility Study

The Feasibility Study would evaluate the three options in more detail, and recommend a single preferred option, if any. The Feasibility Study would include geotechnical site investigations (drilling, etc.) to assess soil and bedrock conditions.

Phase 3: Engineering & Regulatory Approval Process

For the single preferred option recommended in the Feasibility Study, Phase 3 would include preliminary engineering designs, followed by detailed engineering designs and the regulatory review & approval process. This would include a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA) and formal consultation with Indigenous People and stakeholders.

Phase 4: Construction & Project Management

The final step of Phase 4 would be dam site commissioning to start reservoir operations.

An aerial photograph of a large reservoir with a dam in the center. The reservoir is surrounded by green hills and a small town on the right. In the background, there are mountains under a blue sky with white clouds.

Conceptual Assessment Objectives

Develop conceptual engineering designs for three reservoir storage options on the Bow River upstream of Calgary and, at a high level, identify potential engineering, environmental, social, economic, cultural and traditional land use factors (both positive and negative). Prepare high level estimates of development costs.

Having more reservoir water storage capacity on the Bow River would:

- Reduce the risk of future flood damage;
- Improve the availability of water, including during droughts; and
- Protect the long-term health of the river.

Typical Dam Components



Existing Ghost Dam

Earthfill dam

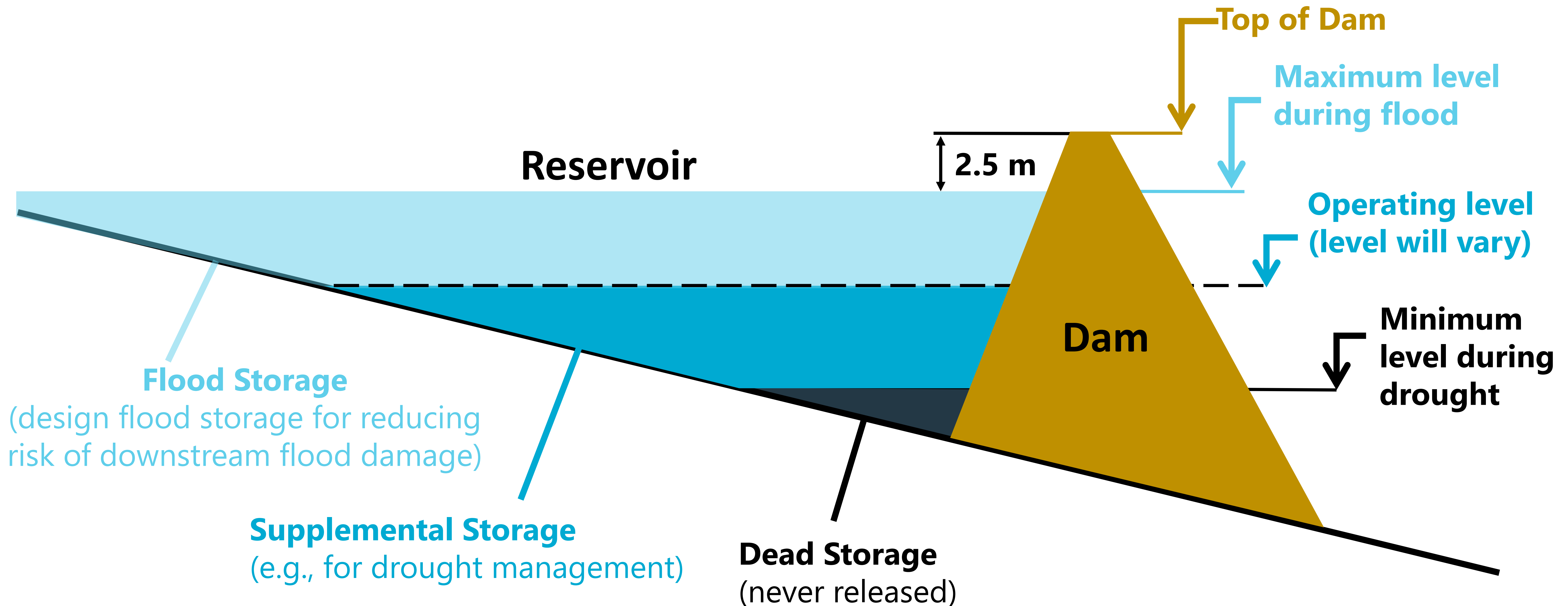
Earthfill dam

Hydropower facility

Concrete main spillway & gates

Low level outlet
(none at existing Ghost Dam)

Reservoir Storage Schematic



- Reservoir level will vary seasonally dependent on flood and drought risk. Details have not yet been established.
- Live Storage = Flood Storage + Supplemental Storage

Conceptual Assessment Scope of Work*

ENGINEERING

Hydrotechnical

Geotechnical

Conceptual Designs
and Cost Estimates

ENGAGEMENT

Indigenous

Bow River Working
Group (BRWG)

Other Direct &
Indirect Stakeholders

ENVIRONMENT

Traditional Land Use

Environmental

Environmental Desktop Conceptual Assessment

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Surface Water Quality

Industrial Land Use

Wetlands

Groundwater

Social Impacts

Vegetation

Soils

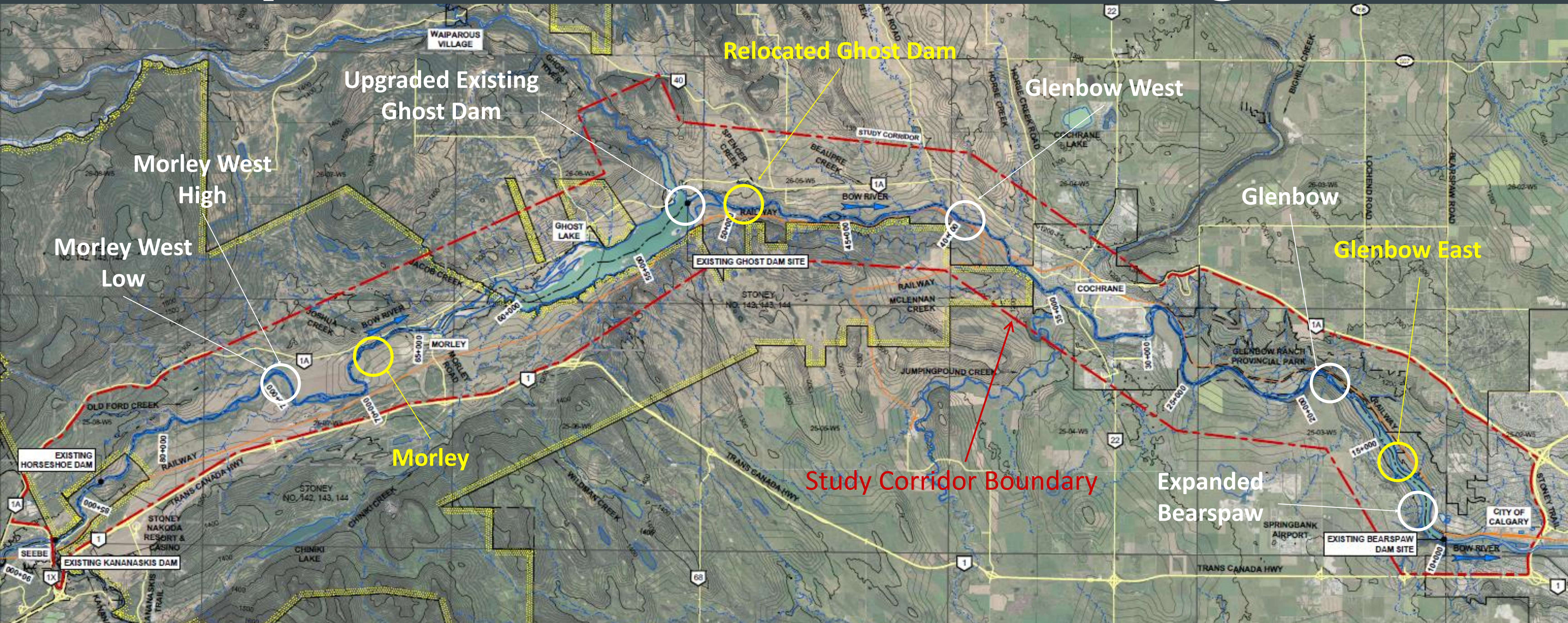
Historical Resources

Wildlife

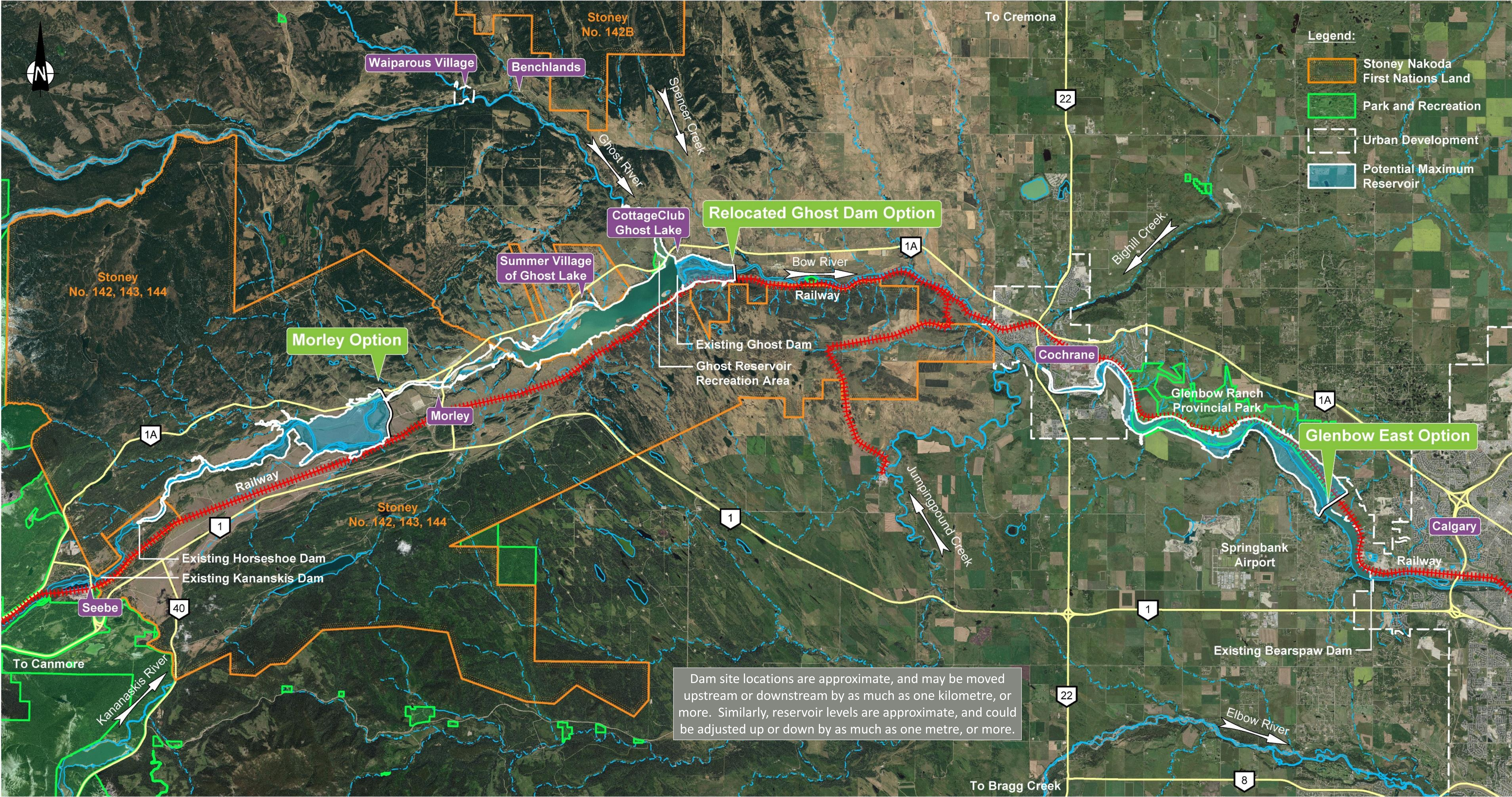
Land & Resource Use

These same disciplines would be involved in preparing an environmental impact assessment (EIA) if one of the options is selected as a preferred option in the future.

Conceptual Assessment Site Screening Process



The Study Corridor extended from Seebe to Calgary, and potential dam sites were identified. The site screening process considered reservoir storage capacity and cost, as well as incremental impacts to Indigenous lands, all homes and buildings, public and private land and infrastructure, and parks land. One preferred dam site location was selected for each reach of river (Morley, Ghost and Glenbow).



Glenbow East Option

COCHRANE

GLENBOW RANCH
PROVINCIAL PARK

SPRINGBANK HEIGHTS DRIVE

SPRINGBANK HEIGHTS WAY

RESERVOIR AT
OPERATING LEVEL

CONCRETE CHUTE SPILLWAY
C/W RADIAL GATES
AND FLIP BUCKET

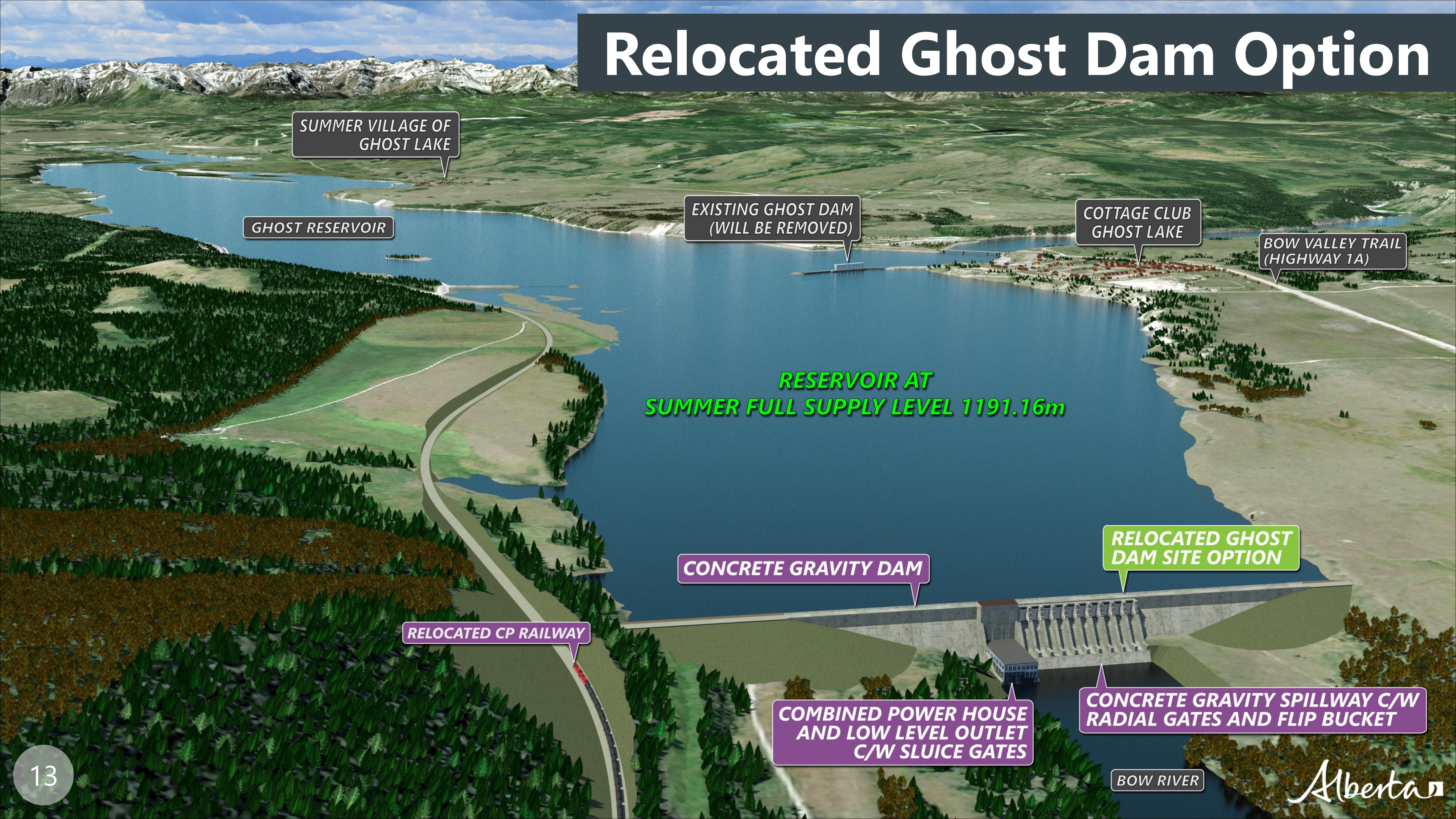
GLENBOW EAST DAM SITE OPTION

COMBINED POWER HOUSE
AND LOW LEVEL OUTLET
C/W SLUICE GATES

BEARSPAW RESERVOIR

RELOCATED CP RAILWAY

Relocated Ghost Dam Option



SUMMER VILLAGE OF GHOST LAKE

GHOST RESERVOIR

EXISTING GHOST DAM (WILL BE REMOVED)

COTTAGE CLUB GHOST LAKE

BOW VALLEY TRAIL (HIGHWAY 1A)

RESERVOIR AT SUMMER FULL SUPPLY LEVEL 1191.16m

CONCRETE GRAVITY DAM

RELOCATED GHOST DAM SITE OPTION

RELOCATED CP RAILWAY

COMBINED POWER HOUSE AND LOW LEVEL OUTLET C/W SLUICE GATES

CONCRETE GRAVITY SPILLWAY C/W RADIAL GATES AND FLIP BUCKET

BOW RIVER

Details about the Morley Option cannot be provided at this time, as the Government of Alberta is still in the process of having discussions with the Stoney Nakoda First Nation, who would be directly impacted.



Regulatory Legislation & Approvals

If one of the options being considered today is selected as a preferred option in the future, a comprehensive regulatory approval process would have to be followed before the option could be approved as a project and constructed. This would include, but not be limited to, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and formal consultation with Indigenous People and stakeholders. The regulatory approval process would be in accordance with all applicable provincial and federal legislation, policies and procedures.

Engagement Continues

- 1 The Government of Alberta wants to hear your feedback on the Conceptual Assessment information that was shared today.
- 2 Engagement will also continue through the next phases of the project, if future phases are implemented.
- 3 Engagement feedback will be reviewed and considered in all phases of the project, and project updates will be provided.

For More Information



Project website:

alberta.ca/bow-basin-water-management-options



Engagement opportunities:

TalkAEP.alberta.ca



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e-mail: AEP.bowbasin@gov.ab.ca

Your Thoughts on Bow River Water Management



Leave a note to provide comments you feel are important for consideration in the future selection process

