

Management Stage	Stage occurs when:	Management Action Options:
Stage 3: Priority Call Assessment and Administration	<p>Conditions degrade to a point where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department receives a priority call from a licensee, registrant and/or household user. The Transboundary Waters Team indicates concern the Master Agreement on Apportionment may not be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority calls received will be validated and assessed to determine what flows are available and how much allocated flow must be released downstream. If it is determined that administering the priority call will satisfy the rights of the priority caller, a water management order may be issued directing upstream junior licence holders to reduce or cease diversion.
Stage 4: Multiple Water Management Areas	<p>Conditions degrade to a point where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water shortage impacts multiple water management areas. A significant number of licensees/traditional agricultural users/household users in the water management areas are impacted and are unable to divert water. The water shortage persists or is projected to persist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the actions taken in Stage 1, 2, and 3, communication to Watershed Advisory and Planning Councils and the Intra-basin Water Coordinating Committee of the South Saskatchewan River Basin increases. A water shortage strategy is developed with input from key stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of water shortage and manage water resources in a way that meets provincial apportionment obligations, as well as the needs of water users and the aquatic environment.
Stage 5: Declaring an Emergency	<p>There is significant risk to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human health and safety due to insufficient water supply. Human health and safety due to water quality degradation as a result of insufficient flow to dilute effluent releases to a water body. There is significant stress on the health of the aquatic environment to a point where mortality occurs. Municipalities, water users, and Alberta government departments have been unable to address the extent and magnitude of the water shortage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When other options have been exhausted, consider recommending that an emergency be declared under the <i>Water Act</i> to provide additional legislative tools to manage the emergency. Adjust the water shortage management system, as outlined in Stages 1, 2 and 3, in order to implement the declaration of the emergency.

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