

Ghost Reservoir Water Levels – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are water levels at Ghost Reservoir so low?

The Alberta government has an agreement with TransAlta to modify operations at Ghost Reservoir for flood mitigation purposes. This agreement is based on a successful pilot in 2014 that involved holding the Ghost Reservoir at low levels during the high runoff season to maintain additional flood water storage. The 2015 agreement is similar but provides increased storage capacity.

2. How low do you plan to take the water level?

The normal operating level at Ghost Reservoir during May and June is approximately elevation 1189 metres. This increases to approximately 1191 metres in July.

The modified operating level is approximately elevation 1184.2 metres. Water levels are slowly being lowered and should reach approximately 1184.2 metres by May 22. Water levels may fluctuate as the Alberta government reassesses both flood risk and drought risk, but the reservoir will not drop below the minimum level of 1184.2 metres.

3. Will it be this way all summer?

No. Modified operations at Ghost Reservoir will be in place until July 7. Water levels will be slowly raised after July 7 and Ghost Reservoir should return to normal levels (1191 metres) by the third week of July. It is also possible that the Alberta government may begin slowly raising the water level at Ghost Reservoir in late June or early July, based on an assessment of flood and drought risk.

4. What impact do low water levels have on fish?

Fish in the northwest bay were moved so they would not be cut off from the main reservoir as water levels were lowered.

5. Aren't there other options to provide flood protection?

There are a number of important flood mitigation projects either planned or recently completed to provide flood protection to the City of Calgary. However, Ghost Reservoir is the best option to store flood water on the Bow River upstream of Calgary.

6. Where can I find the latest information on water levels at Ghost Reservoir?

Daily updates on water levels at reservoirs across Alberta are available on the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Development website. Go to <http://environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/Reports/index.html> for the latest information.

Information Session: Saturday, May 23 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn more about modified operations at Ghost Reservoir at our upcoming information session.

Location: Frank Wills Community Hall
405 1st Street East, Cochrane

Questions?

If you have questions regarding modified operations at Ghost Reservoir, please email MitigationSecretariat@gov.ab.ca or call 587-580-7509.