



Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation



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About the AWC

What is the AWC?

The Alberta Water Council (AWC) is a collaborative partnership that provides leadership, expertise, and sector knowledge and perspectives to help governments, Indigenous Peoples, industry, and non-government organizations to advance the outcomes of *Water for Life*.

What does the AWC do?

The Alberta Water Council's primary tasks are to advance the outcomes of *Water for Life*, provide advice that informs policy or actions, and provide a forum to discuss water perspectives.

What is *Water for Life*?

Water for Life is a provincial strategy that outlines the Government of Alberta's commitments to manage and safeguard Alberta's water resources. The strategy has 3 goals:



Safe, secure drinking water supply



Healthy aquatic ecosystems



Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

About the Project

This project's intent is to inform Alberta Environment and Protected Areas' *Drought and Water Shortage Plan* and other plans which will outline management and communication actions in times of drought.

Project Goal

To use a simulation to assist groups around the province in understanding, planning for, and managing drought preparation and response before, during, and after a drought.

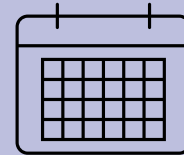
What We Found

- South Saskatchewan River Basin is vulnerable to multi-year drought
- Local communication and knowledge are key
- Drought exercises can be a place of collaboration
- Limitations of existing storage and diversions are barriers
- Careful planning is needed around demand from water users
- Uncertainty around process for entering water sharing agreements

What We Can Do About It

- Complete and share the GoA's provincial *Drought and Water Shortage Plan*
- Develop and test local drought plans
- Complete an additional exercise for the Bow River sub-basin
- Create a drought exercise package
- Improve groundwater knowledge
- Investigate infrastructure and non-structural solutions
- Consider reviewing CEP plans
- Create guidance for water sharing agreements
- Clarify current policy tools

The Simulation



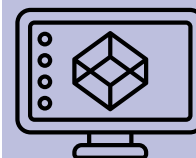
WHEN
June 2022



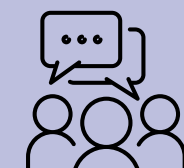
AREA OF FOCUS
South Saskatchewan River Basin



HISTORICAL BASIS
Droughts of 1977 and 2001



MODEL
South Saskatchewan River Operational Model



ATTENDEES
40 participants & observers from 18 organizations