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What is a Water Reserve?

A *Water Reserve* is the means by which the Government of British Columbia through an order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council can define the public interest and set priorities for future allocation of water from a stream, or within all or part of a drainage system.

Water Reserves are established by Order-in-Council and withhold all, or part, of the unrecorded water of a stream from being diverted and used under a water licence.

A Water Reserve may:

- enable a person to investigate the suitability of a stream for any purpose;
- make provision for a water supply for a waterworks, irrigation or power purpose;
- hold water for the use of the Crown for any purpose; or
- affect a treaty entitlement of a First Nation.