

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Principal Facts for Gravity Stations  
in the Stillwater Complex, Montana

by

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This report is preliminary and has not  
been reviewed for conformity with  
U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards.

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## Contents

	Page
Introduction .....	1
Data collection .....	1
Elevation control .....	1
Data reduction .....	2
References cited .....	3

## Illustration

Figure 1 - Location Map showing Stillwater Complex survey area, Montana .....	5
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## Appendices

A: Three Forks base description .....	6
B: Fishtail base description .....	7
C: Principal facts of gravity data .....	8
D: Elevation accuracies .....	11

## Introduction

The Archean Stillwater Complex is a classic example of a stratified basic intrusion, and is located in southern Montana about 50 km north of Yellowstone National Park. In August, 1979, 17 new gravity stations were established to augment the data gathered during three previous gravity surveys by Don Peterson (written commun.) collected in 1972-1974. This report includes the principal facts for both the 1979 survey and the previously unpublished 1974 survey.

## Data Collection

Gravity observations were made using a LaCoste-Romberg gravity meter (G-235) for the 1979 survey, and a Worden meter (E-393) for the 1974 survey. The stations were referenced to the Department of Defense base in Three Forks, Montana, which is part of the International Gravity Standardization Net (IGSN), 1971, established by the Defense Mapping Aerospace Center, 1974. A secondary base was established in Fishtail, Montana, and tied to the DOD base in Three Forks. Complete base descriptions are included at the end of this report. Gravity loops were started and closed for daily drift corrections at these bases.

## Elevation Control

The survey area is bounded by latitudes  $45^{\circ} 0'$  to  $45^{\circ} 40'$  north and longitudes  $110^{\circ} 10'$  to  $110^{\circ} 50'$  west and is located on the Bozeman and Billings U.S. Geological Survey topographic  $1^{\circ} \times 2^{\circ}$  quadrangles. Most of the station elevations were obtained from benchmarks, spot elevations, or section corners found on 1:24,000 and 1:62,500 scale USGS topographic maps. Station elevations marked in Appendix C with a single dot preceding the station identification were estimated from maps having 40 ft contour intervals. Station elevations with double dots were estimated from maps having 50 ft contour intervals.

For elevations based on bench marks, the uncertainty is assumed to be .15 m; for spot elevations and section corners with map elevations, the uncertainty is assumed to be one-third of the contour interval. At a contour interval of 50 ft. (15 m) this gives an uncertainty of 16.6 ft (5 m). For elevations based on topographic map contours, the uncertainty is assumed to be one-half of the contour interval. Stations with a single dot have an elevation uncertainty of 20 ft (6.1 m). Stations with double dots have an elevation uncertainty of 25 ft (7.5 m). At a density of  $2.67 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , the elevation uncertainties translate to uncertainties in Bouguer values as .2 mgal/m. The maximum uncertainty in the survey for stations estimated from 50 ft. contours is 1.5 mgal. Specific elevation uncertainties for each station are included in Appendix D.

#### Data Reduction

Computer programs existing on the USGS Honeywell Multics computer system were used to obtain principal facts and terrain-corrected gravity values. A program written by D. Dansereau and R. Wahl (unpub. data) was used to reduce gravity meter readings to observed gravity values by calculating and correcting for earth-tide and linear meter-drift. The theoretical gravity value was calculated using the 1967 formula of the Geodetic Reference System (International Association of Geodesy, 1967)

Hand terrain corrections were calculated from each station out to a radius of .895 km (Hammer zones A through F). Complete terrain corrections were then computed using program Bouguer by R. H. Godson (unpub. data), correcting for the terrain from .895 km to a radius of 166.7 km from each station, using the method of Plouff (1977). These computed terrain corrections are based on mean elevation data digitized on a 30-second grid for corrections from .895 to 5 km; 1-minute terrain data for corrections from 5 to 21 km; and 3-minute terrain data for corrections from 21 to 166.7 km. An

assumed density of  $2.67 \text{ g/cm}^3$  was used to calculate terrain corrections. This program also calculates earth curvature corrections and complete (terrain-corrected) Bouguer anomaly values. Two complete Bouguer anomaly values per station were obtained using average rock densities of  $2.67 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and  $2.50 \text{ g/cm}^3$ . The corrections and anomaly values are listed in Appendix C.

### References cited

- Defense Mapping Agency Aerospace Center, 1974, World relative gravity reference network, North America, Part 2: DMAAC Reference Publication 25 with supplement updating gravity values to the International Gravity Standardization Net 1971, 1635 p.
- Hammer, S., 1939, Terrain corrections for gravimeter stations: Geophysics v.4, pp. 184-194.
- International Association of Geodesy, 1967, Geodetic reference system, 1967, International Association of Geodesy Special Publication 3, 74 p.
- Plouff, D., 1977, Preliminary documentation for a FORTRAN program to compute gravity terrain corrections based on topography digitized on a geographic grid: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 77-535.

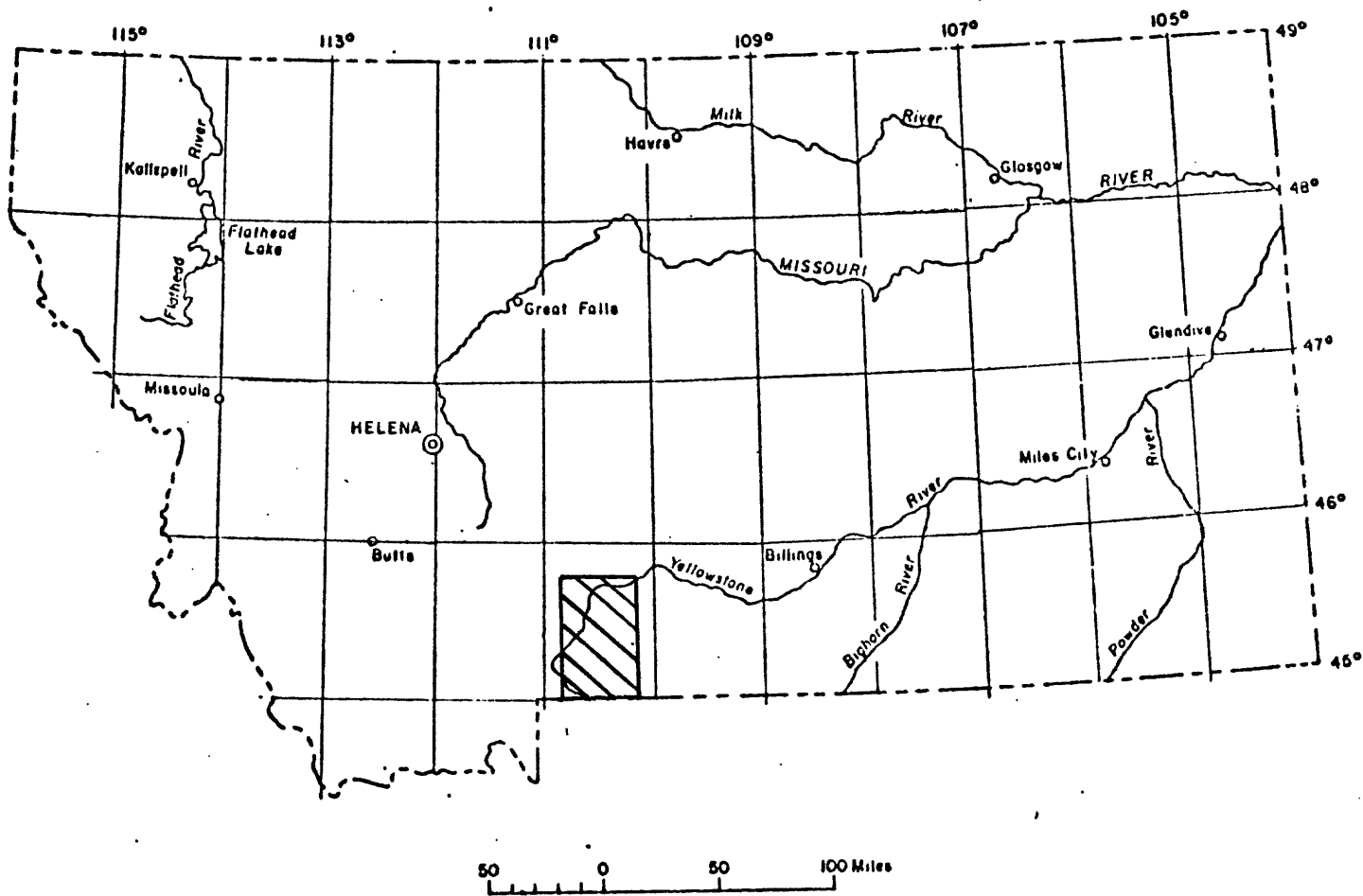


Figure 1: Location map of Stillwater Complex, Montana, area of gravity survey.

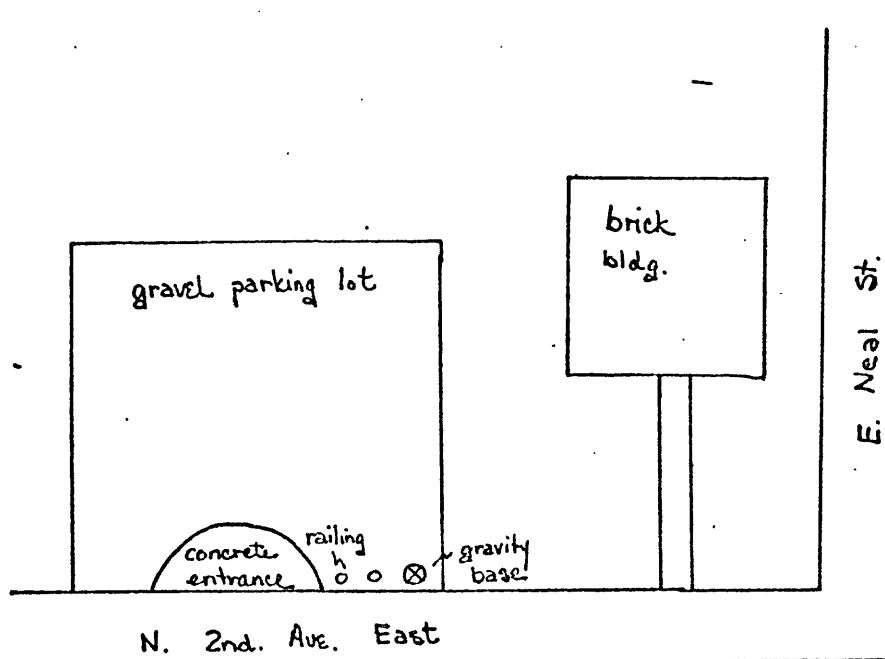
# Appendix A

## U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY GRAVITY BASE STATION

STATE/COUNTRY MONTANA		STATION DESIGNATION THREE FORKS DOD		OBSERVED GRAVITY 980290.09 mgal
NEAREST TOWN THREE FORKS		LONGITUDE 111°33.25'		LATITUDE 45°53.75'
ELEVATION 4080 ft (1243.8 m)		TOPOGRAPHIC MAP(S) Bozeman 2°		
DATE	OBSERVER	METER	REFERENCE STATION	REFERENCE VALUE
			ACIC 1231-0	
			IGC 15651-J	

### DESCRIPTION/SKETCH

Station is located in front of the remains of the Three Forks consolidated school in Three Forks, MT, at the northwest corner of North 2nd Ave. East and East Neal St. Base is 0.6 m east of the iron railing posts at the concrete entrance.



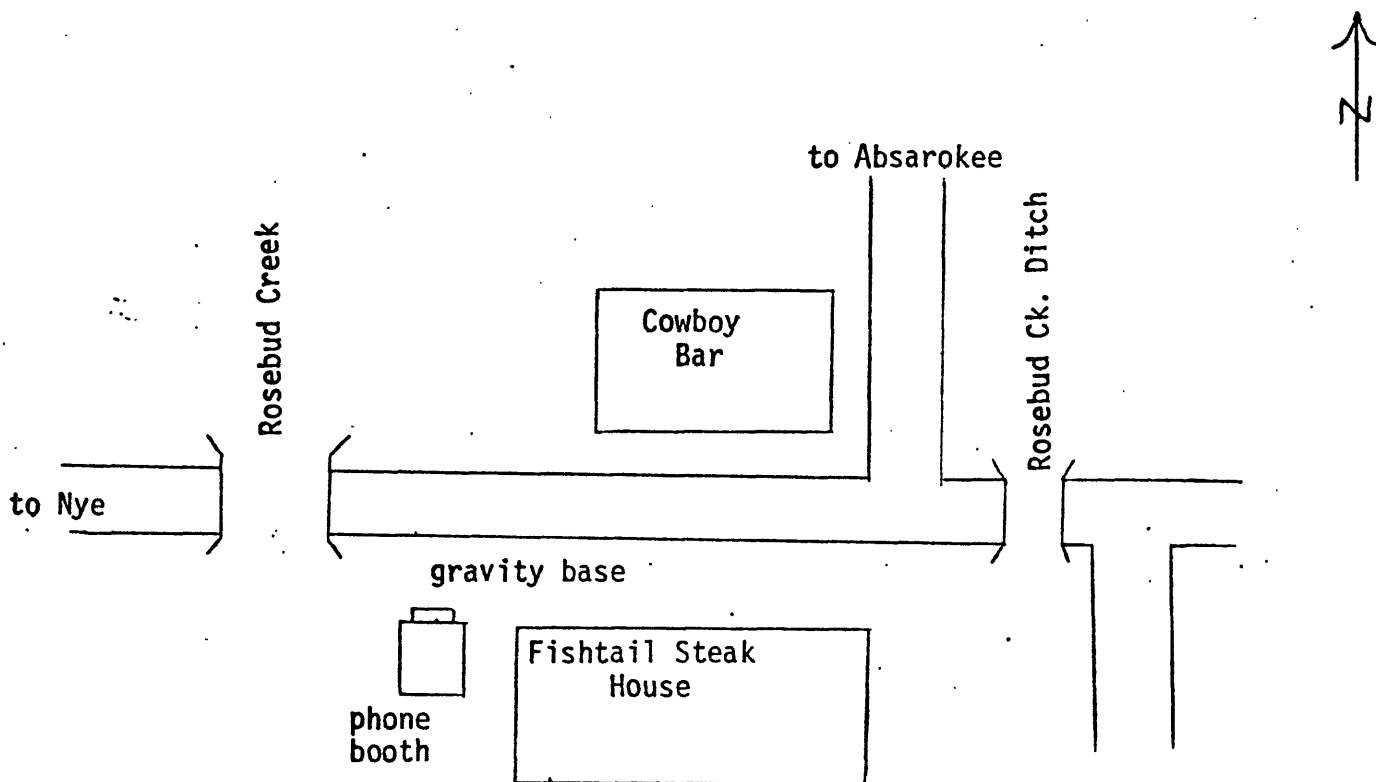
# Appendix B

## U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY GRAVITY BASE STATION

STATE/COUNTRY Montana		STATION DESIGNATION Fishtail		OBSERVED GRAVITY 980247.29 mgal.
NEAREST TOWN Fishtail		LONGITUDE 109° 30.50'		LATITUDE 45° 27.50'
ELEVATION 1337 m (4455') est.		TOPOGRAPHIC MAP(S) Bozeman 1° x 2° ; Fishtail 7 1/2'		
DATE	OBSERVER	METER	REFERENCE STATION	REFERENCE VALUE
9/2/79	McBride	g-235	Columbus DOD	980316.58 mgal

### DESCRIPTION/SKETCH

The gravity base is located on the concrete floor of a public telephone booth on the west side of the Fishtail Steak House. The base is in the northeast corner of the booth (inside).



## Appendix g: Principal Facts of Gravity Data

### Explanation of headings

#### Identification

proj	Project name.
sta id	Gravity identification.

#### Location

latitude	North latitude in degrees, minutes, and hundredths of minutes.
longitude	West longitude in degrees, minutes, and hundredths of minutes.
ele	Station elevation in feet.
st	State where station is located.

#### Gravity

observed	Observed gravity in milligals.
theoretical	Theoretical gravity.

#### Corrections

terrain	Terrain correction out to 166.7km in milligals.
Bouguer	Elevation correction in milligals.
curv	Curvature correction in milligals.
special	Not used.

#### Anomalies

free-air	Free-air anomaly in milligals.
complete-Bouguer	Complete Bouguer anomaly in milligals for designated densities.
spec fields	Not used.

stillwater complex gravity  
1979 data, and 1974 Peterson data  
Meter ID: G-235 Date: 11/24/81

STATION		L U C A T I O N		G P A V I T Y		C O R P E C T I O N S		A N O M A L I E S																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
IDENTIFICATION		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		ELE		ST		UNRESERVED		THEORETICAL		IFRAIN		BOUGUER		CURV		SPECIAL		FREE		COMPLIE-BOUGUER		SPEC																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
proj		sta-id		deg		min		deg		min		(in ft)		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min		deg		min	

8-10

stillwater complex gravity  
1979 data, and 1974 Peterson data  
Meter ID: G-235 Date: 11/24/81

STATION	LONGITUDE	C	A	T	I	N	S	GRAVITY	CORRECTION	FREE	NOMINAL	SPE-
proi	sta-id	deg	min	deg	min	ELE	ST	OBSERVED	IFRATN	AIR	COMPLETE	FIELDS
	181	45	26.91	-110	26.78	10125.0	mt	979866.74	17.63	158.62	-170.24	-182.55
	182	45	28.10	-110	21.98	6238.0	mt	980103.18	6.51	28.00	-179.76	-187.54
	Livingst	45	39.75	-110	33.75	6000.0	mt	980231.11	1.15	116.13	-88.86	-96.54

## BOUGUER GRAVITY DATA

stillwater complex gravity

Bankey &amp; McBride

Meter ID: G-235

Date: 06/02/80

STATION IDENTIFICATION		L U C A T I O N S		G R A V I T Y		C O R R E C T I O N S		A N O M A L I E S	
proj	sta-id	LATITUDE deg min	LONGITUDE deg min	OBSERVED	THEORETICAL	TERRAIN BOUGUER CURV	SPECIAL	FREE AIR	COMPLETE-BOUGUER
			(in ft)						
	f1	45 25.20	-110 5.19	979979.44	980657.06	4.02	-297.99	-1.39	143.54
	f2	45 26.69	-110 3.30	979953.62	980659.61	6.38	-329.03	-1.25	140.64
	f3	45 28.03	-110 2.74	979977.34	980661.41	9.67	-305.87	-1.36	158.80
	f4	45 30.72	-110 1.49	979934.71	980665.39	15.46	-317.03	-1.31	142.89
	f5	45 26.56	-109 48.41	980216.86	980659.11	3.53	-165.25	-1.39	13.24
	f6	45 25.46	-109 50.65	980205.47	980657.45	5.18	-167.06	-1.40	8.49
	f7	45 23.31	-109 52.39	980191.37	980654.21	8.38	-163.18	-1.40	0.75
	f8	45 21.62	-109 53.60	980141.72	980651.66	6.83	-162.61	-1.45	-6.62
	f9	45 29.56	-110 2.02	980090.54	980663.79	3.05	-234.01	-1.52	60.66
	f10	45 32.29	-110 1.06	979990.54	980667.76	12.13	-288.96	-1.43	119.05
	f11	45 31.82	-110 1.23	979974.03	980667.05	13.32	-296.73	-1.40	124.67
	f12	45 37.50	-110 8.11	980212.21	980675.62	1.97	-167.67	-1.40	-1.24
	f13	45 34.52	-110 11.90	980208.93	980671.12	3.09	-168.18	-1.40	1.39
	f14	45 31.90	-110 12.82	980192.11	980667.17	5.67	-176.53	-1.43	10.98
	f15	45 28.88	-110 12.64	980174.42	980662.61	6.74	-179.74	-1.44	7.24
	f16	45 20.49	-110 13.89	980069.87	980649.95	7.15	-209.49	-1.50	-2.72
	f17	45 17.26	-110 14.52	980047.46	980645.09	6.42	-219.62	-1.51	7.69
	f18	45 37.11	-110 23.98	980171.29	980675.02	2.18	-197.92	-1.48	41.78
	f19	45 36.92	-110 21.52	980195.25	980674.74	3.57	-182.75	-1.45	24.21
	f20	45 36.24	-110 20.01	980184.17	980673.71	3.26	-181.96	-1.45	12.00
	f21	45 36.38	-110 18.35	980152.69	980673.92	1.80	-209.49	-1.50	56.13
	f22	45 36.39	-110 17.37	980164.97	980673.94	1.64	-202.60	-1.49	49.42
	f23	45 36.41	-110 16.21	980176.67	980673.97	1.80	-196.83	-1.48	45.21
	f24	45 36.63	-110 14.11	980200.94	980674.30	1.39	-183.46	-1.45	32.31
	f25	45 36.38	-110 18.35	980152.53	980673.92	1.80	-209.49	-1.50	55.93
	f26	45 35.27	-110 15.30	980192.52	980672.25	2.53	-185.95	-1.46	52.81
	f27	45 34.39	-110 16.40	980187.77	980670.92	2.85	-186.63	-1.46	51.20
	f28	45 33.68	-110 17.40	980180.66	980669.85	3.42	-186.41	-1.46	50.11
	f29	45 35.67	-110 27.32	980015.37	980672.85	10.14	-263.09	-1.44	122.62
	f30	45 27.64	-110 19.25	979863.59	980660.74	15.65	-354.20	-1.10	178.79
	f31	45 21.60	-110 18.61	979806.67	980651.63	19.23	-364.84	-1.02	150.20
	f32	45 21.70	-110 16.42	979828.57	980651.78	16.33	-354.85	-1.09	154.51
	f33	45 18.44	-110 16.21	979903.43	980646.87	5.15	-314.26	-1.53	122.53
	f34	45 16.58	-110 11.65	979847.64	980647.08	13.26	-342.30	-1.17	143.75
	f35	45 15.84	-110 12.13	979877.57	980642.95	4.78	-324.87	-1.27	129.80
	f36	45 17.18	-110 16.74	979849.80	980644.96	9.71	-338.01	-1.20	137.66
	f37	45 26.91	-110 26.78	979880.44	980659.64	17.63	-345.33	-1.15	172.32
	f38	45 26.19	-110 21.98	980116.88	980661.57	6.51	-212.76	-1.51	41.70

beartooth absaroka wilderness  
d. peterson

STATION		L U C A T I O N S		G R A V I T Y		C O R R E C T I O N S		A N O M A L I E S	
IDENTIFICATION	proj	sta-id	LATITUDE		ELE	ST	TERRAIN BOUGUER CURV	FREE AIR	COMPLETE-BOUGUER SPEC
			deg	min	(in ft)				
north	b72	45 16.04	-109 58.98	10147.0	mt	9794843.55	12.14	152.99	-182.11 -160.77
north	b73	45 14.01	-109 59.49	10583.0	mt	9794830.54	12.55	176.44	-173.01 -150.76
north	b74	45 19.69	-110 5.00	10130.0	mt	9794851.40	11.41	154.60	-180.64 -159.30
north	b75	45 14.55	-110 7.26	10936.0	mt	9797944.84	14.24	173.98	-185.73 -162.82
north	b76	45 21.00	-110 8.92	9394.0	mt	979910.95	4.53	142.66	-174.08 -154.47
north	b77	45 17.09	-110 7.97	9038.0	mt	979482.40	4.87	143.82	-181.29 -160.59
north	b84	45 10.12	-109 45.49	9580.0	mt	979489.60	7.59	146.56	-173.84 -153.44
north	b85	45 18.48	-109 53.24	10082.0	mt	9794860.12	13.26	100.00	-171.10 -149.97
north	b86	45 19.42	-109 51.00	10251.0	mt	9794851.16	11.40	166.18	-173.12 -151.52
north	b120	45 10.28	-109 55.08	10187.0	mt	9794843.87	13.52	157.61	-177.46 -150.13
north	b121	45 17.99	-109 49.69	11356.0	mt	979778.76	10.49	199.71	-171.95 -146.29
north	b122	45 10.94	-110 4.28	9270.0	mt	979910.54	7.31	137.16	-173.02 -153.27
north	l01	45 35.67	-110 27.32	8300.0	mt	980017.87	10.14	125.12	-149.27 -131.80
north	l02	45 34.12	-110 26.32	9180.0	mt	979956.52	13.45	148.77	-152.21 -133.05
north	l03	45 33.21	-110 24.39	9180.0	mt	979954.77	12.21	148.40	-153.63 -134.59
north	l04	45 33.06	-110 22.80	9300.0	mt	979936.04	16.74	140.25	-161.51 -142.30
north	l05	45 32.05	-110 19.71	6755.0	mt	980105.87	5.79	72.23	-153.59 -139.49
north	l06	45 30.82	-110 20.17	5761.0	mt	980148.83	7.61	24.80	-105.50 -153.38
north	l07	45 30.34	-110 16.24	8526.0	mt	980006.10	0.95	142.82	-142.44 -124.28
north	l08	45 23.32	-110 17.68	10170.0	mt	9794860.30	12.23	174.28	-161.51 -140.13
north	l09	45 25.75	-110 16.01	9450.0	mt	979919.99	10.56	150.79	-162.45 -142.50
north	l10	45 31.18	-110 18.91	6260.0	mt	980130.13	3.91	54.39	-157.40 -143.92
north	l42	45 30.49	-110 26.92	9112.0	mt	979958.16	9.62	149.51	-153.00 -133.74
north	l43	45 29.89	-110 23.73	9125.0	mt	979949.94	8.05	143.40	-161.11 -141.72
north	l44	45 29.22	-110 28.01	8932.0	mt	979903.09	8.45	139.44	-158.12 -139.17
north	l45	45 25.56	-110 29.00	9030.0	mt	979935.33	10.01	126.40	-172.33 -153.31
north	l46	45 24.39	-110 28.23	9122.0	mt	979933.16	9.75	134.65	-160.07 -146.79
north	l47	45 21.40	-110 24.82	9975.0	mt	979480.23	9.24	155.59	-170.58 -155.43
north	l48	45 23.14	-110 21.68	8947.0	mt	979937.73	6.52	124.67	-175.33 -156.23
north	l49	45 20.52	-110 21.60	9325.0	mt	979913.36	5.21	159.75	-174.40 -154.40

## Appendix D

station	accurate within (meters)
---------	-----------------------------

F1	0.15
F2	1.5
F3	1.5
F4	1.2
F5	1.5
F6	1.5
F7	1.5
F8	1.5
F9	0.15
F10	1.2
F11	6.0
F12	0.15
F13	1.5
F14	0.15
F15	1.5
F16	0.15
F17	0.15
B72	1.5
B73	1.5
B74	7.5
B75	1.5
B76	1.5
B77	1.5
B84	1.5*
B85	1.5*
B86	1.5
B120	1.5
B121	1.5
B122	1.5*
L1	6.0
L2	6.0
L3	1.2
L4	6.0
L5	0.6
L6	0.6
L7	0.6
L8	1.5
L9	1.5*
L10	3.0
L42	0.15
L43	7.5
L44	7.5
L45	7.5
L46	1.5*
L47	7.5
L48	1.5*
L49	7.5
L59	1.2
L61	0.6
L62	0.6
L63	0.15
L64	0.6
L65	0.15
L66	0.15
L67	0.15
L68	0.6
L69	0.6

station	accurate within (meters)
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L71	6.0
L72	1.5
L73	1.5
L74	0.15
L75	1.5
L76	1.5
L77	7.5
L78	1.5
L81	7.5
L82	0.15

\*: indicates station elevation  
at lake level