

# Ground-Water Resources of Sheridan County, Wyoming

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER-SUPPLY PAPER 1807

*Prepared in cooperation with the  
Wyoming State Engineer*



U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION  
AUG 15 1965

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By MARLIN E. LOWRY and T. RAY CUMMINGS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

STEWART L. UDALL, *Secretary*

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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# GROUND-WATER RESOURCES OF SHERIDAN COUNTY WYOMING

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## ABSTRACT

Sheridan County is in the north-central part of Wyoming and is an area of about 2,500 square miles. The western part of the county is in the Bighorn Mountains, and the eastern part is in the Powder River structural basin. Principal streams are the Powder and Tongue Rivers, which are part of the Yellowstone River system. The climate is semiarid, and the mean annual precipitation at Sheridan is about 16 inches.

Rocks of Precambrian age are exposed in the central part of the Bighorn Mountains, and successively younger rocks are exposed eastward. Rocks of Tertiary age, which are the most widespread, are exposed throughout a large part of the Powder River structural basin. Deposits of Quaternary age underlie the flood plains and terraces along the larger streams, particularly in the western part of the basin.

Aquifers of pre-Tertiary age are exposed in the western part of the county, but they dip steeply and are deeply buried just a few miles east of their outcrop. Aquifers that might yield large supplies of water include the Bighorn Dolomite, Madison Limestone, Amsden Formation, and Tensleep Sandstone. The Flathead Sandstone, Sundance Formation, Morrison Formation, Cloverly Formation, Newcastle Sandstone, Frontier Formation, Parkman Sandstone, Bearpaw Shale, and Lance Formation may yield small or, under favorable conditions, moderate supplies of water.

Few wells tap aquifers of pre-Tertiary age, and these are restricted to the outcrop area. The meager data available indicate that the water from the Lance Formation, Bearpaw Shale, Parkman Sandstone, Tensleep Sandstone and Amsden Formation, and Flathead Sandstone is of suitable quality for domestic or stock purposes, and that water from the Tensleep Sandstone and Amsden Formation and the Flathead Sandstone is of good quality for irrigation. Samples could not be obtained from other aquifers of pre-Tertiary age; so the quality of water in these aquifers could not be determined.

Adequate supplies of ground water for stock or domestic use can be developed throughout much of the report area from the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations of Tertiary age; larger supplies might be obtained from the coarse-grained sandstone facies of the Wasatch Formation near Moncreiffe Ridge. Four aquifer tests were made at wells tapping formations of Tertiary age, and the coefficients of permeability determined ranged from 2.5 to 7.9 gallons per day per square foot. The depths to which wells must be drilled to penetrate an aquifer differ within relatively short distances because of the lenticularity of the aquifers.

Water in aquifers of Tertiary age may occur under water-table, artesian, or a combination of artesian and gas-lift conditions.

Water from the Fort Union is usable for domestic purposes, but the iron and dissolved-solids content impair the quality at some localities. Water from the Fort Union Formation is not recommended for irrigation because of sodium and bicarbonate content. The water is regarded as good to fair for stock use. Water from the Wasatch Formation generally contains dissolved solids in excess of the suggested domestic standards, but this water is usable in the absence of other supplies. The development of irrigation supplies from the Wasatch Formation may be possible in some areas, but the water quality should be carefully checked. Water of good to very poor quality for stock supplies is obtained, depending upon the location. Hydrogen sulfide, commonly present in water of the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations, becomes an objectionable characteristic when the water is used for human consumption.

Deposits of Quaternary age generally yield small to moderate supplies of water to wells. Two pumping tests were conducted, and the coefficients of permeability of the aquifers tested were 380 and 1,100 gallons per day per square foot. Usable supplies of ground water can be developed from the deposits of Quaternary age, principally along the valleys of perennial streams that head in the mountains and from terraces in the western part of the county; the thickest known deposit of alluvium is in the valley of Dutch Creek, which heads in the Powder River structural basin. Water from the alluvium is usable as a stock supply but has objectionable characteristics for domestic and irrigation use.

Recharge to ground-water reservoirs is from precipitation and seepage from streams and irrigation. Recharge conditions are generally better in the western part of the basin, where precipitation is greater and where there are more perennial streams and irrigated lands. Discharge from the ground-water reservoirs is by seepage to streams, evaporation, transpiration, and by wells and springs.

## INTRODUCTION

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Sheridan County, Wyo., which is in the north-central part of the State, is an area of approximately 2,500 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Montana, and on the south, east, and west by the Wyoming Counties of Johnson, Campbell, and Big Horn, respectively. The west boundary is also the drainage divide of the Bighorn Mountains.

The area of this project and other areas in the State for which information on ground water is available, or where work is in progress, are shown in figure 1.

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION

The purpose of this investigation was to determine the occurrence, quality, and availability of ground water, the character and extent of the water-bearing formations, and the possibilities of developing water supplies for domestic, stock, irrigation, industrial, and municipal uses.

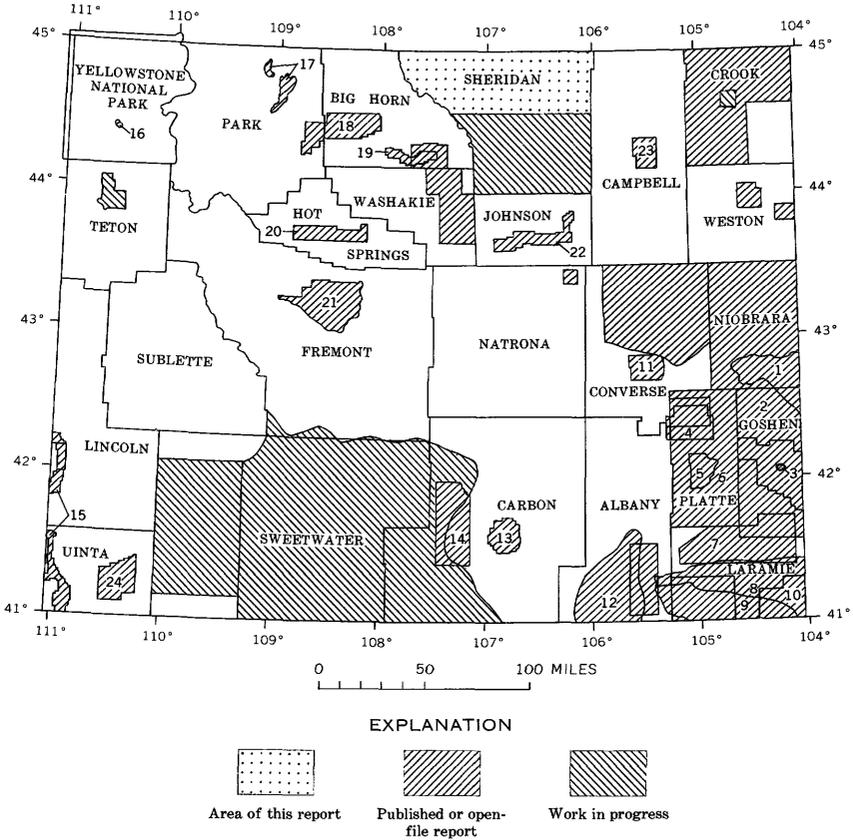


FIGURE 1.—Report area and other areas in which ground-water investigations have been made or where ground-water work is in progress.

The investigation was started in the fall of 1959 as part of the program of the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the office of the Wyoming State Engineer. The ground-water study was under the supervision of E. D. Gordon, district geologist of the Geological Survey for Wyoming. The quality-of-water studies were made under the supervision of T. F. Hanly, district engineer of the Geological Survey for Wyoming.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The geology and ground-water conditions in Sheridan County were first described in a reconnaissance study by Darton (1905). Warner (1946) described ground-water conditions in the vicinity of Ran- chester, Wyo., in an open-file report of the Geological Survey. Nu- merous geologic investigations made in the area proved most useful

in the present investigation, and these are cited elsewhere in this report.

Reports for numbered areas have been published by the U.S. Geological Survey as water-supply papers (WSP) or circulars (Cir). (See list below.) Reports for other areas have been released as open-file reports of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Number in fig. 1	U.S. Geol. Survey pub.	Author	Year
1	WSP 1368-----	Bradley, Edward-----	1956
2	WSP 1377-----	Rapp, J. R., and others-----	1957
	WSP 70-----	Adams, G. I.-----	1902
3	Cir 238-----	Visher, F. N., and Babcock, H. M.-----	1953
4	Cir 163-----	Rapp, J. R., and Babcock, H. M.-----	1953
5	Cir 70-----	Littleton, R. T.-----	1950
6	WSP 1490-----	Babcock, H. M., and Morris, D. A.-----	1960
7	Cir 162-----	Babcock, H. M., and Rapp, J. R.-----	1952
8	WSP 1483-----	Bjorkland, L. J.-----	1959
	WSP 425-B-----	Meinzer, O. E.-----	1919
9	WSP 1367-----	Babcock, H. M., and Bjorkland, L. J.-----	1956
10	WSP 1140-----	Rapp, J. R., and others-----	1953
11	Cir 243-----	Rapp, J. R.-----	1953
12	Cir 80-----	Littleton, R. T.-----	1950
13	Cir 188-----	Visher, F. N.-----	1953
14	WSP 1458-----	Berry, D. W.-----	1960
15	WSP 1539-V-----	Robinove, C. J., and Berry, D. W.-----	1963
16	WSP 1475-F-----	Gordon, E. D., and others-----	1962
17	WSP 1418-----	Swenson, F. A.-----	1957
18	WSP 1596-----	Robinove, C. J., and Langford, R. H.-----	1963
19	Cir 96-----	Swenson, F. A., and Bach, W. K.-----	1951
20	WSP 1519-----	Berry, D. W., and Littleton, R. T.-----	1961
21	WSP 1375-----	Morris D. A., and others-----	1959
22	WSP 1360-E-----	Kohout, G. A.-----	1957
23	Cir 76-----	Littleton, R. T.-----	1950
24	WSP 1669-E-----	Robinove, C. J., and Cummings, T. R.-----	1963

#### METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

A network of observation wells was established during the spring of 1960, and measurements were made monthly through October 1961. Of the records collected on wells and springs, only 301 were tabulated for use in this report; however, all the data available were used in the conclusions and general statements regarding ground water. Samples of ground water were analyzed in Geological Survey laboratories. Test holes were augered at three sites to determine thickness and physical character of alluvial deposits. Well locations were recorded on

aerial photographs and transferred to a base map, adapted from the Sheridan County general highway map which had been prepared by the Wyoming Highway Department.

#### WELL-NUMBERING SYSTEM

Wells, springs, and test holes are numbered according to the Federal system of land subdivision. Each well number shows the location of the well by township, range, section, and location within the section (fig. 2).

The first numeral of a well number indicates the township; the second, the range; and the third, the section in which the well is located. Lowercase letters following each section number indicate the position of the well in that section. The first letter denotes the quarter section; the second letter, the quarter-quarter section; and the third letter, the quarter-quarter-quarter section (10 acre tract). The subdivisions of a section are lettered a, b, c, and d in a counterclockwise direction, starting in the northeast quarter. If more than one well is listed in a 10-acre tract, consecutive numbers, starting with one, are added to the well numbers.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writers are indebted to many persons who contributed information and assistance. C. T. Reid and Carl Ritola furnished information on wells they had drilled in the area. Many other residents of Sheridan County supplied information regarding their wells and gave permission for various measurements and tests.

#### GEOGRAPHY

##### LANDFORMS AND DRAINAGE

Sheridan County lies within two topographic provinces: the Big-horn Mountains and the Powder River structural basin. In this report the boundary between the provinces is arbitrarily defined as the top of the Tensleep Sandstone of Pennsylvanian age. The Tensleep and older formations, which consist predominantly of resistant sandstone, limestone, and dolomite, constitute the flank of the mountains. Formations younger than the Tensleep, which are composed predominantly of shale and siltstone, have been eroded to a comparatively low surface in the basin.

Altitudes in the Powder River structural basin range from about 4,780 feet at the head of Buffalo Creek to about 3,460 feet where the Tongue River crosses the Montana State line. The highest point in the county is about 11,000 feet.

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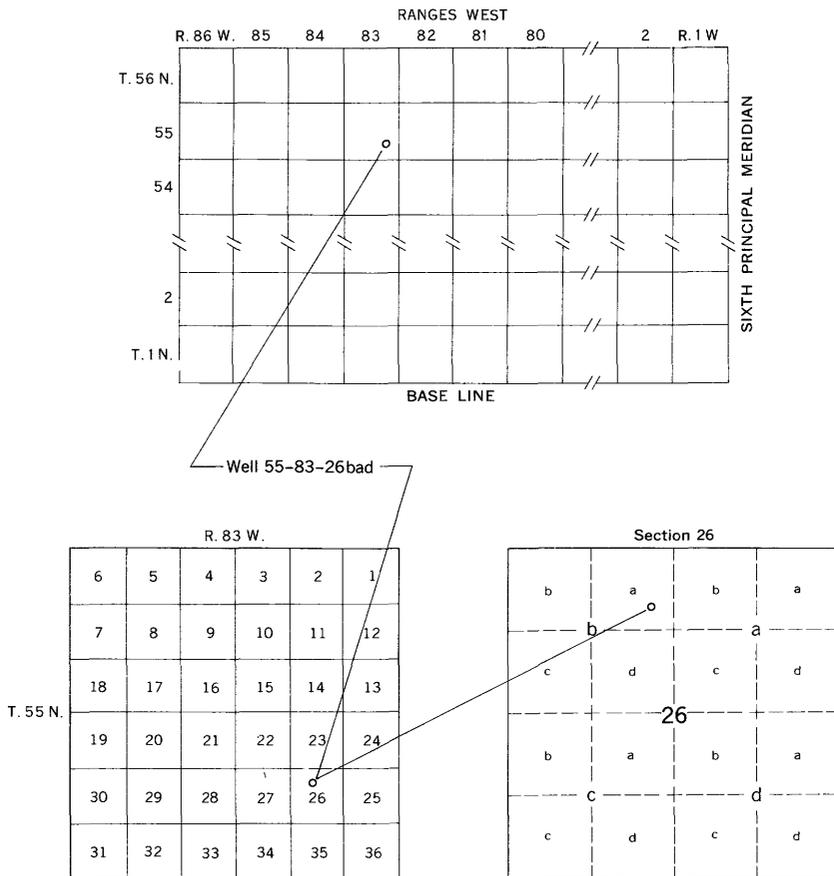


FIGURE 2.—Well-numbering system.

Numerous small streams separated by high ridges and divides dissect the basin. Red clinker (formed by burning coal) and sandstone cap the ridges and divides. Badlands have developed locally.

Land slumps are common in the western part of the basin, where precipitation is greater and irrigation is more common. The large slump shown in figure 3 is due in part to the disturbance of the equilibrium caused by the rechanneling of the creek into the toe of the slope, and in part by the irrigation of land above the slope.

Sheridan County is in the Yellowstone River drainage system and is drained by the Little Bighorn, Powder, and Tongue Rivers. The Little Bighorn River, a perennial stream, drains only about 190 square miles of the northern Bighorn Mountains. Its average flow at the

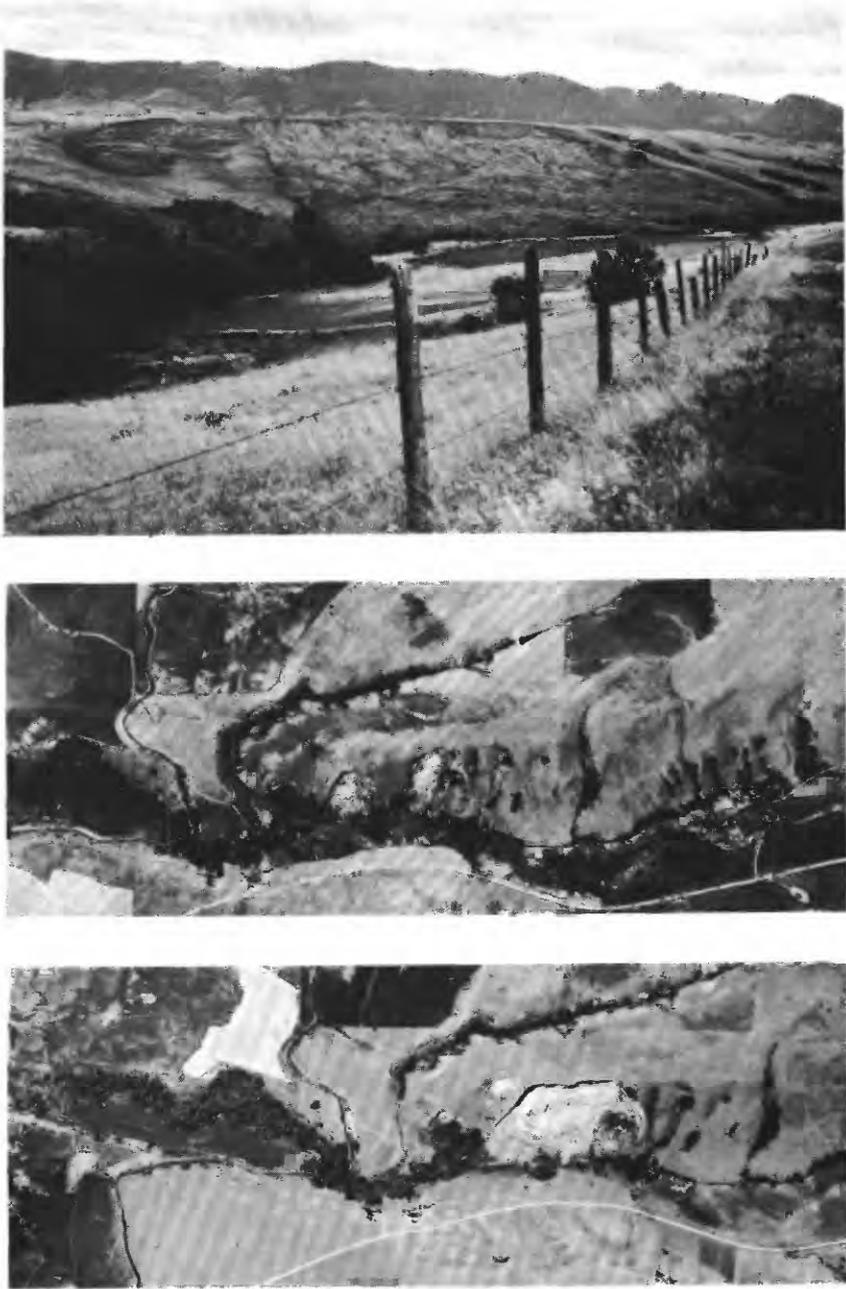


FIGURE 3.—Slump along Jackson Creek in sec. 6, T. 54 N., R. 84 W., and sec. 1, T. 54 N., R. 85 W. Upper, Conditions of land slump in 1961; middle and lower, aerial photographs of same area in 1954 and 1958, respectively. Aerial photographs by U.S. Department of Agriculture.

State line is 140 cfs (cubic feet per second) for 21 years of record (Hendricks, 1961, p. 199).

The Powder River, which flows close to and nearly parallels the east boundary of the county, drains the southern and eastern parts of the county. The average discharge at Arvada for 29 years of record is 257 cfs; a maximum flow of 100,000 cfs occurred September 29, 1923 (Hendricks, 1961, p. 227). At times during most of the years of record, the Powder River has had no flow. Clear Creek, which heads in the Bighorn Mountains and is generally perennial, is the principal tributary of the Powder River in Sheridan County. The flow of the Powder River and its tributaries is affected by reservoirs and diversions for irrigation.

Most of Sheridan County is drained by the Tongue River. This river and its main tributaries head in the Bighorn Mountains and flow eastward to about the longitude of Sheridan and then flow northward out of the county. Average flow of the Tongue River near Dayton for 7 years of record is 10.3 cfs (Hendricks, 1961, p. 207). The average discharge of Goose Creek, the principal tributary to the Tongue River below Dayton, for 19 years of record is 179 cfs (Hendricks, 1961, p. 214).

#### CLIMATE

Sheridan County is semiarid and has a wide temperature range. The mountains and adjacent areas receive the greatest amounts of precipitation because of frequent orographic storms in the spring and summer. East of the mountains the precipitation decreases in amount from 19 inches at Parkman and 16 inches at Sheridan to less than 14 inches at Clearmont and Arvada. Forty-four percent of the moisture comes during April, May, and June. The driest season is winter, when only 13 percent of the total precipitation occurs. The total amount of precipitation varies considerably from year to year. A minimum of 8.23 inches was recorded at the Sheridan weather station in 1960, and the maximum recorded at that station was 29.79 inches in 1923. Figure 4 shows the annual, normal, and 3-year moving-mean precipitation at Sheridan, Wyo.

#### SUMMARY OF STRATIGRAPHY

Approximately nine-tenths of Sheridan County is underlain by sedimentary rocks that range in age from Cambrian to Recent. Igneous rocks of Precambrian age are exposed in the Bighorn Mountains (pl. 1).

A summary of the stratigraphic units and their water-bearing characteristics is given in table 1; more detailed information on some of these formations, their water-bearing properties, and the chemical

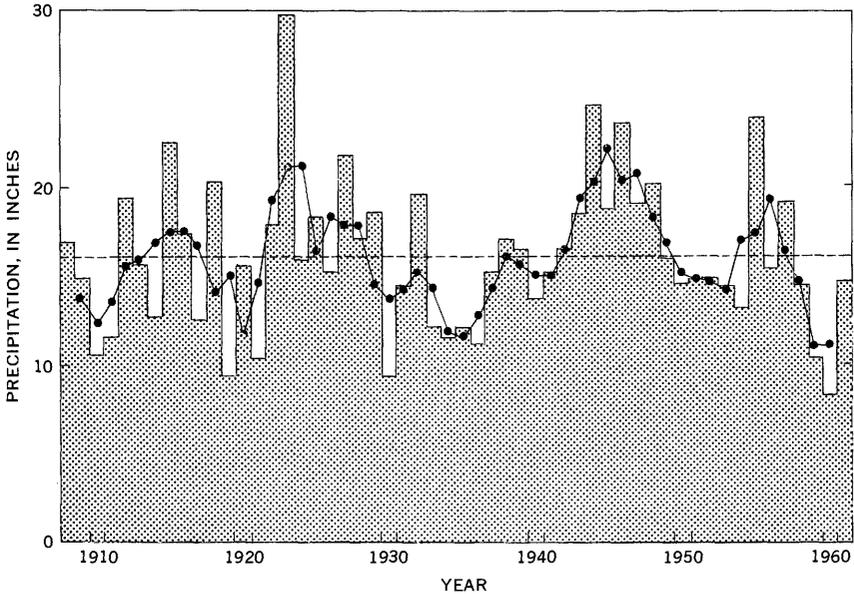


FIGURE 4.—Precipitation at Sheridan, Wyo.: annual (bar graph), normal (dashed line), and 3-year moving mean (points).

characteristics of the water in them is given in the section on geology and water resources. Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and selected wells, which are given in tables 6 and 7 at the end of the report, describe the materials penetrated by wells.

## GROUND WATER

### PRINCIPLES OF OCCURRENCE

Ground water is the water in the zone of saturation. In this zone the water is under hydrostatic pressure, and all the interstices are filled. The principal interstices in which ground water occurs are, in order of their significance, openings between adjacent particles composing sedimentary rocks, joints and other fracture openings, and solution cavities. Rocks that will yield sufficient quantities of water to be regarded as a source of supply are called aquifers. Aquifers are recharged chiefly by precipitation and influent streams, but infiltration of irrigation water is also a major source of recharge in some areas. Discharge from aquifers is through springs, seeps, effluent streams, and wells. Where ground water is near the surface, water may be lost directly to the atmosphere by evaporation and by transpiration from plants whose roots extend into the zone of saturation or into the overlying capillary fringe.

TABLE 1.—Stratigraphic units and their water-bearing characteristics

System	Series	Stratigraphic unit	Thickness (feet)	Physical characteristics	Water supply
Quaternary		Alluvium and flood-plain deposits	0-100	Unconsolidated deposits of silt, sand, and gravel.	Yield small to moderate supplies of ground water to wells for domestic, stock, and irrigation use.
		Landslide deposits	50±	Includes loose shale, limestone and dolomite blocks, and conglomerate, depending upon location.	Yield small supplies to springs, mostly in the mountains.
		Terrace and piedmont deposits	0-48	Unconsolidated deposits of silt, sand, and gravel.	Yield mostly small to moderate supplies of ground water to springs and wells for domestic and stock use. Recharge principally from irrigation.
Tertiary	Oligocene	White River Formation	0-30	Sand, volcanic ash, gravel, clay, and boulders.	Water-bearing properties not known.
		Wasatch Formation	Monteriel Member	0-1,400	Continental deposits of light-gray to yellowish-gray sandstone, dark-colored shale and coal, grading and inter-fingering westward to the Monreclief members. The Monreclief Member is composed of coarse-grained sandstone and siltstone and upward into the older beds. The Kingsbury Conglomerate Member is composed of lenticular conglomerate beds, greenish-gray shale, and sandy shale.
	Kingsbury Conglomerate Member		0-800		
	Eocene	Wasatch Formation		1,200±	
			2,000±	Continental deposits of light-colored sandstone, dark-colored shale, and coal.	
Tertiary	Paleocene	Fort Union Formation			

	Lance Formation	1,900±	Continental deposits of light-gray to yellowish-gray, medium-grained, cross-bedded sandstone and dark-gray to green shale.	Yields small supplies of water suitable for domestic and stock use to wells and springs.
	Bearpaw Shale	200-600±	Dark-greenish-gray shale, in parts sandy.	Sandy phase yields small supplies of water to wells in the Parkman vicinity.
Upper Cretaceous	Parkman Sandstone	355	Tan concretionary sandstone, shaly in upper part.	Yields sufficient quantities of water for domestic and stock use. Lodge Grass, Mont., 22 miles north of the project area, obtains its municipal supply from a well which taps this aquifer.
Cretaceous	Cody Shale	3,750	Dark-gray and grayish-black shale with some interbedded fine-grained sandstone. A few thin beds of bentonite. The Shannon Sandstone Member, which is nearly 1,000 ft below the top of the formation, is about 200 ft thick and consists of light-gray fine grained sandstone and sandy shale.	Not considered a good source of water. Small yields have been developed from the Shannon Sandstone Member in adjacent areas.
	Frontier Formation	515±	Dark-gray shale and light-gray sandstone conglomeratic at the top.	Sandstone will yield sufficient water for domestic and stock supplies.
	Mowry Shale	525±	Upper part, siliceous shale and siltstone with thin bentonite beds lower part, grayish-black shale with thin beds of bentonite.	Not considered a good source of water.
	Newcastle Sandstone	40±	Light-gray fine-grained sandstone.	Water possibilities not known; would probably yield small quantities.
Lower Cretaceous	Skull Creek Shale	175±	Grayish-black shale with thin beds of brown siliceous.	Relatively impermeable; not considered a good source of water.
	Cloverly Formation	281-308	Interbedded grayish-black shale and brown siltstone, medium- to coarse-grained sandstone 30 ft or more thick at base.	Yields only small supplies to springs in Sheridan County, but yields moderate supplies to wells in adjacent area.

TABLE 1.—*Stratigraphic units and their water-bearing characteristics—Continued*

System	Series	Stratigraphic unit	Thickness (feet)	Physical characteristics	Water supply
Jurassic	Upper Jurassic	Morrison Formation	139-235	Variegated shale and claystone and light-gray fine-grained lenticular sandstone.	Water possibilities not known. Sandstone would probably yield small supplies to wells drilled in the outcrop.
		Sundance Formation	327-452	Green calcareous shale and light-gray calcareous glauconitic sandstone.	
Triassic	Middle Jurassic	Gypsum Spring Formation	205	Red claystone and shale, gypsum, and limestone.	Not considered a good source of water.
		Chugwater Formation	590-644	Red beds of sandstone siltstone, and shale; ledge-forming limestone 70 ft below the top.	Not considered a good source of water.
Permian		Red shale and gypsum sequence	42-48	Red shale and siltstone; gypsum in the upper part.	Not considered a good source of water.
Carboniferous	Pennsylvanian	Tensleep Sandstone	50-250	Light-gray massive to crossbedded sandstone; contains minor amounts of dolomite.	Water is artesian. One well in Sheridan County, which taps the Tensleep Sandstone and the underlying Annsden Formation, flows 60 gpm. Wells to the north, in Montana, have yields as high as 500 gpm.
		Annsden Formation	150-300	Red and purple shale, red sandstone, and dolomite.	Would probably yield small to large supplies of water to wells from fractures or cavernous zones; yields small to large supplies to springs.
Mississippian	Upper and Lower Mississippian	Madison Limestone	1, 100±	Light-gray limestone, dolomitic limestone, dolomite; sandy at base.	Would probably yield small to large supplies of water to wells from fractures or cavernous zones; yields small to large supplies to springs.
		Bighorn Dolomite	400-500	Massive cliff-forming yellowish-gray dolomite; contains thin-bedded dolomite; limestone in the upper part and sandstone at base.	
Ordovician	Upper Ordovician				

Cambrian	Upper and Middle Cambrian	Gallatin and Gros Ventre Formations, undifferentiated	645±	Upper part, thin-bedded light-gray glauconitic flat-pebble limestone conglomerate; middle part, graded light-gray shale with some interbedded light-gray massive, flat-pebble conglomerate; lower part, brown glauconitic sandstone, lower part, brown glauconitic sandstone and interbedded green shale.	Not considered a good source of water in Sheridan County.
	Middle Cambrian	Flathead Sandstone	345±	Light-yellowish-gray sandstone with some interbedded green shale and siltstone; bottom few feet coarse red conglomerate.	Yields small supplies of water from sandstone and conglomerate in the Bighorn Mountains.
Precambrian			?	Mostly red and gray granite.	Yields small supplies of water from fractures, joints, and weathered zones to many springs and one well.

Ground water is under water-table conditions if the water level in an aquifer coincides with the top of the zone of saturation. It is under artesian conditions if the water is confined between relatively impermeable layers and the piezometric surface is above the top of the aquifer. In Sheridan County, water-table conditions exist in the unconsolidated aquifers of Quaternary age, in the shallower aquifers in the Tertiary formations, and in the pre-Tertiary aquifers within and close to the outcrop of the aquifers. Artesian conditions are generally present in the pre-Tertiary and in the deeper Tertiary aquifers. Gas is responsible for some of the lift in many wells in the Tertiary formations, where it is discharged with the water. Meinzer (1923, p. 40) stated: "An area in which the water rises to the surface because of the presence of gas cannot properly be called an area of artesian flow but may be called an *area of gas-lift flow* or may be designated by means of a brief description of the conditions."

#### WATER-LEVEL FLUCTUATIONS

The water level or piezometric surface in an aquifer is not stationary but fluctuates in response to external influences. If recharge is greater than discharge, the level rises; if discharge is greater, the level declines. Water levels in aquifers near the recharge area respond more quickly to changes in recharge and discharge than do those in aquifers farther away. Wells 58-87-35ca1 and 58-85-24da (fig. 5), which tap alluvium along intermittent streams, show a water-level decline because of below-normal precipitation during the time of the investigation. Well 57-85-19ab is beside a perennial stream, the Tongue River, and the water level fluctuates in response to the changes in stream stage. The gage height of flow in the Tongue River upstream from Dayton is shown in the hydrograph (fig. 5). Wells 53-83-7ad and 57-84-36ab (fig. 6), in consolidated rock, show declines in water levels similar to the declines in the two wells in the alluvium, but the rate of decline is more uniform. Discharge from the alluvial aquifers is principally by evaporation and transpiration, which become greatest during the growing season and negligible during the winter (fig. 5). Ground water is discharged from consolidated aquifers by springs, seepage to alluvium, and wells, and at a more uniform rate than that discharged from the alluvium. Movement of water out of the county as underflow undoubtedly occurs. The small rise of the water levels during the spring of 1961 in wells 53-83-7ad (fig. 6) and 58-85-24da (fig. 5) was a seasonal response to spring rains. Infiltration of water from a stock pond near well 57-84-36ab caused the upward trend in the last part of the hydrograph for that well (fig. 6). The pond was dry when previous measurements were made.

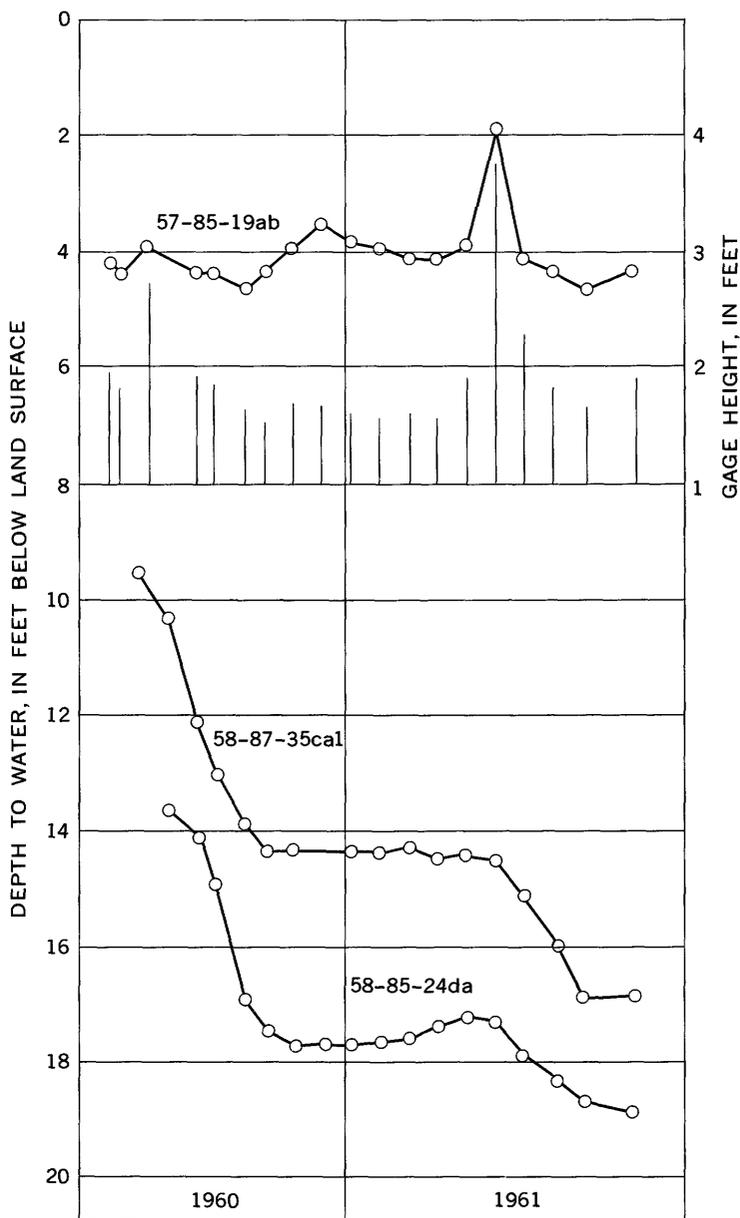


FIGURE 5.—Hydrographs of three wells that penetrate the alluvium, and gage height of the Tongue River upstream from Dayton, Wyo.

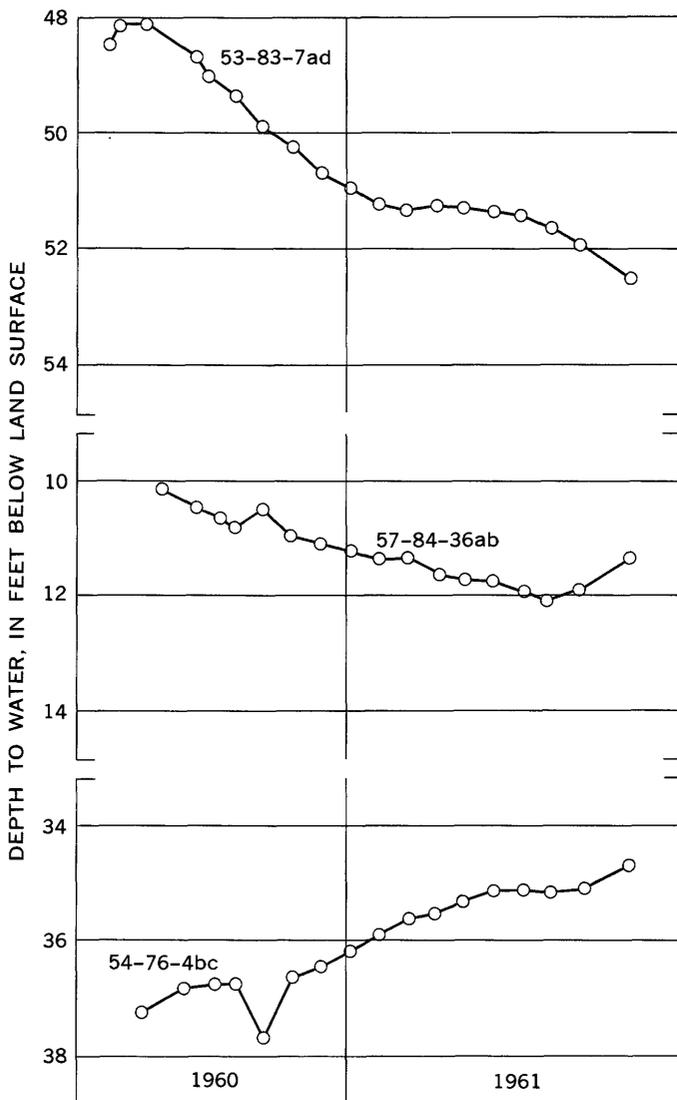


FIGURE 6.—Hydrographs of three wells that penetrate formations of Tertiary age.

Well 54-76-4bc (fig. 6), which is in the central part of the Powder River Basin, is remote from the recharge area. The aquifer is deep enough that it is not immediately influenced by changes in recharge. The upward trend of the water level in the well during the time of the investigation probably correlates, with a time lag, to an earlier period when precipitation was greater.

Effect of recharge from irrigation on water levels may occur quickly, or there may be a lag of several months. The levels in well 55-84-26cd in the alluvium and well 55-84-35ba in the Wasatch Formation rose almost immediately in response to irrigation which began about May 1, 1961 (fig. 7). The rise in level in well 55-85-34db, in the Fort Union Formation, lags some 2 months behind the start of the irrigation season.

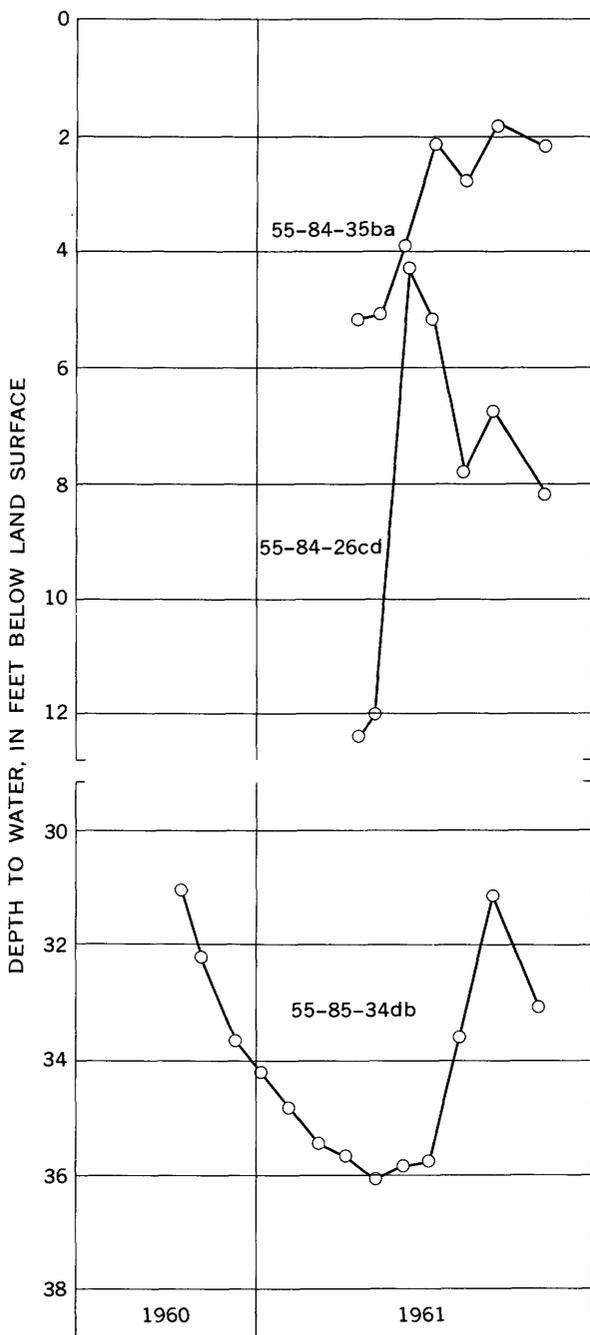
When a well is pumped, or allowed to flow, the water level or piezometric surface near the well is lowered. The configuration of the water table or piezometric surface in the vicinity of a discharging well is that of an inverted cone with the apex at the well. The size of the cone depends upon the rate of discharge, the length of time the well has been discharging, and the hydraulic properties of the aquifer. When discharge ceases, the flow into the depression is rapid at first and then become more gradual, until the gradient toward the well no longer exists.

The water level near a discharging well (fig. 8) fluctuates in response to changes in the rate of pumping. The level in well 54-79-21ab is affected by the pumping of wells 54-79-21bdd and 54-79-21bdb, which are public-supply wells for the town of Clearmont. The fluctuations of level in the observation well correlate with changes in the rate of pumping, as shown by the following data. During the period December 1960-February 1961, well 54-79-21bdd was pumped at about 8 gpm (gallons per minute) for an average of 7.7 hours per day, and the water level in the observation well rose steadily. During March, April, and May, pumping time was increased to an average of 8.8, 11.2, and 13.4 hours per day, respectively, and the upward trend of the water level was reversed. Beginning the first of June, well 54-79-21bdd was pumped almost continuously and, in addition, well 54-79-21bdb was pumped for about 3 hours a day; the result was a rapid decline of the water level.

#### HYDRAULIC PROPERTIES OF AQUIFERS

The rate at which an aquifer will yield water to wells depends upon the hydraulic properties, principally the coefficients of permeability and storage.

The coefficient of permeability is defined as the rate of flow of water, in gallons per day (gpd), through a cross-sectional area of 1 square foot under a unit hydraulic gradient. The standard coefficient is defined for water at a temperature of 60°F; whereas, the field coefficient requires no correction for temperature, and the units are in the terms of the prevailing water temperature. The coefficient of transmissibility is the product of the coefficient of permeability and the



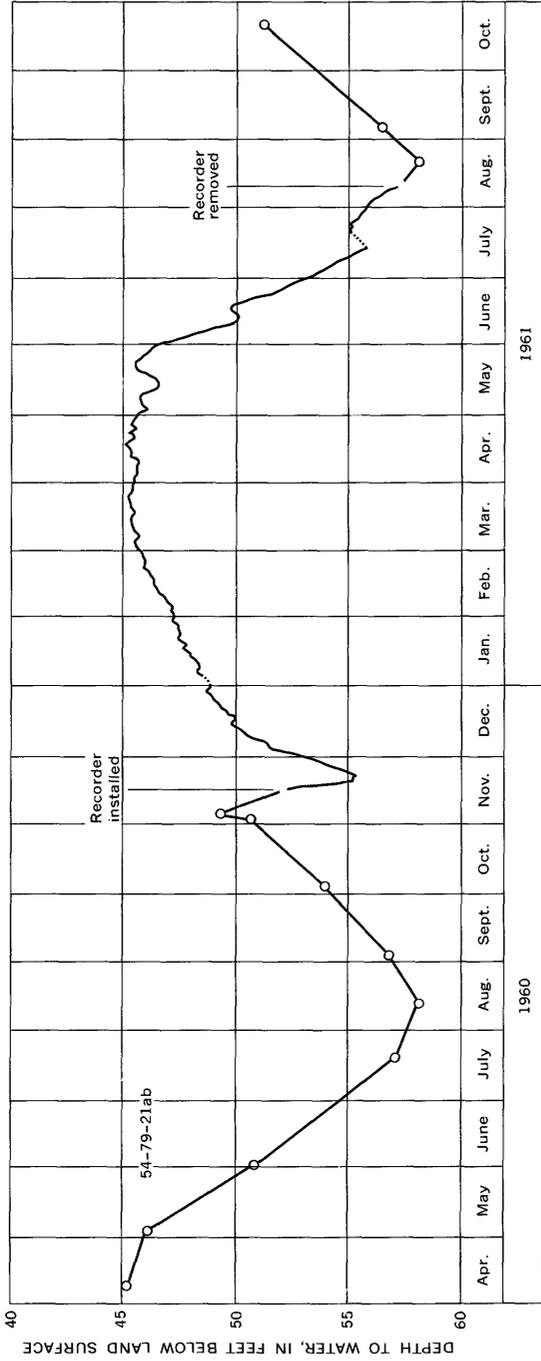


FIGURE 8.—Hydrograph of an observation well near discharging wells.

thickness of the aquifer and is expressed in gallons per day per foot (gpd per ft).

The coefficient of storage of an aquifer is the volume of water which the aquifer releases from or takes into storage per unit surface area of the aquifer per unit change in the component head normal to that surface. This quantity is approximately equal to the specific yield, which expresses the quantity of water that a given saturated volume of aquifer will yield by gravity drainage under water-table conditions. The ratio of the volume of water to the total volume of water drained is the specific yield. The specific retention is the quantity of water retained against the pull of gravity. Specific retention plus specific yield is equal to porosity.

#### FIELD TESTS OF AQUIFERS

Aquifer tests were made at six wells—two each of which penetrate the alluvium, the Fort Union Formation, and the Wasatch Formation. The wells were pumped at a constant rate during the tests, and periodic measurements of the water levels were made while the well was being pumped or during the recovery of the water level after the pumping had stopped. The data were analyzed by the "nonequilibrium" methods described by Theis (1935) and Cooper and Jacob (1946).

The results of the pumping tests are given in table 2. Aquifer characteristics computed from the tests of wells drilled into the Fort Union and the Wasatch Formations do not apply to the entire stratigraphic interval, but only to the aquifer in which the well is finished. The test results illustrate the aquifer characteristics that may be expected for wells penetrating either of these two formations.

Aquifers having low coefficients of transmissibility and storage, such as those at well 55-84-27bc, are capable of supplying sufficient water for domestic and stock supplies. Continuous pumping for as long as 2 hours, however, sometimes lowers the water level to the lower

TABLE 2.—Results of pumping tests

Well	Coefficient of transmissibility (gpd per ft)	Coefficient of storage	Average field coefficient of permeability (gpd per sq ft)	Aquifer	Remarks
54-84-5da....	95	$3.5 \times 10^{-4}$	7.9	Sandstone in the Fort Union.	24-hr test.
54-81-14bc...	520	$2.4 \times 10^{-2}$	6.5	Coal in the Wasatch.	Do.
57-83-14ba....	2,200	-----	-----	Sandstone(?) in the Wasatch.	3.5-hr recovery test.
55-84-27bc....	10	$9 \times 10^{-5}$	2.5	Sandstone in the Fort Union.	1.3 hr recovery test.
56-82-34dc....	9,700	-----	380	Alluvium.....	8-hr recovery test.
57-85-19ab....	20,300	-----	1,100	-----do-----	Average from 10-day 3½-hr tests.

end of the suction pipe, even though the pump has been set as low as possible.

Because of the lenticularity of the aquifers, impermeable boundaries probably exist in most areas where wells are drilled into the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations. An impermeable boundary near a pumped well may cause an increased drawdown in the well. Such boundaries ordinarily would not be an appreciable factor affecting the water levels in domestic and stock wells, because of the normally short duration of pumping and the small discharge from the wells.

The alluvium in some of the larger valleys is probably capable of yielding moderate quantities (50–300 gpm) of water to wells; still, before construction of a large-diameter well, test holes should be drilled and the quality of the water with respect to its intended use should be determined.

#### SPECIFIC CAPACITY OF WELLS

The specific capacity of a well is the number of gallons per minute that a well will yield for each foot of drawdown. Specific capacity varies with time and with different rates of pumping, except where the different rates cause only small drawdowns in the pumped well. Wells in aquifers having similar characteristics may have different specific capacities because of differences in construction and development of the wells.

A summary of the reported specific capacity of wells tapping the Fort Union Formation and the fine-grained facies of the Wasatch Formation is given in table 3. The duration of pumping was not ordinarily reported, but where reported, it generally ranged from 3 to 8 hours. The data do not show any significant difference between the specific capacity of wells in the Fort Union Formation and of those in the Wasatch Formation. The average specific capacity of 15 wells that tap the coarse-grained facies of the Wasatch is 1.0 gpm per foot of drawdown.

TABLE 3.—*Reported specific capacity of wells in the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations*

Specific capacity (gpm per foot of drawdown)	Fort Union Formation		Wasatch Formation		Fort Union and Wasatch Formations	
	Number of wells	Percent of wells	Number of wells	Percent of wells	Number of wells	Percent of wells
Less than 0.1.....	22	26	14	37	36	29
Less than 1.0, but more than 0.1.....	52	61	21	55	73	59
More than 1.0.....	11	13	3	8	14	12
Average specific capacity.....	0.42		0.33		0.39	

Wells in the alluvium have the largest specific capacities reported. The specific capacity of wells drilled in the alluvium ranged from 0.3 to 7.0 gpm per foot of drawdown; for 20 of these wells, it averaged 3 gpm per foot of drawdown.

#### INTERFERENCE BETWEEN WELLS

When discharging wells are too closely spaced, the cones of depression sometimes overlap, or interfere, and lower pumping levels or decreased artesian flows result. Most of the interference reported in the area has been between flowing wells in eastern and central Sheridan County. Although interference actually occurs between some wells, it is only apparent in many others. The apparent interference may be the result of impermeable boundaries or a decrease in the gas-water ratio where gas is associated with the water, or both. There have been few reports of interference in the areas of greatest ground-water development—south of Sheridan and at Story. In these areas the wells are not heavily pumped, recharge conditions are excellent, and adjacent wells are often completed in different aquifers.

#### UTILIZATION OF GROUND WATER

The principal use of ground water in Sheridan County is for domestic and stock supplies. Most domestic water supplies in the rural areas are from wells, although a few springs have been developed. The wells generally are of small diameter and are drilled only deep enough to obtain an adequate supply of water of acceptable quality.

In some areas, drilled wells are the only source of water for stock; but in other areas wells supplement surface supplies. Stock wells are similar in construction to domestic wells; but, in localities where flowing wells can be developed, a stock well is commonly drilled to a depth of more than 1,000 feet, rather than being completed as a nonflowing well at a lesser depth. Numerous springs in the mountains also supply much water for stock.

Except for the town of Clearmont, which uses ground water, all the municipal water supplies in Sheridan County are from surface water. The average use of ground water by Clearmont in the winter is about 4,000 gpd. No figures are available for either summer or annual use. Residents in the communities of Big Horn, Arvada, and Story use water from private wells, and some wells are shared by two or more families. The towns of Acme and Monarch, which are not municipalities but are privately owned, obtain water from large-diameter dug wells in the alluvium along the Tongue River.

**REPORTING OF CHEMICAL-QUALITY DATA**

The concentrations of dissolved chemical constituents are generally expressed in parts per million (ppm) in data on chemical quality of water. A part per million is one unit weight of a constituent in 1 million unit weights of water. Frequently, working with equivalents per million (epm) is more convenient in special problems in water chemistry and the effects of irrigation waters on soils. An equivalent per million is one unit chemical combining weight of a constituent in 1 million unit weights of water. Equivalents per million are calculated by dividing the concentration of the constituent, in parts per million, by its chemical combining weight.

The specific conductance of water is a measure of the ability of water to conduct an electric current and is expressed in micromhos per centimeter at 25°C. Because specific conductance is related to the amount of dissolved material, it can be used for approximating the dissolved-solids content of water. The pH indicates the degree of acidity or alkalinity. A pH progressively higher than 7 denotes increasing alkalinity, and a pH progressively lower than 7 denotes increasing acidity.

Water is commonly referred to as of a certain chemical type. The following examples illustrate how these designations are determined:

1. "Calcium bicarbonate" designates a water in which the calcium amounts to 50 percent or more of the cations and in which the bicarbonate amounts to 50 percent or more of the anions, based on equivalents per million.
2. "Sodium-calcium bicarbonate" designates a water in which the sodium and calcium are first and second, respectively, in order of abundance among the cations, but neither amounts to more than 50 percent of all the cations.
3. "Sodium sulfate bicarbonate" designates a water in which the sulfate and bicarbonate are first and second in order of abundance among the anions, but neither amounts to more than 50 percent of all the anions.

**WATER-QUALITY CRITERIA**

In the evaluation of the suitability of water for beneficial uses, certain water-quality criteria that are generally accepted as valid should be considered. A discussion of these criteria follows.

**DOMESTIC USE**

Chemical-quality standards for water to be used for drinking and culinary purposes on interstate-commerce carriers were established by

the U.S. Public Health Service (1962). Although these standards established recommended allowable-concentration limits for water to be used on common carriers, many municipal and domestic water supplies exceed these allowable-concentration limits in some respects. The absence of suitable supplies and the high cost of treatment prevents strict adherence to these suggested standards. Some of the limits on chemical constituents in drinking water are as follows:

<i>Constituent</i>	<i>Maximum recommended concentration (ppm)</i>
Iron (Fe)-----	0.3
Manganese (Mn)-----	.05
Sulfate (SO <sub>4</sub> )-----	250
Chloride (Cl)-----	250
Fluoride (F)-----	<sup>a</sup> 8-1.7
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )-----	45
Dissolved solids-----	500

<sup>a</sup> Recommended limits for fluoride content are based on the annual average of maximum daily air temperatures. For example, when the average is 50.0°F to 53.7°F the recommended upper limit is 1.7 ppm; when the average is between 79.3°F to 90.5°F, the upper limit is 0.8 ppm

Hardness, a property of water familiar to many people, is caused principally by the presence of calcium and magnesium. Arbitrarily, water has been classified in the following manner with regard to hardness: 60 ppm or less, soft; 61-120 ppm, moderately hard; 121-180 ppm, hard; and 181 ppm or more, very hard.

#### AGRICULTURAL USE

Although investigations relating the chemical quality of water to its suitability for agricultural use are not numerous, guidelines usually considered reliable have been proposed (Beath and others, 1953; Eaton, 1950; U.S. Salinity Laboratory Staff, 1954). The following statements have been drawn largely from these reports. Many supplies of water that do not fully meet these requirements have been used for many years for agriculture in localities where other water supplies are not available.

Although many chemical constituents or properties of water affect its suitability for irrigation, the two main criteria for determining a suitable supply are the dissolved-solids content and the sodium concentration relative to the calcium and magnesium concentrations. Also, the concentrations of bicarbonate, boron, and selenium are significant under certain conditions.

The significance of water having a high dissolved-solids content (salinity) is that the application of such water to the land tends to upset the salt balance in the soil. The use of saline water in the absence of a favorable salt balance results in the retardation of plant growth, because such water increases the osmotic pressure in the soil

solution. As a rule, the higher the salinity of a water, the less suitable the water is for use. Because the salinity of water is closely related to the specific conductance of water, the specific conductance may also be used as a measure of the salinity hazard of water.

When the relative concentration of sodium in irrigation water is greater than that of calcium and magnesium, the sodium tends to replace the calcium and magnesium adsorbed on soil colloids. Soil colloids then tend to disperse and, thus to restrict the movement of air and water through the soil; a soil having poor tilth and low permeability results. As a measure of the suitability of water for irrigation use, the sodium-adsorption-ratio (SAR) is frequently used. It is an indicator of the degree of hazard entailed in the use of water that has a high sodium content.

Investigations of the relation of water quality to the health of stock have not been numerous, and, therefore, rigid criteria for evaluating the usefulness of a stock-water supply are difficult to establish. Stock are capable of good health even when they drink water considered to be unfit for human consumption. Nevertheless, a high dissolved-solids content can cause poor growth, sickness, and even death. Beath and others (1953) suggested the following classification as a guide for evaluating stock water.

<i>Dissolved solids (ppm)</i>	<i>Classification</i>
<1,000-----	Good
1,000-3,000-----	Fair (usable)
3,000-5,000-----	Poor (usable)
5,000-7,000-----	Very poor (question- able)
>7,000-----	Not advisable

Harmful effects to stock have been attributed to the selenium, sulfate, and fluoride contents in water supplies. A high iron content may make water unpalatable to stock.

#### INDUSTRIAL USE

The water-quality requirements of industry depend largely upon the specific use to be made of water. Reports by Moore (1940) and by the California State Water Pollution Control Board (1952) contain information on industrial water-quality standards and may be consulted for criteria applicable to a specific use. Generally, water that has a low dissolved-solids content and low hardness and does not vary greatly in quality or temperature meets the requirements of most industries.

## GEOLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES

## FORMATIONS OF PRE-TERTIARY AGE

Formations that range from Precambrian to Late Cretaceous in age are exposed in the Bighorn Mountains and in a narrow band along the mountain front, but they are deeply buried throughout most of the project area. The age, thickness, physical characteristics, and water-bearing properties of these rocks and others are summarized in table 1. Only rocks of pre-Tertiary age that are potential sources of large supplies of ground water are described in detail. Other aquifers of pre-Tertiary age will generally yield only small supplies of ground water to wells.

*Bighorn Dolomite.*—The Bighorn Dolomite of Late Ordovician age is about 500 feet thick near the Montana State line, but it thins southward to less than 400 feet at the Sheridan-Johnson County line (Richards and Nieschmidt, 1961, sheet 1). The formation generally is divided into three units. The basal sandstone, which is about 30 feet thick in Sheridan County, consists of crossbedded friable white sandstone. The middle (cliff-forming) unit is about 280 feet thick. It consists of massive dolomite that weathers to a characteristic rough, pitted surface. The upper unit is about 150 feet thick and consists of thin-bedded dolomite and dolomitic limestone, which generally form slopes above the middle-unit.

*Madison Limestone.*—The Madison Limestone of Early and Late Mississippian age is exposed as a series of ledges formed by resistant beds. Caverns (fig. 9) and castellated forms are typical, especially in the upper part of the formation. The formation is composed of limestone, dolomitic limestone, and dolomite. It is about 1,100 feet thick in Sheridan County (Darton, 1904, p. 394) but thins to the south in Johnson County.

*Amsden Formation.*—The Amsden Formation of Pennsylvanian age consists of cherty dolomite, red sandstone, and red and purple shale. The formation was deposited upon the eroded surface of rocks of Mississippian age, and it varies considerably in thickness within short distances. It is about 150 feet thick near the Montana State line and thickens southward to about 250 feet at the Sheridan-Johnson County line. The formation weathers to form the red slopes between the resistant Tensleep and Madison Formations.

*Tensleep Sandstone.*—The Tensleep Sandstone of Pennsylvanian age forms steep dip slopes along most of the mountain flank. The formation is dominantly a resistant crossbedded sandstone with minor amounts of dolomite. It probably is conformable with the under-

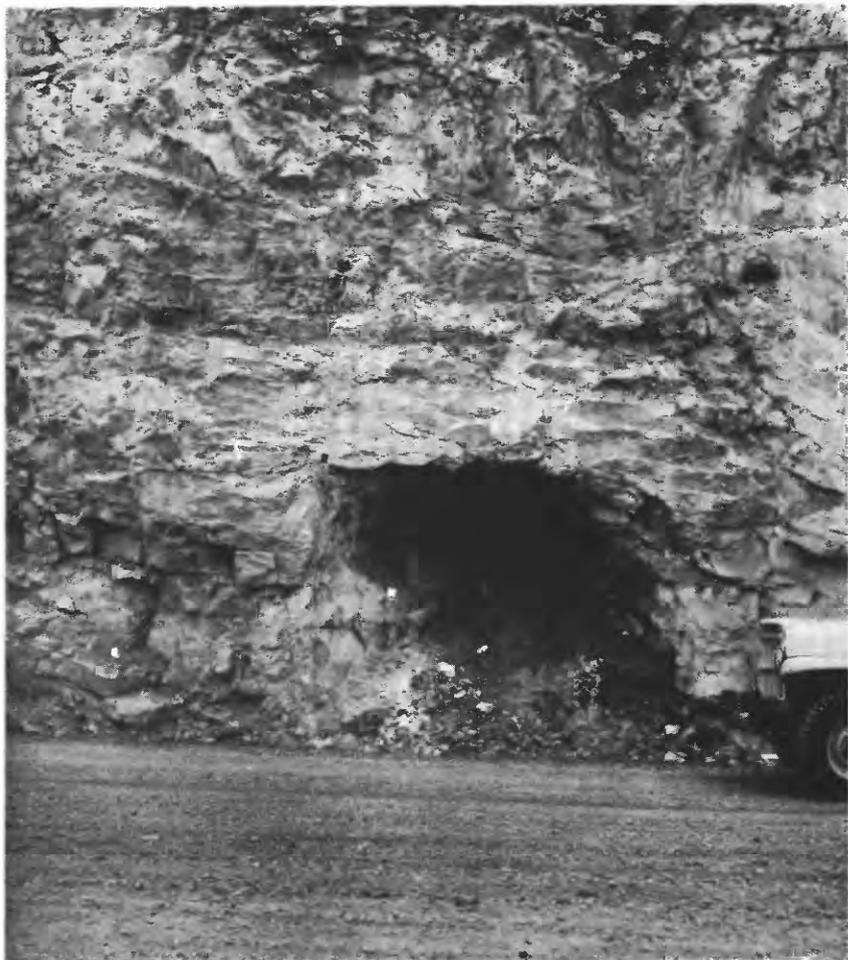


FIGURE 9.—Cavern in the Madison Limestone along U.S. Highway 14 in T. 56 N., R. 87 W.

lying Amsden Formation. The formation thickens from about 50 feet at the State line to about 250 feet at the Sheridan-Johnson County line.

#### WATER-BEARING PROPERTIES

The aquifers of pre-Tertiary age consist principally of tightly cemented sandstone and carbonate rocks that generally do not have a large primary permeability—that is, permeability due to interstices which were formed contemporaneously with the rock. The Tensleep Sandstone, however, has sufficient primary permeability to yield mod-

erate and possibly large supplies of water to wells. Large yields obtained from the Bighorn Dolomite, Madison Limestone, and Amsden Formation would be principally from zones of secondary permeability—that is, permeability due to fracturing and solution affecting the rocks after deposition. Some wells penetrating these formations to the west of Sheridan County have artesian flows of more than 1,000 gpm. The most productive wells generally are near structural features where fracturing and solution have increased the permeability. Wells penetrating other aquifers of pre-Tertiary age will probably have small yields.

#### RECHARGE AND DISCHARGE

Recharge to formations of pre-Tertiary age is from precipitation and streamflow. Recharge conditions are favorable throughout the outcrop. Farther east, however, the formations are deeply buried, and recharge is negligible.

Discharge from formations of pre-Tertiary age is through wells, seeps, and springs. All the known discharge points are in the outcrop. Much of the potential recharge of these formations is probably rejected. A description of some of the different types of springs follows to illustrate the recharge-discharge relations, as well as the ground water occurrence.

*Contact springs.*—Contact springs in Sheridan County may be present where an aquifer is underlain by less permeable beds. Ground water percolates down to the less permeable bed and then moves laterally to the point of discharge. Leaky Mountain Spring (57-90-?), which is an unusually large spring for the region, yields about 1,000 gpm and issues from the Bighorn Dolomite at its contact with the underlying Gallatin Formation of Late Cambrian age.

*Landslide springs.*—Springs issuing from landslide deposits, such as spring 55-90-16b, are common in the Gallatin and Gros Ventre Formations. The slides are caused, in part, by the contact springs at the base of the overlying Bighorn Dolomite. The relation is apparent at Duncom Mountain, which is on the drainage divide between the Powder River Basin and the Bighorn Basin. Erosion has stripped away the sedimentary rocks down to and including much of the Bighorn Dolomite, and the topography is marked by large solution cavities formed in fractures and in other zones of weakness in the formation. The shale of Cambrian age, which forms the grass-covered slopes below the Bighorn Dolomite, has a hummocky topography that is typical of landslide deposits.

Water percolates downward through the solution cavities in the Bighorn Dolomite to the underlying Cambrian shale and then moves laterally to the point of discharge. The shale is then more susceptible to gravity movement because of the additional weight of the absorbed water and the lubrication of the shale by the water. After the initial movement of the shale and overlying strata, the hummocky topography is capable of retaining snow and runoff, which furnishes additional water to the springs.

*Springs from joints, fractures, and tubular openings.*—Springs issue from rock openings ranging in size from small fractures or joints to large faults. The spring at Preacher Rock (54-86-32c) flows about 5 gpm from joints in the Precambrian granite, whereas spring 53-84-13bd, which is hydraulically connected with South Piney Creek, flows from sedimentary rocks through openings associated with faults. The flow of the spring ranges from 400 to 1,000 gpm, in direct response to streamflow.

The entire course of Cave Creek is through tubular openings, some of which can be seen in the Tongue River Cave. The creek discharges into the Tongue River below the level of the river. The point of discharge is not visible. A dye study was made to determine whether the source of the water in Cave Creek was the Little Tongue River. Fluorescein dye was mixed with the water of the Little Tongue River in sec 31, T. 56 N., R. 87 W., and the dye was observed later in Cave Creek. The time required for the dye to reach the point of observation was between 37 and 45 hours. The straight-line distance between the two points is about 2.5 miles, and the difference in altitude is about 2,500 feet. The flow of Cave Creek was about 900 gpm at the time of the dye study.

#### QUALITY OF WATER

Chemical analyses of water from rocks of pre-Tertiary age are given in table 4. Samples of water were obtained from the Flathead Sandstone of Cambrian age, the Amsden Formation and Tensleep Sandstone of Pennsylvanian age, and the Frontier, Parkman, Bearpaw, and Lance Formations, all of Cretaceous age. The quality of water from these formations varies widely: the dissolved-solids content of water ranges from 124 to 1,320 ppm; hardness, from 18 ppm (soft) to 407 ppm (very hard); and iron content, from 0.00 to 1.3 ppm. The quality of water in each formation probably also varies from place to place, as illustrated by analyses of water from the Lance Formation (table 4).

TABLE 4.—Chemical analyses of ground

[Results in parts per million except as

Well	Depth (ft)	Yield (gpm)	Date of collection	Temperature (°F)	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	Iron (Fe)	Manganese (Mn)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sodium (Na)	Potassium (K)	Bicarbonate (HCO <sub>3</sub> )
<b>Flathead</b>												
55-89-1da.....	66	20R	Oct. 25, 1960	42	6.8	0.19	0.00	30	7.8	2.0	0.2	128
<b>Amsden Formation and</b>												
57-87-21db...	1,596	64	Oct. 25, 1960	50	8.0	0.58	0.00	50	19	0.5	0.6	246
<b>Frontier</b>												
56-86-7dc.....	148	2R	July 27, 1961	---	10	0.02	0.05	47	14	74	1.0	277
<b>Parkman</b>												
57-86-30ac....	115	4R	Oct. 25, 1960	49	13	1.3	0.00	97	40	29	2.0	330
<b>Bearpaw</b>												
58-87-35ca2...	129	6R	Oct. 25, 1960	49	38	0.44	0.00	16	2.9	236	0.1	337
<b>Lance</b>												
57-86-34bb...	315	.75	Aug. 28, 1961	54	8.4	0.13	0.00	33	18	404	5.3	592
57-87-1bd....	195	8R	-----do-----	51	9.7	.00	.00	5.6	1.0	150	.8	191
<b>Fort Union</b>												
53-77-10cd....	424	1.3	Oct. 26, 1960	67	12	0.47	0.02	22	7.8	620	7.4	1,710
54-76-5ac.....	710	7	Aug. 29, 1961	64	12	.72	.00	19	3.5	524	6.0	1,430
54-77-5db.....	1,185	1.64	Aug. 30, 1961	62	13	.08	.02	5.9	2.1	400	5.3	1,040
9cb.....	743	12R	Oct. 26, 1960	59	10	.91	.00	18	3.4	537	4.3	1,450
55-77-28ad....	380	6R	Mar. 7, 1962	56	9.0	.21	.00	4.6	.8	219	1.8	553
28dd.....	500	.75	Mar. 6, 1962	55	9.6	.20	.00	12	2.6	374	4.5	1,000
55-84-16bc....	370	.75	Aug. 30, 1961	54	8.6	3.2	.00	62	30	134	8.8	499
27cb.....	560	1R	June 14, 1962	57	8.7	.19	.00	28	8.3	141	6.5	454
56-78-22ac....	165	1	Aug. 30, 1961	59	9.2	.14	.00	7.3	2.9	400	3.5	1,110
56-85-3ad....	123	25R	July 27, 1961	50	9.2	.91	.03	43	28	449	7.6	610
57-76-20bd....	265	1.47	Oct. 26, 1960	52	9.1	.88	.06	12	2.2	555	4.4	1,480
57-83-3ab....	120	3R	Mar. 8, 1962	48	8.2	.19	.00	8.4	2.8	490	4.7	1,320
57-84-19bd....	126	15R	Mar. 6, 1962	48	9.8	.10	.00	31	29	810	17	2,370
57-85-19aa....	180	5R	-----do-----	49	8.2	.14	.00	14	5.2	360	4.2	941
58-82-30aa....	480	.71	Oct. 25, 1960	54	11	.31	.00	8.6	3.5	750	6.5	2,010
58-84-29ca....	620	5R	Mar. 8, 1962	53	9.4	.15	.00	9.9	17	943	12	1,840
29cd.....	1,260	.3	-----do-----	53	12	.58	.00	3.2	2.7	335	1.8	840

See footnotes at end of table.

water in Sheridan County, Wyo.

indicated. Analyses by U.S. Geol. Survey]

Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> )	Sulfate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	Chloride (Cl)	Fluoride (F)	Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	Boron (B)	Dissolved solids		Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>		Percent sodium	Sodium-adsorption-ratio	Specific conductance (micromhos at 25°C)	pH	Color (units) <sup>1</sup>	Hydrogen Sulfide (H <sub>2</sub> S)
						Calculated	Residue on evaporation at 180°C	Calcium, magnesium	Noncarbonate						

Sandstone

0	3.0	0.0	0.1	2.4	0.04	-----	124	107	2	4	0.1	220	7.2	3	----
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-------	-----	-----	---	---	-----	-----	-----	---	------

Tensleep Sandstone

0	5.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.02	-----	202	204	2	0	0.0	380	7.7	2	----
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-------	-----	-----	---	---	-----	-----	-----	---	------

Formation

0	104	1.7	0.3	3.2	0.53	-----	390	174	0	48	2.4	638	8.1	0	----
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-------	-----	-----	---	----	-----	-----	-----	---	------

Sandstone

0	186	1.6	0.4	0.0	0.12	-----	550	407	136	13	0.6	823	7.8	1	----
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-------	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	-----	---	------

Shale

0	233	30	0.2	1.0	0.06	-----	739	52	0	91	14	1,110	7.9	1	----
---	-----	----	-----	-----	------	-------	-----	----	---	----	----	-------	-----	---	------

Formation

0	493	42	0.3	0.3	0.12	1,300	1,320	155	0	84	14	1,980	8.0	2	----
6.9	157	8.1	.6	.2	.13	-----	450	18	0	95	15	712	8.5	0	----

Formation

0	1.3	24	0.7	0.1	0.11	1,540	1,560	87	0	93	29	2,420	8.0	3	----
0	.3	16	.7	.0	.07	1,290	1,340	62	0	94	29	1,990	8.0	1	0.0
23	.3	17	.9	.0	.15	-----	1,020	23	0	97	36	1,570	8.3	0	.0
0	.4	17	.7	.0	.08	1,300	1,340	59	0	95	30	2,090	8.1	4	.5
10	1.2	14	1.2	-----	-----	-----	530	15	0	96	25	863	8.4	-----	.6
0	.8	16	1.6	-----	-----	-----	915	41	0	94	26	1,440	8.1	-----	.7
0	136	13	4	13	.08	-----	690	279	0	50	3.5	1,050	7.6	1	.5
0	30	7.0	.6	-----	-----	-----	484	104	0	73	6.0	746	7.9	-----	1.3
0	2.3	7.4	2.2	.0	.15	-----	1,010	30	0	96	32	1,570	8.2	1	.5
0	708	53	4	1.0	.16	1,550	1,590	222	0	81	13	2,360	7.7	3	-----
0	2.0	21	1.4	.0	.12	1,340	1,340	39	0	96	39	2,080	8.2	3	.5
0	.2	7.6	1.9	-----	-----	-----	1,160	32	0	96	37	1,790	8.1	-----	.7
0	55	23	2.1	-----	-----	-----	1,900	196	0	89	25	3,180	7.6	-----	2.1
0	.4	57	1.8	-----	-----	-----	888	56	0	93	21	1,460	8.2	-----	.7
0	1.3	9.9	2.2	.0	.13	1,780	1,800	36	0	97	54	2,740	8.0	1	.5
0	645	10	1.9	-----	-----	-----	2,380	96	0	95	42	3,620	7.8	-----	1.0
16	.0	13	4.0	-----	-----	-----	742	19	0	97	33	1,250	8.3	-----	1.3

TABLE 4.—*Chemical analyses of ground*

[Results in parts per million except as

Well	Depth (ft)	Yield (gpm)	Date of collection	Temperature (°F)	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	Iron (Fe)	Manganese (Mn)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sodium (Na)	Potassium (K)	Bicarbonate (HCO <sub>3</sub> )
<b>Wasatch</b>												
53-79-7bc.....	280	2R	Mar. 7, 1962	43	8.1	0.08	0.00	6.0	2.4	252	2.2	657
53-80-2db.....	260	-----	-----do-----	54	10	.41	.08	317	282	342	9.8	591
18ca2.....	143	-----	Aug. 30, 1961	62	8.2	.05	.00	4.7	1.8	227	1.8	500
53-82-11cd.....	143	12R	Mar. 22, 1962	48	8.2	.24	.00	15	4.6	378	3.1	1,060
53-83-7dd.....	42	30R	Aug. 28, 1961	58	13	.01	.00	34	11	2.3	1.0	156
54-79-21bdd.....	121	8	Oct. 26, 1960	52	8.8	.26	.00	20	5.1	317	1.9	728
54-80-24bc.....	120	-----	Mar. 22, 1962	56	30	8.1	-----	457	403	450	26	627
54-81-14bc.....	110	15R	July 25, 1961	52	11	.00	.00	46	3.2	379	4.2	966
54-82-29ba.....	60	8R	June 13, 1962	50	21	3.7	.20	136	36	49	7.2	524
54-83-3ba.....	245	10R	-----do-----	55	11	1.2	.00	108	34	567	9.5	665
54-83-7ac.....	100	10R	Mar. 8, 1962	48	9.1	.03	.00	3.0	.0	155	.9	345
54-84-11ab.....	160	3R	Oct. 28, 1960	52	14	.24	.00	86	62	22	2.4	528
55-79-30bba1.....	140	5	Oct. 26, 1960	48	9.0	.93	.16	157	77	822	12	680
30bba2.....	200	2R	-----do-----	56	8.9	.41	.08	8.3	2.3	336	4.6	890
55-81-2bc.....	Spring	-----	June 14, 1962	53	31	.03	.00	67	10	3.4	2.9	168
55-82-5dc.....	155	10R	Mar. 7, 1962	48	9.6	.09	.00	13	2.6	405	3.4	1,100
56-81-29bd.....	378	3R	Oct. 28, 1960	52	10	.12	.00	3.2	.5	243	1.2	484
56-82-35aa.....	87	16R	June 13, 1962	58	7.1	.25	.30	470	519	800	13	801
57-79-25cc.....	95	6R	Aug. 30, 1961	64	5.7	.00	.03	220	136	1,140	12	574
57-80-31bb.....	160	3	Aug. 29, 1961	52	11	.12	.00	106	9.6	816	6.2	473
57-81-7cb.....	510	10R	Mar. 8, 1962	39	9.1	.14	.00	6.0	1.8	350	2.8	918
<b>Allu-</b>												
53-80-18ca1....	23	30R	Aug. 30, 1961	55	19	0.27	0.10	201	124	181	13	541
54-84-14bb.....	65	30R	June 14, 1962	56	12	.08	.00	72	18	12	1.2	324
56-82-34dc.....	56	108R	July 21, 1961	49	35	4.3	.00	273	136	168	15	613
57-85-19ab.....	30	25	Aug. 28, 1961	54	12	.00	.32	103	58	100	2.3	441

<sup>1</sup> Platinum-cobalt scale (Hazen, 1892).<sup>2</sup> R indicates reported yield.

Water from pre-Tertiary rocks is used primarily for domestic and stock purposes. Generally, the water is suitable for domestic use, although the iron content of water from the Tensleep Sandstone and Amsden Formation, the Bearpaw Shale, and the Parkman Sandstone exceeds the recommended limit suggested by the U.S. Public Health Service (1962). Sulfate and dissolved solids in water from well 57-86-34bb, which taps the Lance Formation, also exceed suggested domestic standards, as does the dissolved-solids content of water from the Parkman Sandstone and Bearpaw Shale. Water of suitable quality for irrigation is obtained from the Flathead Sandstone and from the Tensleep Sandstone and Amsden Formation. The Frontier Formation and the Parkman Sandstone yield water that is usable on certain crops under good drainage conditions. Water from the Bear-

water in Sheridan County, Wyo.—Continued

indicated. Analyses by U.S. Geol. Survey]

Carbonate (CO <sub>2</sub> )	Sulfate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	Chloride (Cl)	Fluoride (F)	Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	Boron (B)	Dissolved solids		Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>		Percent sodium	Sodium-adsorption-ratio	Specific conductance (micromhos at 25°C)	pH	Color (units) <sup>1</sup>	Hydrogen Sulfide (H <sub>2</sub> S)
						Calculated	Residue on evaporation at 180°C	Calcium, magnesium	Noncarbonate						

Formation

8.6	1.8	18	1.4				613	25	0	95	22	1,010	8.4		2.4
0	1,990	90	9.0				3,410	1,960	1,470	27	3.4	3,680	7.3		2.9
0		5.4	2.0	1.1	8.0	0.08	638	19	0	96	23	1,000	7.9	2	2.6
0		1.3	1.0				920	57	0	93	22	1,480	8.0		2.6
0				.5	.01		160	129	1	4	1	248	7.9		
0	145		2.3	.9	.11		890	71	0	90	16	1,400	8.1	7	1.2
0	3,010		2.3	.8			4,950	2,800	2,280	26	3.7	4,910	7.6		2.6
0	157		2.8	.4	16	.07	1,110	128	0	86	15	1,720	8.0	0	1.2
0	157		2.8	.4			672	490	60	18	1.0	1,010	7.3		2.5
0	1,020		6.4	.0			2,090	408	0	75	12	2,910	7.5		2.6
17	26		1.0	.6			376	8	0	98	25	612	8.7		1.0
0	64		2.0	.3	19	.18	529	470	37	9	4	874	7.6	7	1.0
0	1,930		6.2	.3	38	.28	3,480	709	151	71	13	4,350	7.6	4	1.0
0		2.8	11	.8	7.9	.12	830	30	0	95	27	1,320	7.7	7	1.0
0	37		7.0	.6			281	209	72	3.4	1	432	7.7		1.2
0		.6	11	1.8			897	43	0	95	27	1,540	8.1		1.0
0	118		5.7	.7	5.6	.12	628	10	0	98	33	894	8.2	1	4.0
0	4,080		45	.7			6,620	3,310	2,650	34	6.0	6,620	7.4		1.0
0	3,110		7.4	.2	1.0	.19	5,080	1,110	639	69	15	5,880	7.8	6	2.5
0	1,680		8.5	.4	.8	.11	2,880	2,960	304	0	85	3,920	8.1	1	2.5
0	3.0		16	1.8			834	22	0	97	32	1,320	8.2		2.5

vium

0	883	8.7	0.2	0.0	0.32	1,700	1,860	1,010	566	28	2.5	2,250	7.6	8	0.6
0	8.0	.0	.1				272	253	0	9.3	3	487	7.6		.0
0	1,020	6.1	.5	.1	.22	1,960	2,060	1,240	737	22	2.1	2,440	7.8	7	0.8
0	329	4.8	.2	1.1	.18		844	497	135	30	2.0	1,220	7.7	0	0.8

paw Shale and the Lance Formation is unsuitable for irrigation because of its high sodium (alkali) hazard. The water from pre-Tertiary rocks generally is good for stock use.

DEVELOPMENT

*Bighorn Mountains.*—Three water wells are known to have been drilled in the Bighorn Mountains in Sheridan County. Water for stock, summer homes, tourist facilities, and other installations comes mainly from springs or surface water. Aquifers such as the Tensleep Sandstone, Amsden Formation, Madison Limestone, Bighorn Dolomite, and Flathead Sandstone underlie large areas in the mountains (pl. 1), but, because most of the area is remote, additional development of water was not needed at the time of the investigation.

*Powder River structural basin.*—Water from aquifers of pre-Tertiary age has not been extensively developed in the basin in

Sheridan County. Aquifers that have been tapped by wells are the Amsden Formation and Tensleep Sandstone, Frontier Formation, Parkman Sandstone, Bearpaw Shale, Lance Formation, and possibly the Chugwater Formation. Only two of these formations yield water to more than one well—the Lance (six wells) and the Bearpaw (three wells at Parkman, only one of which is shown on pl. 1). Other potential aquifers yield water only to springs, but artesian supplies could be developed throughout most of the outcrop from the aquifers listed in table 1. Wells drilled some distance from the outcrop of the intended aquifer must necessarily be drilled deeper than those closer to the outcrop because of the steep dip of the formations. Drilling as near the outcrop of the intended aquifer as possible is advisable for this reason; however, a well that is drilled too near the outcrop may not penetrate a maximum saturated thickness.

East of the outcrop area the formations of pre-Tertiary age are deeply buried (fig. 10), and the cost of drilling into them for water wells is great. Ground water possibly may be developed from some "dry" oil-test holes in favorable localities; but the suitability of the water for its intended use should be determined before any such wells are developed.

#### FORMATIONS OF TERTIARY AGE

Formations of Tertiary age in the report area include the Fort Union Formation of Paleocene age, the Wasatch Formation of Eocene age, and the White River Formation of Oligocene age. The Fort Union and Wasatch Formations, which are widespread, underlie the central and eastern parts of the county. These units consist of continental deposits made up principally of shale, sandstone, coal, and conglomerate. Conglomerate is not known in the Fort Union in Sheridan County; however, it is in the formation near the mountains to the south, in Johnson County. The White River Formation is present only as isolated remnants in the mountains and is not discussed in the following section.

#### FORT UNION FORMATION

The Fort Union Formation is divided into three members in this area: in ascending order, the Tullock Member, Lebo Shale Member, and Tongue River Member. In this report, however, the formation is regarded as undifferentiated.

The following detailed section, which was adapted from Olive (1957, p. 11-12), illustrates the lithology of the upper part of the Fort Union in eastern Sheridan County.

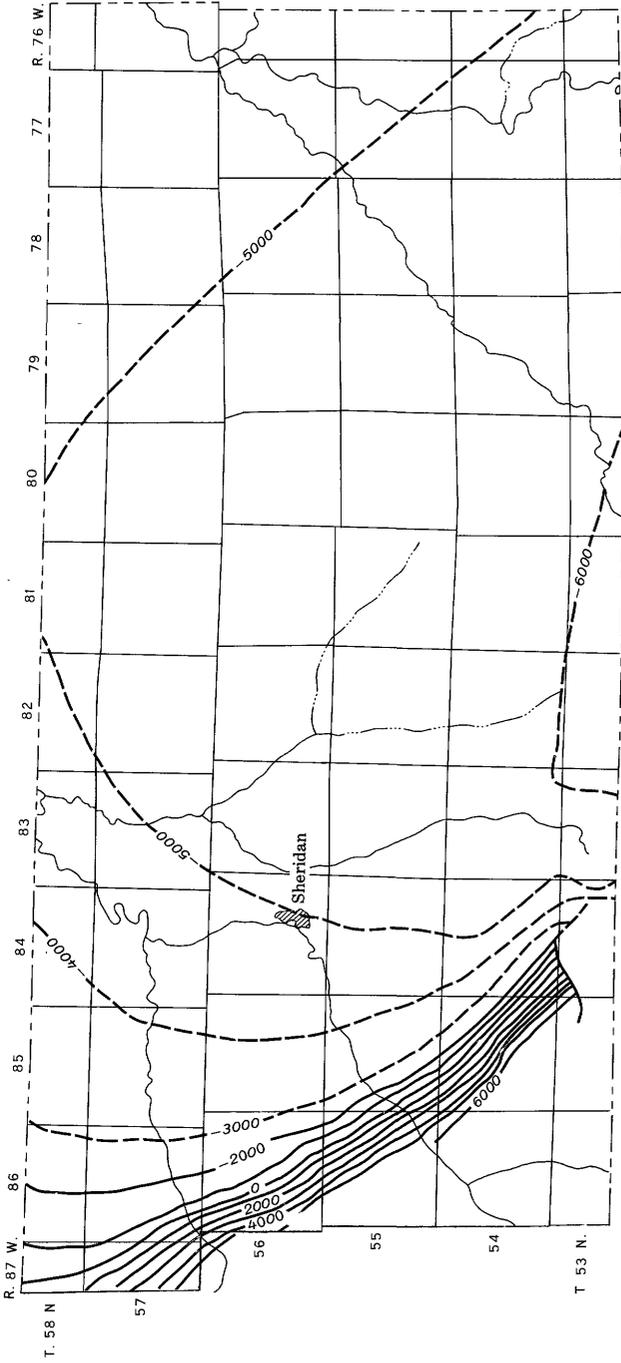


FIGURE 10.—Structure contour map of the top of the Cloverly Formation in Sheridan County, Wyo. Contour lines are approximate. Lines are dashed where several configuration and depth relations are schematic. Contour interval is 1,000 feet; datum is mean sea level. (After Zapp, 1953.)

*Section measured in sec. 25, T. 57 N., R. 77 W., Wyo.*

[Adapted from Olive, 1957, p. 11-12]

Wasatch Formation:

Sandstone, medium-grained, friable, yellowish-gray; contains log-shaped concretions 15-20 ft long-----	Feet	Inches
	96	0

Fort Union Formation:

Shale, dusky-brown-----		5
Coal-----	2	4
Sandstone, medium-grained, mostly friable, yellowish-gray-----	43	10
Coal-----	1	8
Shale, dusky-brown and gray; interbedded with fine-grained yellowish-gray sandstone-----	7	1
Sandstone, friable, yellowish-gray-----	42	0
Coal with 1-ft shale parting-----	3	9
Sandstone, fine- to medium-grained, friable, yellowish-gray-----	24	0
Shale, dusky-brown-----	3	6
Coal-----	5	7
Shale, dusky-brown-----	3	1
Sandstone, medium-grained, friable, yellowish-gray-----	28	0
Coal with shale partings-----	4	5
Shale, dusky-brown-----	4	4
Sandstone, yellowish-gray; interbedded with light-gray shale--	28	0
Shale, dusky-Brown-----	7	3
Coal-----	7	10
Sandstone and shale, interbedded, gray and yellowish-gray-----	58	6
Sandstone, fine-grained, friable; contains well-indurated zones--	47	9
Shale, dusky-brown and black-----	6	0
Coal-----	1	7
Shale, dusky-brown and black-----	6	6
Sandstone, friable, yellowish-gray; contains indurated sandstone lenses-----	22	0
Coal with 2-ft shale parting-----	17	1
Shale, dusky-brown-----	9	6
Sandstone, fine-grained, friable, yellowish-gray; contains thin layers of dusky-brown shale-----	42	0
Coal-----		9
Shale, dusky-brown-----		2
Sandstone, fine-grained, friable, yellowish-gray; contains ironstone concretions-----	6	3
Shale, dusky-brown-----	2	10
Coal-----	2	9
Shale, dusky-brown-----		9
Sandstone, fine-grained; contains well indurated zones-----	40	5
Total measured Fort Union Formation-----	494	8

The contact between the Fort Union Formation and the underlying Lance Formation is apparently conformable and gradational throughout Sheridan County. In the western part of the county, the Fort Union Formation dips about 4° E. or SE. (Taff, 1909, p.

132) and is probably about 2,000 feet thick. The strata in the Spotted Horse coal field in the eastern part of the county generally dip south-westward at less than 3° (Olive, 1957, p. 21). There, the thickness of the formation is not known; only 900 feet of the upper part of the Fort Union is exposed (Olive, 1957, p. 10).

**WASATCH FORMATION**

Near the mountains, the Wasatch Formation is divided into two members on the basis of an angular unconformity. The lower member is the Kingsbury Conglomerate Member, and the upper is the Moncrief Member. Both members, which are interpreted as alluvial-fan deposits (Gale and Wegemann, 1910, p. 144; Sharp, 1948, p. 12), grade laterally into the fine-grained facies of the Wasatch Formation and cannot be distinguished a few miles east of the mountains.

The Kingsbury Conglomerate Member is exposed in a small area at the base of Moncreiffe Ridge but is not shown on plate 1. It is about 800 feet thick just south of the report area (Mapel, 1959, p. 64).

The Moncrief Member is as much as 1,400 feet thick (Sharp, 1948, p. 2) and consists of beds of conglomerate, coarse-grained sandstone, and greenish-gray siltstone. Precambrian rocks of the Bighorn Mountains were the source of most of the material in the member, and boulders 5-10 feet in maximum dimension are common in the upper part of the member, which contains relatively coarser material than the lower part.

In the Powder River structural basin, the lithologies of the Wasatch and the Fort Union Formations do not differ greatly. Coal is not as prevalent in the Wasatch, nor is sandstone. (See measured sections by Olive, 1957, p. 11-12, 16-18.) The maximum thickness of the formation in the basin is about 1,200 feet (Taff, 1909, p. 130).

The following section (adapted from Mapel, 1959, p. 67) was measured 3 miles south of the project area, but it illustrates the similarity between the Wasatch and Fort Union Formations.

*Partial section of coal-bearing beds of Wasatch Formation in S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> sec. 31, T. 53 N., R. 80 W.*

[Adapted from Mapel, 1959, p. 67]

	<i>Feet</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Clinker, red.....	3	0
Shale and sandstone, interbedded; sandstone very light gray to grayish yellow, fine grained to silty, friable; shale, gray; interval poorly exposed.....	66	0
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	3	6
Concealed; probably sandstone and shale.....	35	0
Sandstone, very light gray, fine-grained, calcareous, crossbedded; interbedded greenish-gray siltstone near base.....	24	0

*Partial section of coal-bearing beds of Wasatch Formation in S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> sec. 31, T. 53 N., R. 80 W.—Continued*

	<i>Feet</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Concealed.....	15	0
Shale, light-olive-yellow.....	12	0
Coal and interbedded brown shale.....	13	0
Sandstone and shale, interbedded; sandstone, white, fine-grained, friable; shale, gray.....	31	0
Coal.....	2	7
Shale, light-olive-gray; grades upward into dusky brown shale in top 3 ft.....	18	6
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....		6
Coal.....	1	3
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	2	0
Sandstone and shale, interbedded, very light gray, fine-grained, calcareous; shale, olive gray; bed of gray, yellowish-weathering, sandy limestone concretions 8 ft above base.....	28	0
Shale, dark-gray; contains a few shell fragments near base.....	12	0
Limestone, light-gray; weathers yellowish brown; composed largely of shells of fresh-water mollusks.....		4
Coal.....	1	6
Shale, gray; upper 8 in. is dusky brown.....	19	0
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous; contains a few ½-in. seams of coal.....	3	0
Shale, gray, slightly carbonaceous.....	5	6
Coal.....	3	1
Concealed.....	20	0
Sandstone, light-gray, fine-grained; contains a few yellowish-gray limestone concretions.....	7	0
Concealed.....	24	0
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....		6
Coal.....	3	6
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	1	0
Sandstone, very light gray, fine-grained, friable; contains a few thin partings of gray shale.....	12	0
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	2	0
Coal.....	1	4
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....		6
Shale, olive-gray; sandy near top.....	14	0
Coal, shaly.....	2	5
Shale and sandstone, interbedded; shale, olive gray; sandstone, very light gray, fine grained, friable, crossbedded.....	35	0
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous; contains a few ½-in. seams of coal.....	3	6
Shale, olive-gray; sandy near base.....	8	0
Sandstone, very light gray, fine-grained, friable, crossbedded.....	10	0
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	2	0
Coal.....	2	8
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....		6
Sandstone, light-gray to light-yellowish-gray, very fine grained, friable; upper 3-4 ft shaly.....	12	0

*Partial section of coal-bearing beds of Wasatch Formation in S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> sec. 31, T. 53 N., R. 80 W.—Continued*

	<i>Feet Inches</i>	
Coal.....	1	7
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	1	6
Sandstone, light-yellowish-gray, very fine grained; contains many partings of gray shale.....	7	0
Shale, olive-gray; 1-in. seam of coal near top.....	1	6
Sandstone, very light gray, friable.....	5	0
Coal.....		9
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	1	6
Concealed.....	24	0
Sandstone, gray to white, fine-grained, crossbedded; shaly near top.....	11	0
Shale, dusky-brown, carbonaceous.....	3	0
Shale, gray, silty.....	3	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total measured thickness.....	521	6

The top of the Roland coal is used as the arbitrary boundary between the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations and has been traced throughout much of the basin. Attempts to determine the relation between the Roland coal and the Kingsbury Member at Moncreiffe Ridge have been unsuccessful, and the Wasatch is apparently conformable with the Fort Union throughout most of Sheridan County. Olive (1957, p. 13-14) noted an erosional unconformity in the Spotted Horse coal field in Campbell County, where 670 feet of interbedded sandstone, shale, and coal, including the Roland coal, was replaced by 160 feet of crossbedded sandstone. A conglomeratic mudstone was noted some 150 feet above the Fort Union-Wasatch contact west of Clear Creek in T. 55 N., R. 78 W., and is at about the horizon where Brown (1948, p. 1273) postulated that evidence of an unconformity might be found. A similar conglomerate was noted in the Badger Hills, but the relation to the Roland coal is not known.

**WATER-BEARING PROPERTIES**

Water levels generally are not deep in the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations. The level in most wells is less than 100 feet, and the maximum measured depth to water was 222 feet in well 57-80-34cc. Wells, even on the drainage divide between the Powder River and the Tongue River, penetrate aquifers at shallower depths than might be expected, because many of the aquifers are lenticular and are recharged locally. In areas of considerable local relief, however, the upper strata may be drained. Flowing wells are common in the valleys of the Powder River, Tongue River, and Little Goose Creek. The location of wells and depth to water are shown on plate 1. Generally, wells drilled in valleys and draws will have higher water levels,

with respect to land surface, and may penetrate aquifers at shallower depths.

Depths of wells range considerably because the aquifers are not continuous. The lenticularity of some of the aquifers and the resulting difference in depth of wells are shown in figure 11. The profile is near the western margin of the Wasatch Formation, and the deeper wells are probably completed in the Fort Union. The specific conductance of water from the wells also is shown in figure 11. The difference in conductance that occurs within a short distance indicates that the aquifers are not directly connected. The sandstone aquifers are probably deposits similar to the channel sandstone shown in figure 12.

General correlations are possible on the basis of the known intervals between the coals in localities where several coal beds are penetrated by wells (fig. 13). The aquifers that yield water to wells are usually the only ones noted in the drillers' logs, and although some sands are noted as being dry, probably not all the sand beds above those which contribute water to the wells are dry. Wells commonly are drilled deeper in an attempt to develop them as flowing wells or to reach water of more acceptable quality.

Yields from wells are generally small—less than 10 gpm—but supplies adequate for domestic and stock use can be obtained throughout the area. No water wells are known to penetrate the entire thickness of either the Fort Union or Wasatch Formations, but the yield of wells could be substantially increased if by drilling deeper, a greater number of aquifers were penetrated. The principal aquifers that yield water to wells and springs are sandstone and coal. Large amounts of water accumulate in abandoned coal mines, and this water has been developed from springs (53-82-10aa) at old mine entrances and from wells (53-82-2da) bored into flooded mine workings.

Numerous springs exist in the Powder River structural basin, and springs with flows as small as 0.1 gpm have been developed. Contact springs are the most common, although a few landslide springs occur. In addition to the aquifers previously mentioned, clinker beds—created by the burning of coal seams—commonly yield water to springs that is less mineralized than is the water from other aquifers.

Although the resistant-Moncrief Member of the Wasatch Formation forms an area of high relief and is largely above the water table, the occurrence of water in the Moncrief is similar to the occurrence in alluvial fans. Water-table conditions exist in the recharge area, and artesian conditions occur basinward. Springs near Moncreiffe Ridge issue from sandstone and conglomerate lenses that have been exposed by post-Eocene erosion.

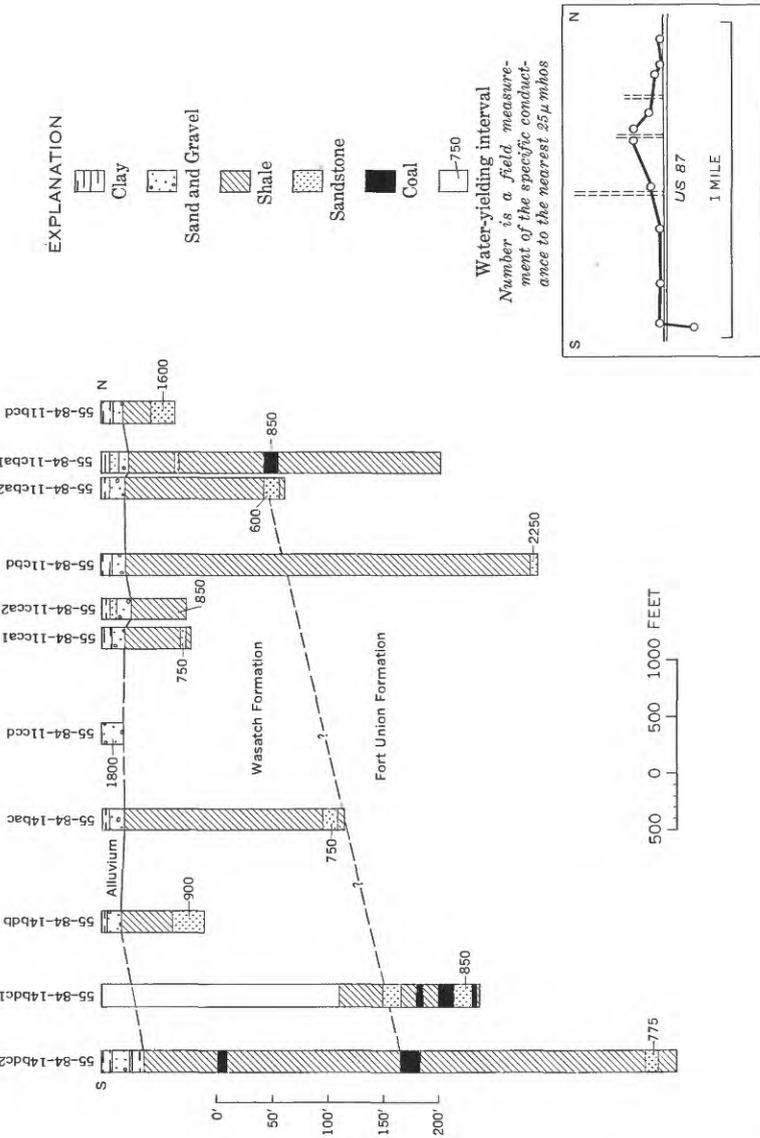


FIGURE 11.—Wells in the valley of Little Goose Creek, 2 miles south of Sheridan, Wyo., in secs. 11 and 14, T. 55 N., R. 84 W., showing difference in depth to aquifers and difference in specific conductance of water.



FIGURE 12.—Channel sandstone in the Fort Union Formation exposed in a road-cut in sec. 34, T. 57 N., R. 84 W.

Drillers' logs show that sandstone and coarser material constitute at least 50 percent of the bedrock penetrated near Moncreiffe Ridge. Therefore, moderate to large yields might be obtained from deep wells near Moncreiffe Ridge. These bedrock conditions extend basinward as far as wells 54-83-7ad and 54-83-21cc. The sandstone penetrated by well 54-83-27cd, which is just east of these two wells, was only 30 percent of the bedrock. Although this well may have penetrated a greater saturated thickness of sandstone than did some of the shallower wells to the west, the basinward decrease in permeability has resulted in a specific capacity for the well of less than 0.01 gpm per foot of drawdown.

#### RECHARGE AND DISCHARGE

Recharge to the aquifers in the eastern and central parts of the county is almost entirely from precipitation. Areas underlain by clinker beds are especially favorable for recharge, because precipitation on these areas percolates rapidly down through the zone where it would evaporate or be transpired.

Recharge in the western part of the project area and along Piney Creek comes principally from irrigation and surface water. Ground water, nonetheless, probably contributes to the flow of Piney Creek in some reaches.

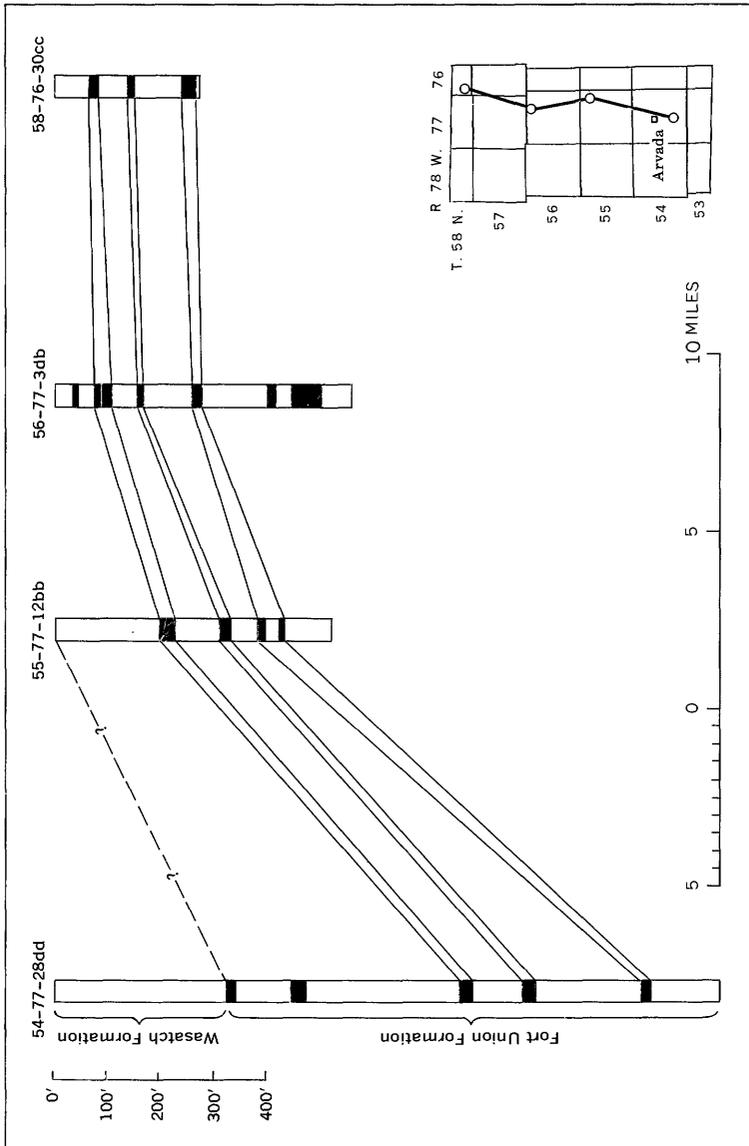


FIGURE 13.—Correlation of coal beds in eastern Sheridan County, Wyo.

## QUALITY OF WATER FROM THE FORT UNION FORMATION

Chemical analyses of 17 water samples from the Fort Union Formation are given in table 4. The wells sampled were in, or near, the outcrop of the formation. The water is a sodium bicarbonate type and has a dissolved-solids content that ranges from 484 to 2,380 ppm. The iron content ranges from 0.08 to 3.2 ppm, and the hardness ranges from 15 (soft) to 279 ppm (very hard). The chemical characteristics of water from the Fort Union are presented graphically in figure 14. The quality of water in the Fort Union Formation probably is affected by two chemical reactions as the water moves through the rocks. The reactions are as follows:

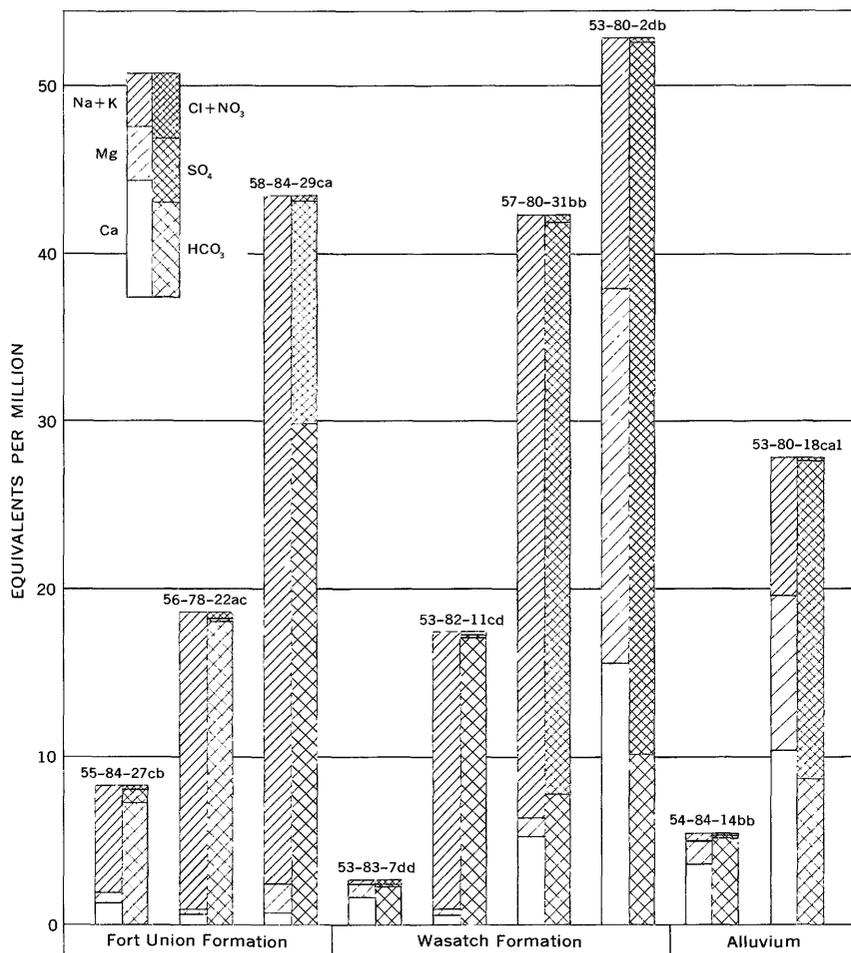
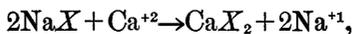


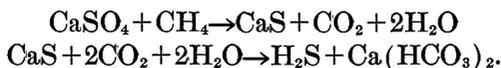
FIGURE 14.—Chemical characteristics of ground water in the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations and in the alluvium, Sheridan County, Wyo.

1. *Cation-exchange softening*.—Many rock materials hold absorbed cations that may be exchanged for cations in solution in water. One such reaction is the exchange of sodium (held by the solid phase) for dissolved calcium. Generalized, it may be written



where X represents a unit of exchange capacity in the solid-phase material. Riffenburg (1925) cited cation-exchange softening as affecting the quality of water in the Fort Union Formation in Montana; similar conditions occur in Wyoming.

2. *Sulfate reduction*.—In the presence of hydrocarbons and certain bacteria, sulfate may be reduced to form hydrogen sulfide and bicarbonate. The reaction was illustrated by Hem (1959, p. 103) as follows:



The reduction of sulfate in water in the Fort Union Formation is indicated by the presence of relatively high bicarbonate concentrations as compared to the sulfate concentrations, and by hydrogen sulfide and hydrocarbon gases in the water at many locations. Only one water sample had a sulfate concentration higher than the bicarbonate concentration, and that sample was obtained from a shallow well (56-85-3ad).

Although cation-exchange softening is the probable cause of the high percentage of sodium in the water of the Fort Union Formation, sulfate reduction possibly indirectly increases the percentage of sodium. Under favorable conditions the reduction of sulfate will result in the formation of nearly insoluble calcium and magnesium carbonates, which precipitate (Eaton, 1936, p. 515).

Foster (1950) suggested that carbon dioxide which originates in carbonaceous material promotes high sodium bicarbonate concentrations in water. The carbon dioxide, when adsorbed by water, enables the water to dissolve calcium carbonate, and an increase in bicarbonate concentration results. If water that contains calcium carbonate comes in contact with cation-exchange materials, the dissolved calcium may be exchanged for sodium. The exchange not only increases the proportion of sodium in solution, but allows even greater amounts of bicarbonate to be held in solution.

Water from the Fort Union Formation is used principally for domestic and stock purposes. The dissolved-solids content of water from all but one well exceeded the limit recommended by the Public Health Service. The water is usable, however. Iron exceeds the 0.3-ppm suggested maximum in water from some aquifers. Most wells

yield soft to moderately hard water. Hydrogen sulfide imparts an unpleasant odor to some of the supplies, but, like carbon dioxide, it is not physiologically harmful in water. At the time of this investigation (1961), water from the Fort Union Formation was not being used for irrigation, and it generally would not be usable as irrigation water except for salt tolerant crops under favorable conditions. Nearly nine-tenths of the samples analyzed had either a high to very high sodium hazard or a high to very high salinity hazard. Water from the Fort Union Formation ranges from good to fair for stock use.

#### GAS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER IN THE FORT UNION FORMATION

Gas and water are discharged together from some wells that penetrate coal and other carbonaceous material of the Fort Union Formation. Samples of gas were collected at the well head from four flowing wells in accordance with techniques suggested by the Chemical and Geological Laboratories, Casper, Wyo. Analyses were made by that laboratory using a gas chromatograph. These analyses, together with measurements of the quantity of gas discharged, are given in table 5. The gas is mainly methane with lesser quantities of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, ethane, propane, isobutane, and higher paraffin hydrocarbons. Hydrogen sulfide is present, although its quantity could not be determined by the chromatographic analysis. The concentration of hydrogen sulfide dissolved in the water at the well head was determined, however. (See table 4.)

Most of the gas probably originates in the coal or other carbonaceous material in the Fort Union Formation. Analyses of gas from coal (Chamberlin, 1909) are similar in many respects to analyses of gas obtained from water wells in Sheridan County. Lewis (1934) stated

TABLE 5.—Quantity and quality of gas discharged with water from the Fort Union Formation, Sheridan County, Wyo.

[Analyses by Chemical and Geological Laboratories, Casper, Wyo.]

Well	Date	Gas-water ratio <sup>1</sup> (at 25°C and atmospheric pressure)	Percentage composition (by volume)						Isobutane (C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> ) and higher paraffin hydrocarbons
			Oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> )	Nitrogen (N <sub>2</sub> )	Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	Ethane (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> )	Propane (C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub> )	
54-76-5ac.....	Aug. 29, 1961	( <sup>2</sup> )	0.14	8.87	0.31	90.66	0.02	Trace	Trace.
54-77-5db.....	Aug. 30, 1961	0.5	.63	8.69	.47	90.10	.08	0.03	Trace.
57-76-20bd.....	do.....	.3	4.82	23.13	.78	71.18	.07	.02	Trace.
58-82-30aa.....	Mar. 21, 1962	2.2	1.03	6.14	.94	91.82	.07	-----	Trace.

<sup>1</sup> Gas-volume discharge (liters)/water-volume discharge (liters).

<sup>2</sup> Water discharge not measurable.

that carbon dioxide and methane in coal are being formed continuously, primarily by internal molecular adjustments during transitions from rank to rank in the coal series. Ethane and propane have been obtained from coal, but generally as a result of heating. To the authors' knowledge, isobutane has not been cited specifically as a gas formed or contained in coal. Many analyses of gas contained in coal were made several years ago when analytical procedures were less sensitive to small quantities of paraffin hydrocarbons. Isobutane may have been present, therefore, in gas contained in coal, but not detected when the gas was analyzed. Although coal and carbonaceous material of the Fort Union Formation are probably the principal sources of the gases discharged from water wells, the isobutane and the higher paraffin hydrocarbons may be natural gases that have migrated from other rocks. Some of the ethane and propane also may have migrated from natural-gas deposits. Natural gas generally contains a higher percentage of ethane and propane than does the gas obtained from coal.

Moore (1950) stated that the nitrogen in coal comes partly from plant constituents but mainly from air imprisoned in the coal. However, some of the nitrogen discharged with the water from wells in Sheridan County may have been carried downward by percolating ground water. Most of the oxygen from air imprisoned in coal probably combines with carbon and hydrogen during the alteration of vegetal matter from which the coal is formed. Oxygen, nevertheless, has been obtained from coal, and Lewis (1934, p. 33) stated that free oxygen in small quantities is sometimes detected in coal. The oxygen in gas obtained from water wells may have been present in percolating ground water that was once in contact with the atmosphere.

Despite the facts that oxygen and nitrogen have been observed in coal and that both may be present in percolating ground water, the oxygen, and some of the nitrogen in the samples, possibly resulted from air contamination while the samples were being collected. The evacuated tanks used to collect gas samples may have leaked slightly during the interval between evacuation and sample collection. Also, some of the well casings are old and corroded, and air may have entered the casings. Air contamination of the gas from well 57-76-20bd seems probable. If the analysis of gas from well 57-76-20bd is recomputed to air-free conditions, methane content increases to greater than 90 percent, and nitrogen decreases to approximately 7 percent. Thus, recomputed on this basis, the analysis of the gas is similar to analyses of gas from the other wells.

The total volume of gas discharged per unit volume of water discharged—that is, the gas-water ratio—differs from well to well. Well

58-82-30aa has a gas-water ratio of 2.2, whereas wells 54-77-5db and 57-76-20bd have gas-water ratios of 0.5 or less. Although a sample of gas was obtained from well 54-76-5ac, the gas-water ratio could not be measured. Field observations indicated that the gas-water ratio for this well is greater than that of any other in the project area. This well discharges gas and water in alternating surges.

Gas accumulates in fractures in the coal, and it also migrates to adjacent strata. Gas in an aquifer affects the height to which water will rise in a well and may bring the water to the surface (Meinzer, 1942, p. 418). Where the quantity of gas in an aquifer is small, all the gas may be dissolved in the water. A gradual decrease in pressure as the water moves from the aquifer allows the dissolved gas to be liberated. The liberated gas expands, and as it expands the specific gravity of the gas-water mixture is decreased and a lifting action created. Several wells in Sheridan County flow because of this effect that otherwise probably would not. Other wells in Sheridan County undoubtedly flow because of the pressure of free gas in the aquifer.

A 1-liter sample of water was obtained from well 58-82-30aa to determine the quantity and quality of gas in solution at the well head. The sample was allowed to stand unsealed at atmospheric pressure until all visible gas bubbles had disappeared (approximately 1 min.). It then was sealed tightly. The sample yielded 64 milliliters of gas (measured at 25°C) when analyzed. The percentage composition of this gas was as follows:

<i>Gas</i>	<i>Percent- age com- position (by volume)</i>
Oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> )-----	0. 42
Nitrogen (N <sub>2</sub> )-----	11. 37
Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )-----	37. 83
Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )-----	50. 32
Ethane (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> )-----	. 04
Propane (C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub> )-----	. 01
Isobutane (C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> ) and higher paraffin hydrocarbons-----	. 01

Each type of gas was dissolved in the water in a quantity not exceeding its solubility at atmospheric pressure and at the same water temperature as when the sample was collected. The gases probably remain in the water for some time and gradually escape when the water is in contact with the atmosphere. The escape probably is more rapid when the water is agitated by flowing or by some other action. Literature could not be found that cited harm to human beings or stock as the result of drinking water containing the quantities of hydrocarbon gases likely to be in solution at atmospheric pressure.

**QUALITY OF WATER FROM THE WASATCH FORMATION**

Chemical analyses of water from the Wasatch Formation are given in table 4. The chemical characteristics of the water are illustrated graphically in figure 14. The dissolved-solids content of the water ranges from 160 to 6,620 ppm; iron content, from 0.00 to 25 ppm; sulfate content, from 0.6 to 4,080 ppm; and hardness, from 8 ppm (soft) to 3,310 ppm (very hard). Hydrogen sulfide, methane, and probably the higher paraffin hydrocarbon gases are in the water of the Wasatch Formation, particularly in areas underlain by coal. No analyses of gas were made, however, because of unsuitable sampling conditions.

Approximately half the wells sampled yield a sodium bicarbonate type water with less than 1,200 ppm dissolved-solids content. The water from these wells is similar to that from the Fort Union Formation and probably has been affected by cation-exchange softening and sulfate reduction. Deposits of both formations are similar, and, therefore, water of similar quality would be expected, particularly from deep wells.

Water from other wells sampled ranges widely in dissolved-solids content. Sodium sulfate, magnesium-sodium sulfate, magnesium-calcium sulfate, and calcium bicarbonate types of water occur. This diversity may be attributed to local differences in recharge conditions, soils, and lithology. A sample of water from clinker beds (spring 55-81-2bc) was of calcium bicarbonate type and had a dissolved-solids content of 281 ppm.

Water from the Wasatch Formation is used principally for domestic and stock purposes. The dissolved-solids content of the water generally exceeds the limit recommended by the Public Health Service, but the water is usable at most locations. Undesirable concentrations of iron, manganese, and sulfate are mainly in water having a dissolved-solids content greater than 2,000 ppm. Water from well 54-79-21bdd, the public supply of the town of Clearmont, has a dissolved-solids content of 890 ppm, is moderately hard, and contains sufficient hydrogen sulfide to impart a noticeable odor. Although wells having sufficient yield may be constructed in the Wasatch Formation, the water is generally unusable for irrigation except on the most salt-tolerant crops under the most favorable conditions. Approximately two-thirds of the analyzed water samples had either a very high salinity hazard or a very high sodium hazard. The water ranges from good to very poor as a stock supply. Wells at most locations, however, yield usable stock water.

**DEVELOPMENT OF WATER FROM ROCKS OF TERTIARY AGE**

Water supplies for stock and domestic use have been developed throughout the eastern and central parts of the county from the Fort Union and the Wasatch Formations. Wells shown on plate 1 do not indicate their density but were selected as representative of those in the area.

Small yields are available throughout the area underlain by these formations, but moderate to large supplies possibly could be developed from wells in the vicinity of Moncreiffe Ridge.

**DEPOSITS OF QUATERNARY AGE**

Those deposits of Quaternary age in Sheridan County that contain significant quantities of water are terrace, alluvium, and flood-plain deposits. The water-bearing characteristics of these and other deposits of Quaternary age are given in table 1. Terraces of Tertiary age have been mapped in the area by Mapel (1959, p. 74). In this report, however, the terrace deposits are generalized and are shown on the map as Quaternary age.

**TERRACE DEPOSITS**

Terrace deposits occur along the major streams throughout the county. They are more prevalent in the western part of the county, and only these terrace deposits are shown on plate 1. Some of these contain significant quantities of water. The deposits, which consist of unconsolidated clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders, are as much as 45 feet thick.

**FLOOD-PLAIN DEPOSITS**

Flood-plain deposits, which are shown on plate 1, comprise flood-plain material, slope wash, and the Recent terrace deposits which were described by Leopold and Miller (1954, p. 6-11). The deposits, composed of unconsolidated clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders, are generally coarser in the western part of the county, near the mountains. Locally derived coarse material has been deposited in the valleys of streams that head in the central part of the basin; however, gravel derived from the Bighorn Mountains has been deposited in the eastern part of the county, in the valleys of the Powder River and Clear Creek. The greatest thickness of alluvium penetrated by a well (56-82-19ac) was 91 feet in the valley of Dutch Creek, and seismic shotholes penetrated 100 feet of alluvium in the same valley. (See fig. 16.)

**WATER-BEARING PROPERTIES**

The quantity of water that the flood-plain and terrace deposits will yield to wells depends on the size and sorting of the material and the

saturated thickness of the deposits. Yields from terrace deposits are as large as 25 gpm, and those from the flood-plain deposits are as large as 108 gpm. Larger yields could probably be developed, however.

The saturated thickness of the alluvium in the Powder River valley is not sufficient to yield large supplies of water to wells. The alluvium downstream from the confluence of Powder River and Clear Creek is about 20 feet thick, and the saturated thickness is about 7 feet, as determined by test drilling (fig. 15). The material penetrated was not as coarse as that penetrated in other parts of the valley, but the thickness of the alluvium and the saturated section here is comparable to that in test holes upstream in Johnson County (Whitcomb and McCullough, oral commun., 1961). The thickness of the alluvium is also comparable to that downstream at the proposed site of the Moorehead Dam (Olive, 1957, p. 20).

The alluvium in some of the smaller valleys is thicker than that in the Powder River valley (fig. 16). Sufficient coarse material was not penetrated by test holes in the alluvium of Prairie Dog Creek to furnish moderate supplies of water to wells. Thicker deposits of coarse material are known at other locations in the valley, and moderate supplies of ground water can be developed at places from the alluvium of Prairie Dog Creek as well as from the alluvium in the valleys of the Tongue River and Dutch Creek.

#### RECHARGE AND DISCHARGE

The alluvium is recharged from precipitation and from irrigation water. Irrigation is a major source of recharge, and its contribution to the ground water in the alluvium is responsible for the existence of adequate supplies in some areas. Water in the terrace deposits west of Sheridan reportedly was inadequate during a year when a below-

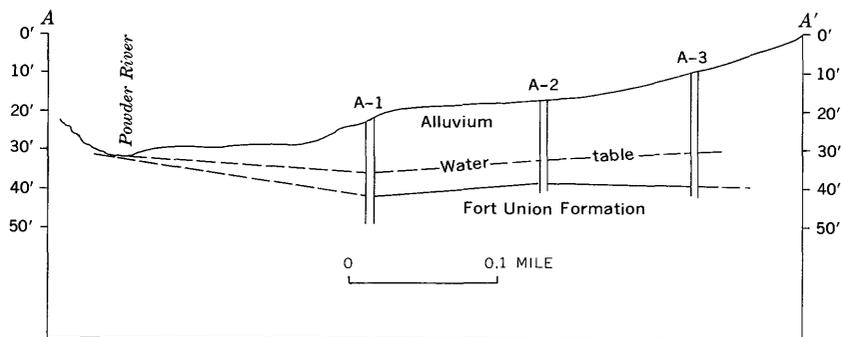


FIGURE 15.—Part of the Powder River valley, view downstream, 1.5 miles downstream from the confluence with Clear Creek.

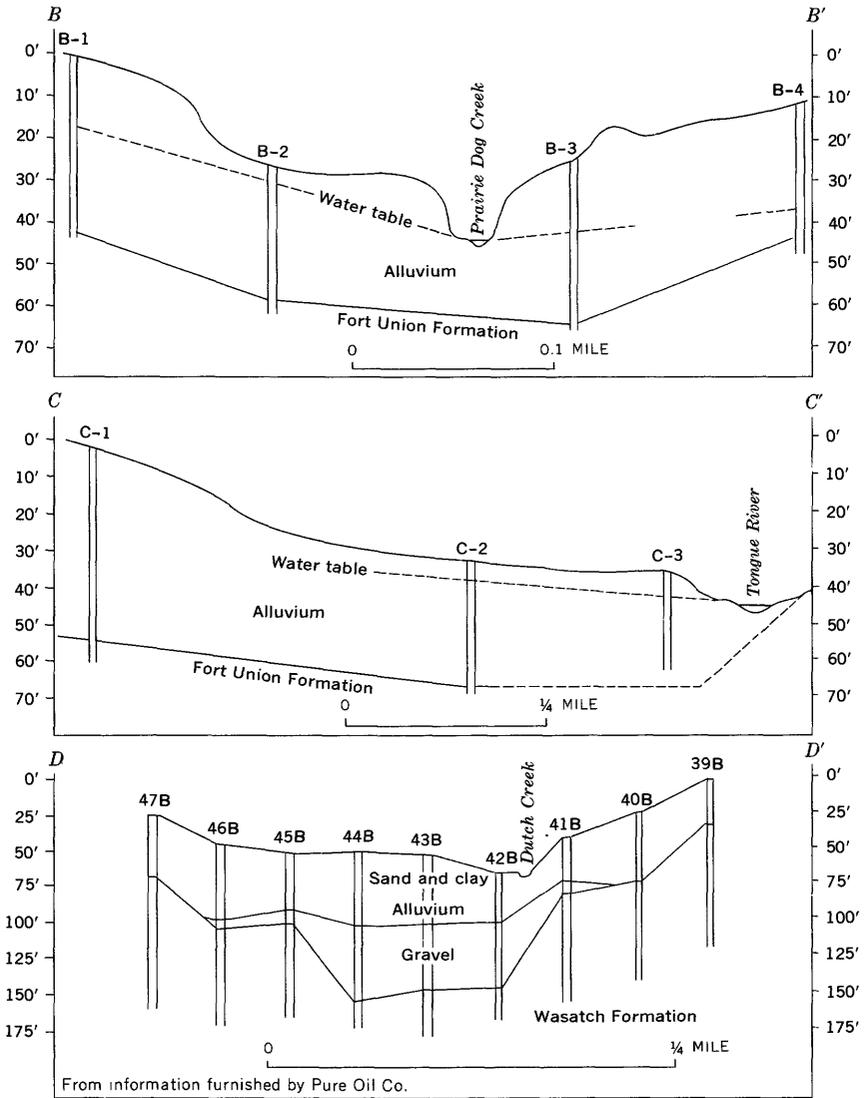


FIGURE 16.—Valleys of Prairie Dog Creek (B-B'), Tongue River (C-C'), and Dutch Creek (D-D'), view downstream.

normal amount of irrigation water was applied in the surrounding area. A rancher near Ranchester reported that the terrace deposits on his ranch did not contain water until a canal was constructed to bring in water for irrigation on the terrace. Water for domestic supply, in 1960, was obtained from a spring at the edge of the terrace

deposit near the ranch buildings. Water was applied to the lands upgradient from the spring at least once, late in the irrigation season, to insure an adequate domestic supply for the winter.

Ground water is discharged from the deposits of Quaternary age by evaporation, transpiration, wells, seeps, and springs, and by seepage to streams. The slope of the water table is toward the streams shown in figure 16 (*B-B'*, *C-C'*) because of irrigation on the bordering lands, and, at least in these reaches of the streams, ground water is contributing to streamflow. Because only the land on the west side of Prairie Dog Creek was irrigated, the slope of the water table toward the stream is greater on the west side of the creek than on the east side.

#### QUALITY OF WATER

Chemical analyses of water from the alluvium are given in table 4. The diverse chemical characteristics of the water are illustrated graphically in figure 14. Iron content ranges from 0.00 to 4.3 ppm, and sulfate content, from 8.0 to 1,020 ppm. The dissolved-solids content ranges from 272 to 2,060 ppm. The water is very hard.

Water from each well sampled has some chemical characteristic that is undesirable in water for a domestic supply. As an irrigation supply, water from the alluvium has a low sodium hazard but a medium to very high salinity hazard. Supplies developed for stock use will probably be good to fair. In general, the alluvium in the mountains and along the mountain flanks yields water of better quality than that in other areas, principally because the quality of surface-water recharge is better.

#### DEVELOPMENT

Most wells that tap deposits of Quaternary age have been drilled in the western part of the county. The deposits of Quaternary age are more widespread in this area and generally yield water of a better quality than do those in the eastern part of the county. Only one irrigation well was in use at the time of this investigation; however, moderate to large yields can be developed in other areas under favorable conditions.

More extensive test drilling was not possible during the investigation, but several areas warrant exploration. Two such areas are the alluvium near the base of Moncreiffe Ridge and the terrace deposits in the northwestern part of T. 57 N., R. 86 W. Well 54-84-14bb, just north of Moncreiffe Ridge, was still in the alluvium at a total depth of 65 feet. Although the terrace deposits are only 19 feet thick where penetrated by well 57-86-9ab, the terrace in this vicinity is more than 1 mile wide, and the deposits are probably thicker elsewhere.

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**BASIC DATA**

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TABLE 6.—Records of wells and springs in Sheridan County, Wyo.

Well or spring	Owner	Year drilled	Type of supply	Depth of well (feet)	Casing		Principal water-bearing bed		Method of lift	Use of water	Distance to water level above (+) or below land surface (feet)	Date of measurement	Remarks
					Depth (feet)	Diameter (inches)	Char-acter of material	Geologic source					
53-76-4ca.	George Claybaugh.	1947	Dr	800	780	4-2	Ss	Tf	F	S	+	---	D3R.
77-2bd.	Santiago Michelena	1950	Dr	780	840	2	Ss	Tf	F	S	+	---	Ca, D1,3M.
9db.	do.	1950	Dr	840	840	2	Ss	Tf	F	S	+	10-26-60	D35R.
10cd.	do.	1947	Dr	424	424	2	Ss	Tf	F	S	+	---	D15R.
11ab.	do.	1950	Dr	500	500	2	Ss	Tf	F	S	+	---	D6R, DD80R.
13ad.	Glen Sorenson	1955	Dr	755	755	2	Ss	Tf	F	S	+	9-58	Ca, D2R, DD150R.
78-1cd.	Carl Knutson	1958	Dr	1,265	1,105	4-2	Ss	Tw,Tf	Cy,W	S	30	9-58	D16R, DD12R.
79-7bc.	Landeck	1960	Dr	280	239	4	Ss	Tw	Cy,W	S	18	10-54	Ca, T47.
10ac.	Ben F. Vannoy	1954	Dr	60	60	6	Ss	Tw	Cy,W	S	5	8-52	K1,000.
80-2db.	J. R. Mitchell	1952	Dr	260	134	4-2½	Ss	Tw	C,E	D	8.91	8-2-61	Ca, D80R, DD7R, T47.
9ca.	John Lusher	1957	Dr	134	23	4-3	Ss	Tw	Cy,W	D	46	9-60	Ca.
18ca1	John Fowler	1960	Dr	23	6	3	Ss	Qal	Cy,W	D	30.76	4-23-61	D80R, DD15R.
18ca2	do.	1960	Dr	143	143	4-3	Ss	Tw	Cy,W	D	21.97	8-3-61	K1,000.
81-7cc.	Walter Hawkey	1960	Dr	80	76	4	Ss	Tw	Cy,W	D	28.70	8-15-61	D10R, DD38R.
88c.	Chne Fowler	1954	Dr	76	71	4-3	Ss	Tw	Cy,W	D	82.49	4-23-61	water pumped from Krezlok coal mine.
148a.	Fred Kaufmann	1957	Dr	135	135	4	Ss	Tw	J,E	N	---	---	---
17dd.	John P. Kumor	1957	Dr	220	220	4	Ss	Tw	Cy,W	S	---	---	---
82-2da.	Frank Krezlok	---	B	93	N	4	C	Tw	Cy,W	S	---	---	---

Well or spring: See explanation of well-numbering system in text.

Type of supply: B, bored well; Dr, drilled well; Du, dug well; Sp, spring.

Depth of well: Measured depths are given in feet and tenths below land surface; reported depths are given in feet.

Character of material: C, coal; Cb, cobbles; Cl, clinker; D, dolomite; G, gravel; Gr, granite; Ls, limestone; S, sand; Sh, shale; Ss, sandstone.

Geologic source (symbols listed alphabetically): Cf, Flathead Sandstone; Kbp, Bearpaw Shale; Kcv, Cloverly Formation; Kf, Frontier Formation; Kl, Lance Formation; Kp, Parkman Sandstone; Ob, Big Horn Dolomite; Pa, Amsden Formation; p-Cg, Precambrian granite; Pt, Tensleep Sandstone; Pia, Tensleep Sandstone and Amsden Formation; Qal, alluvium; Ql, landslide deposits; Qt, terrace deposits; Tf, Fort Union Formation; Tc, Chugwater Formation; Tw, Wasatch Formation)

Method of lift (first letter): C, centrifugal; Cy, cylinder; F, flow; G, gravity; J, jet; N, none; S, submersible turbine; T, turbine. Type of power (second letter): B, butane engine; E, electric motor; G, gasoline engine; H, hand operated; N, none; W, windmill.

Use of water: D, domestic; I, irrigation; In, industrial; N, none; O, observation. P, public supply; S, stock.

Distance to water level: Measured depths are given in feet, tenths, and hundredths; reported depths are given in feet; + not followed by number indicates artesian pressure is not known.

Remarks: Ca, chemical analysis given in table 4; D, discharge, in gallons per minute (E, estimated; M, measured; R, reported); DD, drawdown, in feet while discharging at preceding rate (R, reported); G, analysis of gas given in table 5; K, specific conductance, in micromhos at 25°C, measured with field equipment; L, log of well given in table 7; T, temperature of water, in degrees Fahrenheit.

-3cd.	do.	1954	Sp	120	4	C	Tw	G	S	28	6-54	D2E, K650, T44.
-4ba.	Roy Geer.	1954	Dr	143	4-3	C	Tw	Cy, N	S	19	11-54	D<1R; abandoned mine.
-10aa.	Dar. D. Kelley.	1954	Sp	8, 8	24	C	Tw	G	D	5.42	4-12-61	Ca, D12R, DD71R, L.
-11cd.	S. L. Bobnsack.	1956	Du	80	4	C	Qal	Cy, E	N	18	5-56	K1, 200.
83-1bc.	Sam Blaney	1956	Dr	115	4-3	Ss	Tw	J, E	D	48.46	4-18-60	K450, L.
-7ad.	Prather	1959	Dr	42	4-3	Ss	Tw	N	O	6.87	5-15-61	Ca, D30R, DD10R.
-18da.	Dan Evers.	1956	Dr	75	4-3	Ss	Tw	C, E	D, P	27	11-56	D15R, DD28R, K460, L,
	Wagon Box Ranch.	1956	Dr	75	4-3	Ss	Tw	J, E	D			T43.
84-13bd.	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.	1956	Sp	880	4	Ss	Pt	G		37.23	5-19-60	D1, 100-400R.
54-76-4bc.	Fred Barton.	1956	Dr	710	4-2		Tf	Cy, G	S, O	30.23	6-6-60	Ca, D7M, G, T62.
-5ac.	Wm. Suranyi.	1959	Dr	730	4-2		Tf	Cy, N	S, Z	+		D1E, T68.
-17ca.	C. L. Smith.	1953	Dr	686	4-2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		D40R.
-19ca.	Chas. K. Bulkeley	1955	Dr	1, 070	4-2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		D40R, T68.
77-10d.	do.	1955	Dr	1, 070	4-2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		D29, T68.
-8aa.	Thomas Lorah.	1955	Dr	480	2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		Ca, D104M, G, T62.
-90b.	Max Petrich.	1955	Dr	1, 185	2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		Ca, D12R, T59.
-7cd.	Wm. E. Moore.	1960	Dr	1, 200	4-2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		D12, T70.
-9cb.	Wm. F. Bell.	1958	Dr	1, 743	4-2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		D67R, DD165R.
-11ad.	Albert Fisher.	1958	Dr	980	4-2	Ss	Tf	F	Z	+		
-16da.	Chicago Burring-Pan & Quincy	1944	Dr	340	12 1/2	Ss	Tf	J, G	S, D	+		
-22db.	Ray Elliott.	1955	Dr	740	2		Tf	F	S	+		D8E, T60.
-23dc.	Melvin Smoot.	1959	Dr	1, 063	4-2		Tf	F	S	+		T72.
-25ca.	Edward Walsh.	1954	Dr	650	4-2		Tf	F	S	+		D5E, T62.
-28dd.	Wm. I. Moore.	1954	Dr	1, 220	2		Tf	F	S	+		D8E, L, T74.
79-3bc.	E. D. Worden.	1955	Dr	34	4		Tw	Cy, N	N, Z	6.39	6-30-61	D6R, DD37R, K3, 500.
-60b.	H. R. Snider.	1955	Dr	200	4	Ss	Tw	Cy, G	N	88	11-55	D17R, DD24R, L.
-20ca.	Fay Ivey.	1960	Dr	225	4	Ss	Tw	Cy, N	O, Z	61.11	5-3-61	D50R; high discharge
-21ab.	Town of Clearmont.	1949	Dr	120	8	Ss	Tw	N	O, P	45.15	4-6-60	because of storage in well
-21bdb.	do.	1949	Dr	200	16		Tw	T, E				
-21bdd.	do.	1947	Dr	121	8		Tw	T, E	P			Ca, D8R.
-29db.	Pete Rietveld.	1947	Dr	80	6-4	Ss	Tw	F	D	11.45	4-61	D<1E, K1, 300.
-31da.	Phillip Muller.	1953	Dr	80	4		Tw	Cy, H	S	85	9-53	K900.
-34bd.	Pete Rietveld.	1953	Dr	208	4-3	Ss	Tw	Cy, W	S			D10R, DD85R, K1, 300,
80-18dc.	Elizabeth Prussak.	1957	Dr	300	4	Ss	Tw	Cy, G	S	100	12-57	D8R, DD140R.
-24bc.	H. W. Rasmussen.	1958	Dr	120	4	Ss	Tw	Cy, E	D	82	8-60	Ca.
-33cd.	John Fowler.	1960	Dr	272	4	Ss	Tw	Cy, G	S	175	6-60	D6R, DD55R, K1, 300,
81-10dd.	Elizabeth Prusak.	1944	Dr	135	4 1/2	C	Tw	Cy, E	D	61.34	6-13-61	T51.
-14bc.	Ulm School.	1960	Dr	110	4	C	Tw	Cy, E	D	57.01	6-12-61	Ca, D15R, DD53R, L, T52
-22ab.	Ernest Pence.	1952	Dr	210	4	Ss	Tw	Cy, E	S	33.37	6-13-61	D25R, DD38R.
-23ab.	Frank Gorzalka.	1959	Dr	92	4	C, Ss	Tw	Cy, G	S			
-30dd.	L. W. Butterfield.	1953	Dr	240	3 1/2		Tw	Cy, E	D			



RECORDS OF WELLS AND SPRINGS

78-9cd	Phillip Little.....	1949	Dr	210	193	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, W	S	+	5-11-61	KI, 500.
-15ba	Paul Whitaker.....	230	Dr	230	4-3	4-3		Tf	Cv, H	N	+	8-23-60	KI, 400, T61.
-19ca	Phillip Little.....	210	Dr	342	4	4		Tw	F, J	N	+		
-23db	Wm. I. Moore.....	1, 045	Dr	350	4	4		Tf, Tw	J, E	D, I	+		
-29aa	Joe Trolan.....	105	Dr	220	4	4		Tw	F, N	N	+	8-24-60	KI, 800.
-33bd	M. Weinberg.....	280	Dr	165	4	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, W	N	+	8-26-60	D3R, DD103R, K5, 000.
79-16dc	D. H. Roberts.....	165	Dr	385	4	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, W	S	+	8-26-60	K2, 500.
-21dd	E. D. Worden.....	385	Dr	188	3 1/2	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, G	S	+	8-23-60	KI, 900, T50.
-23bb	James Burmacea.....	133.7	Dr	140	6	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, N	S	+	8-24-60	KI, 050, T58.
-25dd	Jim Mitchell.....	200	Dr	188	4-3	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, G	N	+		Ca, D5M.
-30baa1	Ralph Foster.....	200	Dr	120	4	4	Ss	Tw(?)	Cv, W	D	+	11- -54	Ca, D2R, DD40R, L, T56
-30bba2	do.....		Dr				Ss		Cv, N	D	+		KI, 250, T54.
-35ca	H. Sanders.....		Dr				Ss	Tw	G	S	+		D10E, K925, T54.
80-6dd	Porter Kennedy.....	1969	SP	120	4-3	4-3	Ss	Tw	G	S	+	6- -61	D8R, DD56R.
81-2bc	Walt Peters.....	61	Dr	294	6	4 1/2-3	Ss	Tw	Cv, N	D	+	6-15-61	D72R, DD16R.
-195bb	Geo. Seales.....	36	Dr	155	36	4-3	G	Qal	Cv, G	N	+	9- -54	KI, 200, T52.
82-2cd	Paul Dodd.....	325	Dr	110	4	4	C, Ss	Tw	Cv, G	S	+	7- -55	D30R, DD8R.
-3cb	do.....	51.5	Dr	178	4	4	G	Qal	Cv, E	S	+	12- -58	Ca, D10R, DD107R.
-5ba	Joe Gorzalka.....	86	Dr	191	4-3	4-3	Ss	Tw	Cv, E	S	+	4-19-61	D6R, DD72R, KI, 600.
-5dc	do.....	52	Dr	260	4	4	Ss, C	Tw	Cv, E	S	+	5- -61	D20R, DD21R, KI, 800.
-15ca	Paul Dodd.....	1955	Dr	340	4	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, E	S	+		KI, 000.
-32ad	Stella Hale.....	153	Dr	124	5	4	Ss	Qal(?)	Cv, W	D	+	4-19-61	D7R, DD7R.
88-1cc	Ivan Kerbel.....	1950	Dr	178	4	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, E	S	+	1942	D5R, DD20R, K300.
-8aa	Paul Koltiska.....	86	Dr	153	4-3	4-3	Ss	Tw	Cv, E	D, S	+	4- -52	K2, 000.
-8ca	Harvey A. Sieweke.....	1944	Dr	124	4	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, E	D	+		D2R, DD63R, KI, 300.
-134b	Joe Ligocki, Jr.....	1954	Dr	80.9	4	4	Ss	Tf	N	N	+	10-31-60	D7R, DD50R, KI, 600, L.
-20ba	Thomas C. Taylor.....	1942	Dr	301	66	4-3	C	Tf(?)	J, E	D	+	6- -56	D<1R, DD140E, K360, L.
-26bd	John Koltiska.....	1952	Dr	163	165	4-3	Ss	Tw	J, E	D	+		D4R, DD145E, K600, L.
-35bc	Tom Wartensleben.....	1952	Dr	387	4-3	4-2 1/2	Ss	Tf	J, E	D	+		K2, 240, L.
84-2ba	W. E. Edwards.....	1937	Dr	80	80	4-3	Ss	Tw	J, E	D	+	8- -55	D1R, DD57R, K750, L.
-8aa	Vincent Chaffant.....	1953	Dr	70	80	4-3	Ss	Tw	J, E	D	+	12- -51	D4R, DD42R, K360, L.
-11cd	Roy Thompson.....	1956	Dr	20	43	4-3	S, G	Qal	J, E	D	+	1956	KI, 800.
-11cbal	Paul Buyok.....	1954	Dr	213	20	4-3	Ss	Qal	J, E	D	+	10- -54	D3R, DD200R, K750, L.
-11cd	F. C. Bruce.....	1953	Dr	163	92	4-3	Ss	Tw	J, E	D	+	6- -52	D6R, DD50R, K360, L.
-11cd	James Sleep.....	1955	Dr	80	386	4-3	Ss	Tw	J, E	D	+		D6R, DD190R, K380, L.
-11ccal	Gus Schaubel.....	1951	Dr	20	336	4-3	Ss	Tf	J, E	D	+		D6R, DD150R, K775, L.
-11cc	Ross Seader.....	1955	Du	20	310	4-2 1/2	Ss	Tf	J, E	D	+		Ca, D75M, L, T50.
-149ac	H. H. Phroux.....	1954	Dr	213	20	4-3	Ss	Qal	Cv, E	D	+		D3R, DD123R, KI, 200.
-149bd	Floyd Phippin.....	1952	Dr	326	336	4-3	Ss	Tf(?)	J, E	D	+		D6R, DD190R, T43.
-149cd	Chas. Merrill.....	1953	Dr	310	310	4-2 1/2	Ss	Tf	J, E	D	+		D6R, DD140R.
-149dca2	W. Woodland Park School.....	1956	Dr	370	370	4	Ss	Tf	F	S	+	3- -52	D6R, DD140R.
-163c	Harvey Land Co.....	1960	Dr	40	39	4	C	Qf	J, E	S	+	4-11-61	D6R, DD140R.
-20aa	Leslie Fox.....	1952	Dr	146	140	4	Ss	Qf	S, E	D	+		D6R, DD140R.
-21ca	C. T. Peters.....	1950	Dr	45	40	4	S, G	Qf	Cv, E	D, O	+		D6R, DD140R.
-26cd	Warren Aites.....	1954	Dr	130	130	4-3	S, G	Tf	Cv, E	D	+		D6R, DD140R.
-27bc	W. F. Schunk.....	1954	Dr	260	260	4	Ss	Tf	Cv, E	D	+		Ca, D1R, DD130R.
-27cb	Urbain Donnafield.....	1959	Dr	560	219	4	Ss	Tf	Cv, E	D	+		D<1E, K5, 500, T47.
-29ba	Russell York.....	1960	Dr	220	219	4	Ss	Tf	Cv, E	D	+		KI, 100.
-33ad	R. S. Hasford.....	1957	Dr	140	140	4 1/2-3	Ss	Tf	Cv, E	D	+		
-36ba	R. I. Diefenderfer, Jr.....	1959	Dr	100	100	4	Ss	Tw	Cv, N	O	+	4-11-61	





TABLE 6.—Records of wells and springs in Sheridan County, Wyo.—Continued

Well or spring	Owner	Year drilled	Type of well supply	Depth of well (feet)	Casing		Principal water-bearing bed		Method of lift	Use of water	Distance to water level above (+) or below land surface (feet)	Date of measurement	Remarks
					Depth (feet)	Diameter (inches)	Character of material	Geologic source					
57-81-7cb	Kendrick Cattle Co.	1941	Dr	510	375	4½-3½	Ss, C	Tw	Cy, E	D	80	4-	D10R, DD130R, L.
-52aa	Ruth Hutton		Dr	140		4		Tw	Cy, E	S	31.22	8-5-60	
-26bd	do		Dr	130		4		Tw	N	S	20.31	8-5-60	
-35ab	do		Dr	160		4		Tw	F	S	+		
82-22cb	N X Bar Ranch	1956	Dr	175	175	4½		Tw	Cy, W	S	85	5-	D03M, K3, 000, T53.
-18aa	Archie L. Nash	1956	Dr	80		4	Ss	Tw	Cy, W	S	21.33	8-3-60	D6R, DD65R.
-29ad	Emerson Hanson	1954	Dr	120	120	4		Tw	Cy, W	S	35	8-54	D25R, DD22R.
83-1aa	Archie Nash	1958	Du	11.5	36	4-3		Qal	Cy, H	S	6.08	8-1-60	D22R, DD20R.
-38b	Joe Plich	1958	Du	120	120	4-3	Ss, C	Tf	Cy, H	S	4	6-35	Ca, D3R, DD108R.
-19ad	Archie Nash		Dr	125		4		Tw	Cy, G	S	47.25	8-3-60	
-14ba	Jesse Gorman		Dr	119		4		Tw	Cy, E	S	71.76	7-26-60	
-21fd	John V. Rose		Dr	232	232	4		Tf	Cy, W	S	63.8	11-14-60	
-34bb	Mansel C. Johnston	1957	Dr	35		4	S, G	Qal	J, E	D	11.90	7-21-60	D7R, DD48R.
-18cc	W. K. Whitford		Dr	137		4		Qal	J, E	D	16	6-	
-13ca	Mary Arzy		Dr	32		4	S, G	Qal	Cy, E	P	6	4-	
-19cd	Richard Blylund	1953	Du	126	126	6-3		Tf	J, E	D	9.10	4-9-61	Ca, D15R, DD58R, L.
-21bb	Geo. W. Boyok	1949	Dr	38	38	4½-3	C	Tf	Cy, F	D	10.15	6-15-60	D3R, DD38R, KI, 500.
-29ab	Bruno's Nite Club	1952	Dr	92.1	6	6		Tf	Cy, H	O	12.78	9-16-60	D30R, DD14R, K2, 500, T44.
85-3da	Padlock Ranch	1952	Dr	40	34	6	G	Qal	Cy, H	S	23.18	9-20-60	K3, 000.
-5ed	Walter Belish	1955	Du	54	30	36	G	Qal(?)	Cy, E	D	9	9-25-55	D54R, DD11R.
-15cd	Don Scott	1955	Dr	35	38	6		Qal	J, E	N	3.03	9-20-60	K3, 500.
-17ca	C. R. Tschirgl	1954	Dr	180	180	3	Ss	Tf	J, E	D	+		Ca, D5R, DD150R.
-19aa	Avra and Vera Ferraro		Dr	30	30	6	S, G	Qal	N	O	4.20	4-19-60	Ca, D25M, L; 4 wells at this location.
-19ab	Town of Ranchester	1959	Dr	488	488	8		Tf	F	D	+		D<1E, K2, 700.
-30ba	E. T. Johnston	1941	Dr	25.5	25.5	30		Qal(?)	N	N	19.38	4-7-61	K1, 050.
-36ad	Dortheie Wallace	1951	Du	87	23	4	G	K	Cy, E	S	14.30	9-20-61	D15R, DD14R, KI, 300, L.
-9ab	Padlock Ranch	1951	Dr	36	23	6		Tf	J, E	D	+		K1, 500, T50.
-12cb	Chrye Zimmerman		Dr	370		6		Qal	N	N	15.29	9-19-60	K575.
-18ba	Geo. Mook		Dr	34.4		6	G	Qal	Cy, H	S	30	2-	D60R, DD20R.
-23ad	M. D. Brown	1960	Dr	65	65	4	Ss	Ko	C, E	D	+		Ca, D4R, L, T50.
-30ac	George R. Mook	1962	Dr	115	115	4	G	Qal	C, E	D	4.78	9-23-60	K550.
-32cb	J. K. Willale		Du	11	11	24	Ss	Qal	J, E	D	+		Ca, D 75M, L, T54.
-34bb	A. E. Adamson	1950	Dr	315	90	6	Ss	K1	J, E	D	+		D15R, DD35R, KI, 500.
-36db	Lucien Robinson	1955	Dr	90	90	4-3	Ss	Tf	S, E	D	35	3-	



TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells

[Listed in this table are sample logs of test holes, drillers' logs of seismic shotholes, and logs of selected water wells. The drillers' logs were obtained from drillers' records and are essentially unchanged]

## SAMPLE LOGS

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Test hole A-1, section A-A'</b>			<b>Test hole B-1, section B-B'—Continued</b>		
Alluvium:			Alluvium—Continued		
Silt, brown, and some very fine sand.....	5	5	Silt, brown.....	15	20
Sand, brown, very fine to medium, silt and some coarse sand, and a few granules.....	5	10	Silt, brown and dark-brown, and some very fine to fine sand.....	26	46
Sand, brown, fine to coarse, silt and very fine sand, and some gravel....	5	15	Fort Union Formation: Sand, bluish-gray, very fine to fine....	1	47
Sand, brown, fine to coarse, and silt and very fine sand..	6	21			
Fort Union Formation: Sand, bluish-gray, very fine.....	6	27	<b>Test hole B-2, section B-B'</b>		
<b>Test hole A-2, section A-A'</b>			Alluvium:		
Alluvium:			Silt, brown.....	5	5
Silt, brown.....	10	10	Silt, brown; some very fine to coarse sand.....	5	10
Silt, brown, and very fine sand.....	5	15	Sand, brown, very fine to fine, silt, and a few granules..	5	15
Silt, brown; some very fine to fine sand.....	5	20	Sand, very fine to fine, and some medium to coarse sand and silt.....	5	20
Fort Union Formation: Shale, bluish-gray....	2	22	Sand, very fine to medium, and silt....	5	25
<b>Test hole A-3, section A-A'</b>			Shale, gray, and fine to coarse gravel.....	5	30
Alluvium:			No returns, driller's log shows gravel streaks to 35 ft....	5	35
Silt, brown.....	15	15	Fort Union Formation: Shale, bluish-gray....	6	41
Clay, brown, silty....	5	20	<b>Test hole B-3, section B-B'</b>		
Sand, very fine, and silt.....	4	24	Alluvium:		
Fort Union Formation: Shale, bluish-gray, silty.....	3	27	Silt, brown.....	25	25
<b>Test hole B-1, section B-B'</b>			Silt, brown; some medium to coarse sand and granules..	5	30
Alluvium:			Silt, brown, and some very fine to medium sand.....	5	35
Silt, brown, and some very fine to fine sand.....	5	5	Silt, brown, and fine sand to fine gravel.....	4	39
			Fort Union Formation: Coal.....	6	45

TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells—Continued

## SAMPLE LOGS—Continued

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Test hole B-4, section B-B'</b>			<b>Test hole (C-2, section C-C')—Continued</b>		
Alluvium:			Alluvium—Continued		
Silt, brown, some sand.....	10	10	Silt, brown, very fine to medium sand, and coarse gravel...	5	25
Silt, brown, some clay.....	20	30	Gravel, fine to medium, and coarse sand; some silt and fine sand...	8	33
Silt, brown, gray clay and some gravel...	5	35	Fort Union Formation:		
Fort Union Formation:			Shale, bluish-gray, silty.....	2	35
Sand, bluish-gray, very fine.....	5	40			
<b>Test hole C-1, section C-C'</b>			<b>Test hole C-3, section C-C'</b>		
Alluvium:			Alluvium:		
Clay, dark-brown, silty.....	5	5	Clay, brown, silty, some very fine sand.....	5	5
Silt, brown.....	5	10	Clay, dark-brown, silty.....	25	30
Silt, brown; some coarse sand.....	5	15	Clay, dark-brown, and very fine sand; some coarse sand.....	5	35
Gravel, coarse; some silt.....	10	25	Clay, brown, silt, and very fine sand; some coarse sand.....	10	45
<b>Test hole C-2, section C-C'</b>			<b>Test hole C-3, section C-C'</b>		
Alluvium:			Gravel, brown, fine, coarse sand, and medium sand to silt.....	7	57
Silt, brown, and clay.....	5	5	Fort Union Formation:		
Silt, brown, and very fine sand.....	10	15	Sand, bluish-gray, very fine, silty....	7	57
Silt, brown, and sand; mostly very fine.....	5	20			

## DRILLERS' LOGS

<b>Seismic shothole 39-B, section D-D'</b>			<b>Seismic shothole 42-B, section D-D'</b>		
Sand.....	30	30	Sand.....	35	35
Shale, blue.....	80	110	Gravel, red clinker.....	43	78
<b>Seismic shothole 40-B, section D-D'</b>			<b>Seismic shothole 43-B, section D-D'</b>		
Sand.....	45	45	Sand and clay.....	45	45
Shale, blue.....	65	110	Gravel, red clinker.....	45	90
<b>Seismic shothole 41-B, section D-D'</b>			<b>Seismic shothole 44-B, section D-D'</b>		
Clay.....	30	30	Shale, blue.....	30	120
Gravel, red clinker.....	8	38	Clay, yellow and blue..	50	50
Shale, blue.....	72	110	Gravel, red clinker.....	50	100
			Shale, blue.....	20	120

TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells—Continued

## DRILLERS' LOGS—Continued

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Seismic shothole 45-B, section D-D'</b>			<b>Well 54-77-28dd—Continued</b>		
Clay.....	38	38	Shale.....	50	380
Gravel, red clinker.....	9	47	Sand.....	40	420
Shale, blue.....	73	120	Shale.....	20	440
<b>Seismic shothole 46-B, section D-D'</b>			Coal.....	20	460
Clay, yellow.....	50	50	Shale.....	80	540
Gravel, red clinker.....	5	55	Sand.....	40	580
Shale, blue and gray.....	65	120	Shale.....	80	660
<b>Seismic shothole 47-B, section D-D'</b>			Sand.....	60	720
Sand and clay.....	40	40	Shale.....	20	740
Clay, blue.....	90	130	Coal.....	30	770
<b>Well 53-82-11cd</b>			Shale.....	50	820
Clay.....	8	8	Sand.....	20	840
Gravel.....	14	22	Shale.....	20	860
Shale, blue.....	4	26	Coal.....	20	880
Sand.....	6	32	Shale.....	80	960
Shale, blue.....	34	66	Sand.....	20	980
Sand, hard water.....	8	74	Shale.....	100	1,080
Shale, blue.....	41	115	Coal.....	10	1,090
Coal, water-bearing.....	24	139	Shale.....	70	1,160
Shale, dark.....	4	143	Sand.....	60	1,220
<b>Well 53-83-5ba</b>			<b>Well 54-79-21ab</b>		
Sand.....	10	10	Soil.....	5	5
Gravel and cobbles.....	10	20	Gravel, red clinker.....	20	25
Sandstone.....	55	75	Sand, blue.....	7	32
Shale, blue.....	5	80	Shale, blue.....	23	55
<b>Well 53-83-18da</b>			Coal.....	2	57
Gravel and cobbles.....	20	20	Shale, blue, with sand streaks.....	27	84
Sandstone.....	55	75	Sand, water-bearing.....	16	100
<b>Well 54-77-28dd</b>			Shale, blue.....	20	120
Clay.....	30	30	<b>Well 54-81-14bc</b>		
Gravel.....	10	40	Clay.....	22	22
Shale.....	30	70	Shale, blue.....	19	41
Sand.....	40	110	Sand.....	4	45
Shale.....	60	170	Shale, blue and dark.....	57	102
Sand.....	40	210	Coal, water.....	8	110
Shale.....	110	320	<b>Well 54-83-3ba</b>		
Coal.....	10	330	Clay.....	28	28
			Sandstone.....	52	80
			Shale, blue.....	14	94
			Sand, water-bearing.....	3	97
			Shale, blue.....	37	134
			Sand, water.....	6	140
			Shale, blue.....	42	182
			Coal, gas.....	50	232
			Shale, blue.....	13	245

TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells—Continued

## DRILLERS' LOGS—Continued

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Well 54-83-7ac</b>			<b>Well 55-77-12bb—Continued</b>		
Clay.....	3	3	Shale.....	110	118
Sand and gravel.....	12	15	Sand.....	12	130
Shale, blue.....	28	43	Shale.....	65	195
Sandstone.....	8	51	Coal.....	24	219
Shale, blue.....	35	86	Shale.....	11	230
Sand, water-bearing.....	14	100	Sand.....	33	263
<b>Well 54-83-18bd</b>			Shale.....	12	275
Gravel.....	9	9	Sand.....	7	282
Sandstone.....	12	21	Shale.....	23	305
Shale, blue.....	19	40	Coal.....	17	322
Sandstone.....	2	42	Shale.....	16	338
Shale, blue.....	7	49	Sand.....	22	360
Sandstone.....	21	70	Shale.....	17	377
<b>Well 54-83-27cd</b>			Coal.....	7	384
Clay.....	8	8	Shale.....	31	415
Gravel.....	6	14	Coal.....	3	418
Clay.....	5	19	Shale.....	8	426
Sandstone.....	16	35	Sand.....	82	508
Shale, blue.....	37	72	Shale.....	2	510
Sandstone.....	11	83	<b>Well 55-79-30bba2</b>		
Shale, blue.....	52	135	Clay, sandy.....	17	17
Sandstone.....	11	146	Shale, blue.....	28	45
Shale blue.....	62	208	Sand, water.....	3	48
Sandstone.....	7	215	Shale, blue and dark.....	22	70
Shale, blue.....	23	238	Coal.....	5	75
Sandstone, water- bearing.....	7	245	Shale, blue.....	20	95
Shale, blue.....	4	249	Sand, water.....	15	110
Sandstone, water- bearing.....	56	305	Shale, blue.....	38	148
<b>Well 54-84-14bb</b>			Coal.....	14	162
Sand.....	44	44	Shale, blue and dark.....	21	189
Sand and gravel.....	21	65	Sand, soft water.....	6	195
<b>Well 54-84-18aa</b>			Shale, blue.....	5	200
Soil.....	3	3	<b>Well 55-84-11bcd</b>		
Gravel.....	22	25	Clay.....	10	10
Clay, brown.....	10	35	Gravel.....	10	20
Gravel, water.....	10	45	Shale, blue.....	24	44
Sand.....	3	48	Sand, water-bearing.....	22	66
<b>Well 55-77-12bb</b>			<b>Well 55-84-11cba1</b>		
Soil.....	8	8	Clay.....	8	8
			Clay, sandy.....	8	16
			Gravel.....	8	24
			Shale, blue and dark.....	41	65
			Sand.....	3	68
			Shale, blue and dark.....	79	147
			Coal.....	8	155
			Shale, blue and dark.....	146	301

TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells—Continued

## DRILLERS' LOGS—Continued

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Well 55-84-11cba2</b>			<b>Well 55-84-14bdc1—Continued.</b>		
Clay.....	8	8	Sand.....	15	265
Gravel.....	14	22	Shale, blue.....	15	280
Shale, blue and dark.....	124	146	Coal.....	4	284
Sand.....	13	159	Shale, dark.....	16	300
Shale, blue.....	4	163	Coal.....	11	311
<b>Well 55-84-11cbd</b>			Sand.....	19	330
Clay.....	10	10	Coal.....	3	333
Gravel.....	13	23	Shale, blue.....	3	336
Shale, blue and dark.....	357	380	<b>Well 55-84-14bdc2</b>		
Sand.....	7	387	Soil.....	11	11
<b>Well 55-84-11cca1</b>			Gravel and sand.....	15	26
Clay, sandy.....	10	10	Clay, soft.....	13	39
Gravel.....	11	21	Shale, blue.....	66	105
Shale, blue and dark.....	49	70	Coal.....	5	110
Sand.....	4	74	Shale, blue.....	156	266
Shale, blue.....	6	80	Coal.....	16	282
<b>Well 55-84-11cca2</b>			Shale, blue and brown.....	200	482
Clay, yellow.....	8	8	Sandstone.....	4	486
Clay, yellow, sandy.....	6	14	Sand.....	?	?
Gravel.....	14	28	Shale, blue.....	?	510
Shale, blue.....	48	76	<b>Well 55-84-16bc</b>		
<b>Well 55-84-14bac</b>			Clay and gravel.....	30	30
Clay.....	8	8	Shale, gray.....	41	71
Gravel.....	15	23	Sandstone.....	7	78
Shale, blue and dark.....	172	195	Shale, blue.....	275	353
Sand, water-bearing.....	13	208	Sand.....	4	357
Shale, blue.....	5	213	Shale, blue.....	3	360
<b>Well 55-84-14bdb</b>			Sand, water-bearing.....	8	368
Clay.....	5	5	Shale, blue.....	2	370
Gravel.....	12	17	<b>Well 55-85-7ab</b>		
Shale, blue.....	46	63	Clay, yellow.....	29	29
Sand.....	29	92	Shale, blue.....	27	56
<b>Well 55-84-14bdc1</b>			Sandstone, hard water..	9	65
Unknown.....	212	212	Shale, blue and dark.....	36	101
Shale, blue.....	38	250	Sand, water-bearing.....	24	125
<b>Well 55-85-34db</b>			<b>Well 55-85-34db</b>		
			Soil.....	2	2
			Gravel and cobbles.....	35	37
			Shale, gray.....	5	42
			Coal.....	6	48
			Shale, blue.....	42	90
			Shale, red.....	25	115
			Shale, blue.....	45	160
			Sandstone.....	12	172

TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells—Continued

## DRILLERS' LOGS—Continued

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Well 55-89-1da</b>			<b>Well 56-81-29bd</b>		
Soil.....	2	2	Clay.....	6	6
Sandy soil.....	6	8	Gravel, composed of clink- ers.....	30	36
Sandstone.....	24	32	Shale, blue.....	32	68
Rock (quartzite?).....	22	54	Coal.....	1	69
Sandstone, water-bearing.....	4	58	Shale, blue.....	36	105
Granite, decomposed.....	8	66	Sand, water seep.....	15	120
<b>Well 56-77-3db</b>			Shale, blue.....	50	170
Soil.....	30	30	Sand, water seep.....	7	177
Gravel.....	5	35	Shale, blue.....	43	220
Shale.....	3	38	Sandstone.....	9	229
Coal.....	5	43	Shale, blue.....	103	332
Shale.....	38	81	<b>Well 56-84-34da</b>		
Coal.....	4	85	Soil.....	5	5
Shale.....	5	90	Sand and gravel.....	13	18
Coal.....	13	103	Shale, gray.....	22	40
Shale.....	9	112	Shale, blue.....	70	110
Sand.....	4	116	Sandstone, water seep....	10	120
Shale.....	16	132	Shale, blue.....	115	235
Sand.....	26	158	Sandstone, brown, dry....	17	252
Coal.....	9	167	Shale, blue.....	36	288
Shale.....	52	219	Coal.....	24	312
Sand.....	41	260	Sand, water seep.....	4	316
Coal.....	12	272	Shale, blue.....	132	448
Sand.....	2	274	Coal.....	9	457
Shale.....	112	386	Shale, blue.....	53	510
Sand.....	8	394	Sand, water-bearing.....	35	545
Coal.....	16	410	Shale.....	5	550
Sand.....	20	430	<b>Well 56-86-7dc</b>		
Shale.....	10	440	Gravel.....	29	29
Coal.....	55	495	Shale, dark.....	63	92
Shale.....	19	514	Bentonite.....	3	95
Sand, water-bearing.....	21	535	Shale, dark.....	40	135
Shale.....	15	550	Sand, water-bearing.....	4	139
<b>Well 56-79-24dd</b>			Shale, dark.....	9	148
Soil.....	6	6	<b>Well 57-79-25cb</b>		
Sandstone, yellow.....	34	40	Clay.....	34	34
Shale, blue.....	23	63	Shale, blue.....	9	43
Sandstone.....	8	71	Sand, water-bearing.....	11	54
Shale, blue.....	36	107	Shale, blue.....	22	76
Sandstone.....	33	140	Sand, water-bearing.....	11	87
Shale, blue.....	35	175	Shale, blue.....	8	95
Coal.....	5	180			
Shale, blue.....	20	200			
Sand, water-bearing.....	24	224			
Shale, blue.....	1	225			

TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells—Continued

## DRILLERS' LOGS—Continued

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Well 57-80-31bb</b>			<b>Well 57-84-19bd—Continued</b>		
Soil.....	15	15	Shale, blue.....	21	60
Gravel.....	30	45	Coal.....	3	63
Coal.....	5	50	Shale, blue.....	22	85
Shale, blue.....	75	125	Coal.....	7	92
Sand, water-bearing.....	10	135	Shale, blue.....	13	105
Shale, blue.....	5	140	Sandstone.....	7	112
Sand, water-bearing.....	10	150	Shale, blue.....	8	120
Shale, blue.....	10	160	Coal, water-bearing.....	6	126
<b>Well 57-81-7cb</b>			<b>Well 57-85-19ab</b>		
Clay, yellow, and gravel..	12	12	Soil.....	4	4
Clay, yellow.....	31	43	Sand and gravel.....	8	12
Shale, blue.....	42	85	Shale, blue.....	2	14
Sand, water.....	1	86	Sand and coarse gravel..	10	24
Shale, blue.....	5	91	Shale, gray.....	6	30
Sandstone.....	6	97	<b>Well 57-86-9ab</b>		
Shale, blue.....	48	145	Clay, sandy.....	5	5
Sandstone.....	10	155	Gravel.....	14	19
Shale, blue.....	20	175	Shale, blue.....	17	36
Sand, hard water.....	5	180	<b>Well 57-86-30ac</b>		
Shale, blue and dark.....	38	218	Soil.....	5	5
Sand.....	9	227	Gravel and sand.....	25	30
Shale, blue.....	8	235	Sandstone, water-bearing..	25	55
Sand.....	5	240	Shale, blue.....	2	57
Shale, blue.....	24	264	Sandstone.....	8	65
Coal, soft water.....	8	272	Limestone.....	3	68
Shale.....	24	296	Shale, brown.....	37	105
Sand.....	6	302	Limestone.....	2	107
Shale, blue.....	2	304	Sand, flow.....	8	115
Sandstone.....	3	307	<b>Well 57-86-34bb</b>		
Shale, blue.....	36	343	Soil, sandy shale and gravel.....	50	50
Sand, fine.....	6	349	Sandstone, gray.....	20	70
Clay, light.....	21	370	Shale, gray.....	40	110
Sand, soft water.....	5	375	Shale, brown, sandy.....	40	150
Clay, dark.....	30	405	Shale, gray.....	40	190
Sandstone.....	1	406	Shale, brown.....	50	240
Shale, blue.....	104	510	Shale, gray.....	60	300
<b>Well 57-84-19bd</b>			Sandstone, gray, water- bearing.....	14	314
Clay, yellow.....	9	9	Shale, gray.....	1	315
Clay, sandy.....	5	14			
Gravel.....	5	19			
Shale, blue.....	17	36			
Sandstone.....	3	39			

TABLE 7.—Logs of test holes, seismic shotholes, and wells—Continued

## DRILLERS' LOGS—Continued

Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)	Material	Thick- ness (ft)	Depth (ft)
<b>Well 58-76-30cc</b>			<b>Well 58-82-30aa</b>		
Soil.....	15	15	Soil.....	10	10
Shale.....	15	30	Gravel, red clinker.....	10	20
Gravel.....	8	38	Shale.....	40	60
Shale.....	27	65	Coal.....	10	70
Coal.....	18	83	Shale.....	160	230
Shale.....	25	108	Coal, gas.....	10	240
Coal.....	2	110	Shale.....	40	280
Shale.....	26	136	Coal.....	10	290
Coal.....	11	147	Shale.....	90	380
Shale.....	86	233	Coal.....	10	390
Coal, water-bearing.....	27	260	Shale.....	10	400
Shale.....	10	270	Sand.....	40	440
<b>Well 58-81-20ad</b>			Coal, flow.....	30	470
Clay.....	35	35	Shale.....	10	480
Shale, blue.....	55	90	<b>Well 58-87-35ca2</b>		
Sand.....	5	95	Soil.....	4	4
Shale, blue.....	10	105	Shale, gray.....	31	35
Sand, water seep.....	7	112	Sandstone, brown.....	2	37
Shale, blue and dark.....	163	275	Shale, gray.....	23	60
Sand, water-bearing.....	8	283	Sand, water-bearing.....	5	65
Shale, blue.....	7	290	Sandstone, gray.....	35	100
Sand, water-bearing.....	4	294	Clay.....	5	105
Shale, blue.....	2	296	Sandstone, gray.....	10	115
			Sand, water-bearing.....	5	120
			Sandstone, gray.....	8	128
			Shale.....	1	129



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