

## **Point-by-point response to the reviews**

### **Response to Anonymous Referee #1's comments:**

#### 5 OVERVIEW

This paper presents an impressive compilation of data from the Marmot Creek Research Basin (MCRB) from two separate periods, the first being 1962 to 1986, and the second from 2005 onward. The research site has been subject to numerous studies, a review of which is provided in the introduction, which is both interesting to read and potentially helpful for authors of future studies. The data description is detailed,  
10 Table 2 provides a nice example of meta data available for the more recent instrumentation. The portal that hosts the datasets is straight forward to use, and files are easily downloaded after two, three mouse clicks.

Overall, a nice and thorough presentation. I see one important shortcoming. But all other comments and suggestions are either minor and/or a matter of taste.

15 *Response: Thanks reviewer #1 for the overview comment. It is encouraging to hear that when trying to assemble data collected at many stations and from different periods.*

#### MAJOR COMMENT

If this data is disseminated to allow users "developing hydrological process understanding, evaluating process algorithms and hydrological, cryospheric or atmospheric models", then we need more information  
20 about the catchment itself. While a DEM might be easily available to most potential users of this data, how are they supposed to inform their models, e.g., about canopy processes? The data compilation seems incomplete without detailed information about variables such as LAI and canopy closure, in particular given that MCRB was subject to forest management experiments. There is also no information whether  
25 the clearings are maintained to remain open or if they are overgrown by now.

*Response: To keep this paper concise, we presented sections listing relevant graduate student theses and a website storing publications (e.g reports, peer-review journal articles) for Marmot Creek Research*

*Basin which contain many details on the basin. To fully describe the basin we have added a DEM and digital forest cover map for the basin and have mentioned this in new sentences Section 2 Site Description. We have added information in the Section 2 Site Description on the current status of the old forest clearings and clear-cut blocks, which have regrown as sparse juvenile forests to varying degrees .*

5 Further, "Snow survey data [were] collected from transects near the recent meteorological stations". Given the images in Figure 3 c-f, these data could be collected inside the clearing, in the forest, or across the forest edge. But without having more detailed information it is difficult to use the snow course data for model validation purposes.

I am sure these information are available in one or several of the publications cited in the manuscript  
10 (maybe Hopkinson?). But as a user I don't want to read them all before eventually finding what I need. Similar consideration go with soil data.

I guess this shortcoming is easy to fix, but I would ask the authors to reassess their manuscript from the perspective of a modeler who is unfamiliar with the site and does not know how to access auxiliary data needed to set up a meaningful model application.

15 *Response: In the dataset, there is a "Station\_Shapefile" folder, in that we provide a "Recent\_snow\_survey\_transects" folder including GIS shapefiles for all recent snow survey transects. With the shapefiles, users can view the transects in GIS software and find the location of transects when using snow survey for model validation purpose. In addition, the recent snow survey data contains field notes on weather condition and landcover information of each snow survey transect, and they are readily*  
20 *to users. We added a description in "Recent snow survey data" section to inform readers about that in addition to snow depth, density and snow water equivalent, snow survey data contains field notes on the land cover of the snow survey transect.*

*Regarding on soil data information, a detailed soil survey dataset was published in Beke's Ph.D. thesis in 1969. The thesis has soil data information for several sites at Marmot Creek and the thesis can be*  
25 *downloaded from website link we provided in publication link.*

MINOR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, reference is given to [page / line number]

[2 / 4-7] split this sentence into two.

*Response: Yes, it is split into two sentences.*

[2 / 11] refer to Figure 1.

*Response: Yes, a reference to Figure 1 is added in the sentence.*

[3/12-14] please move this sentence to the above section with the literature review.

5 This paragraph here should describe the content of this paper only.

*Response: This sentence shows examples of studies that have already used the dataset, and we think it is better in this paragraph than the previous paragraph that provides generally literature on recent research activities at Marmot Creek.*

[4/23] it might be useful to mention what percentage of the data had to be removed (which seems a fairly  
10 basic descriptor of a dataset).

*Response: In the quality control (QC) procedure, we used a script that does QC removal based on threshold values. In this script, the removed data and missing data in raw data are both flagged as -9999, and the value -9999 is used by subsequent QC scripts. It is not easy to calculate the percentage with current QC scripts. However, reviewer provided a valuable comment, and we will incorporate this  
15 into QC scripts for the future data cleanup work.*

[4/27] modelers use different time steps for their models. So I would not necessarily call hourly data "modelling data".

*Response: The modelling data we provided is in hourly time step. We wrote it to inform users and readers that modelling data is hourly and is the average from the 15-minute QC data, and the missing data in QC  
20 is filled for the hourly modelling data.*

[5/1] are these gap-filled data identifiable? If so by what means?

*Response: The gap-filled data are identifiable. We provided the hourly modelling data that is the average from the 15-minute QC data. The hourly modelling data is gap-filled, and the 15-minute QC data is the data with gap, with denoted value of -9999.*

25 [5/9] apart from gap filling, I am not sure "estimated data" should be included in this data assembly.

*Response: Yes, this is the hourly modelling data that used to forcing modelling project at Marmot Creek. The modelling project requires data from several stations at the same time periods, thus we estimated the data for these two stations for the time periods before their establishment. We provided this write-up in*

*this paragraph to inform users that they are “estimated” modelling data, so users can decide whether to use the data or not.*

[5/19] ventilated? radiation shield?

*Response: Yes, they are naturally ventilated Gill radiation shields. This is added to the sentence.*

5 [6/9] what is "due to the length of measurement" supposed to mean?

*Response: We reworded it. Hourly modelling of incoming solar radiation is not provided for Vista View station due to the short length of measurement.*

[7/16] I would go by the same order as the previous section. Recent data first, historical then. Or the other way around, but be consistent.

10 *Response: Yes, we changed the order and placed the recent snow survey data first and then historical snow survey data.*

[8/4] and [8/20] some info on the discharge measurements should be added. Is there a maximum capacity of the V-notch? Until what flow level is the streamflow data safe to use, the rating curve established, respectively? Was the stationarity of the rating curve monitored? Looking at Figure 3, more info is  
15 certainly needed.

*Response: this V-notch weir is described in detail as an example of a well-gauged stream in Bruce and Clark (1965) **Introduction to Hydrometeorology** . It was operated by the Water Survey of Canada according to national standards which include periodic updating of the rating curve. Its capacity was never exceeded by discharge until it was destroyed in the flood event of June 2013, where it was filled  
20 with debris and the channel diverted to flow beside the weir. The post June 2013 streamflow discharge data is calculated from rating curves developed by the University of Saskatchewan that are frequently checked by manual measurements throughout the spring, summer and fall. We added a sentence to clarify this.*

[8/23] replace "after 2012" by "in June 2013".

25 *Response: Yes, we replaced it as suggested.*

[10/8] consider merging sections 9 and 10.

*Response: Yes, we merged these two sections.*

**Response to Anonymous Referee #2's comments:**

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

5 This manuscript describes two long-term datasets, (1) a historical time period (1962–1987) and (2) a modern time period (2005–2016), from the Marmot Creek Research Basin in the Canadian Rockies. These data provide much-needed insight to changing weather patterns in northern high-altitude regions, and could easily be used to perform a number of important modeling and climate sensitivity studies. The authors' description of the datasets is concise and coherent, and the paper is structured in a way that makes  
10 it easy to read. I recommend this manuscript to be published once these minor revisions detailed below are addressed.

1. Since this seems to be the defining hydrometeorological dataset for the MCRB, it would be helpful if some of the spatial information necessary for hydrological analysis of the basin were delivered alongside. Then any researcher looking to use these data for a spatial modeling study would not have to look  
15 elsewhere and derive their own digital elevation models, vegetation masks, basin masks, stream networks, etc.

*Response: We have added spatial information for MCRB – specifically a DEM, vegetation masks and basin masks and stream networks derived from the DEM to a Basin\_GIS folder on the FRDR site.*

2. The README.txt file contains a huge amount of information about the individual files. However,  
20 much of the information is repeated ad nauseum making this README file almost impossible to navigate. My suggestion would be to remove the repeated information and/or consider using markdown language to make the information easier to comb through.

*Response: We publish and deposit the dataset to the Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR). The README file serves as a metadata and the huge amount of information about individual files is required  
25 by FRDR according to its regulations and protocols. The information about individual files seems repetitive, but it is used to provide metadata for each file under different folder, and it is organized in the way sanctioned by FRDR.*

3. The figures and tables include site description information, but the dataset itself has no mention of these important metadata. A brief paragraph within the README file describing where this site information is located would be very helpful.

*Response: The figure and table used for site descriptions are to provide readers information on station location, land cover and elevation of basin when readers plan to use data. The README file is used to document metadata information for the data we publish on Federated Research Data Repository according to its regulation and protocol. The paper supplements the README file, but the README file is not to describe the paper. The information used for the site description figure and table was derived from many recent publications which detail this. And it is available in the basin DEM and vegetation cover maps which are now published with this paper.*

4. The purpose of the **publication\_9-2018-10-16-22-08-40-sha256-sums.txt** file within the dataset folder is not apparent.

*Response: We do not own this file. This file is automatically generated by the Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR) when the dataset is published. It is a record file from FRDR.*

5. There are a great deal of acronyms in this manuscript. An appendix listing the acronym definitions just before the References section would help some of the page flipping and searching.

*Response: Yes, we added an appendix show a list of acronym before the References section.*

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS**

pg. 2, line 24 - AEP is not previously defined.

*Response: Yes, we added the definition for AEP.*

pg. 3, Site description section - This section is all one paragraph but could benefit from being split into two, three, or even four individual paragraphs.

*Response: Yes, we split the site description into four paragraphs.*

pg. 6, line 4 - I have to question these reported wind speed measurements. From the specifications of the R.M. Young 05305 anemometer, the threshold sensitivity of the instrument is 0.4 m/s. The wind speeds in the sheltered sites seem to be below the measurement threshold that the sensor can measure. In my experience, wind speed measurements should be capped at a lower limit of around 0.4 m/s due to limitations of the internal bearings that cause inherent noise in the data.

*Response: The reported values are the 11-water year average wind speed for wind-sheltered stations. The wind speeds were sampled at 10 s intervals, then averaged to 15 min. and these averaged values were then averaged over 11 years. As mountain winds are gusty, any averaged wind speed measurement will contain information collected both above and below the stall speed of the anemometer. It would bias the*

5 *wind speed to cap the anemometer recordings at 0.4 m/s. For instance, the value of 0.1 m/s is from the Upper Forest station that is situated in a mature spruce forest, a very calm and sheltered site from wind. From many field visits, the RM propeller was observed to be not turning, during which many 10 s measurements of 0 m/s were recorded.*

pg. 6, line 11-15 - When calculating the mean incoming solar radiation, are nighttime hours included?

10 *Response: Yes, when calculating these 11-water year average values, the nighttime hours are included. We were just trying to provide some general descriptive information such as these 11-water year averages to readers. We did not include more complex analyses beyond that for this data paper that is used to describe data collection method, data length and availability.*

pg. 7, line 21-22 - The last sentence of this paragraph is unclear. When you say ‘detailed survey data’, are

15 you just referring to occasional months with two measurements? The reader could also take that to mean the data include individual hole-by-hole SWE measurements, which is not provided here.

*Response: Yes, by “detailed survey data”, we mean snow survey data from measurements more than once per month. We added more description to this sentence to clarify that.*

Figures 4–8 - Include some light gridlines in these plots make them easier to comprehend.

20 *Response: Yes, we added light gridlines in Figures 4-8.*

Figure 10 - The data in each of these plots are not from the same stations, so I suggest making them different marker types and including a legend.

*Response: Yes, we used different marker types for data collected during historical and recent periods, and we also included a legend.*

## 25 **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS**

pg. 8, line 12 - Replace ‘locations access challenges’ with ‘site access challenges’.

*Response: Yes, we replaced ‘locations access challenges’ with ‘site access challenges’.*

pg. 11, line 7 - ‘...diagnose the basin response...’

*Response: Yes, we corrected that.*

Table 2 - It seems that there are problems with the reported AGS of the incoming solar radiation row for the Upper Clearing Tower and Vista View columns. For instance, below the 'Kipp and Zonen CM21 Pyranometer' there is a hanging '20', which looks like it should go below where you have an 'n/a'.

5 *Response: For Upper Clearing Tower station, only incoming solar radiation and incoming longwave radiation were measured at 20 m. So, the two '20' below incoming solar radiation and incoming longwave radiation are just for these two components, and 'n/a' is for the not-measured outgoing components of solar and longwave radiation at 20 m. Similarly, for Vista View station, only incoming solar radiation was measured at 1.97 m, so the '1.97' below that is just for incoming solar radiation. The*  
10 *rest of 'n/a' are for not-measured radiation components. To make this more clear, in the variable name column, we added AGS (m) below Incoming Solar Radiation and AGS (m) below Incoming Longwave Radiation.*

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**A list of all relevant changes made in the manuscript**

1. A brief description of availability of basin DEM, surface land cover map, sub-basin stream network and sub-basin boundary GIS data in the datasets is added in Section 2 Site Description. This is response to reviewers' comments on basin spatial data.
- 5 2. Section 2 Site Description is now split into four paragraphs. This is response to reviewer 2's comments.
3. Sections 4.1 and 4.2 for snow survey data is re-ordered, the same goes to Sections 5.1 and 5.2 for streamflow data. This is response to reviewer 1's comment on being consistent with presentation of data order.
- 10 4. The previous Section 9 Relevant graduate student theses is now combined with new Section 9 Compilation of Marmot Creek Memories, Real-time Data and Publications.
5. A new Section 11 Appendix: acronym list is now added. This is response to reviewer 2's comments.
- 15 6. Figures 4 to 8 and Figure 10 are revised according to reviewer 2's comments.
7. Table 2 is edited for measurement height for radiation at Upper Clearing Tower and Vista View stations to show height information more clearly. This is response to reviewer 2's comments.

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A marked-up manuscript version

## Hydrometeorological data from Marmot Creek Research Basin, Canadian Rockies

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**Abstract.** Meteorological, snow survey, streamflow, and groundwater data are presented from Marmot Creek Research Basin, Alberta, Canada. The basin is a 9.4 km<sup>2</sup>, alpine-montane forest headwater catchment of the Saskatchewan River Basin that provides vital water supplies to the Prairie Provinces of Canada. It was heavily instrumented, experimented upon and operated by several federal government agencies between 1962 and 1986, during which time its main and sub-basin streams were gauged, automated meteorological stations at multiple elevations were installed, groundwater observation wells were dug and automated, and frequent manual measurements of snow accumulation and ablation and other weather and water variables were made. Over this period, mature evergreen forests were harvested in two sub-basins, leaving large clear-cuts in one basin and a “honeycomb” of small forest clearings in another basin. Whilst meteorological measurements and sub-basin streamflow discharge weirs in the basin were removed in the late 1980s, the federal government maintained the outlet streamflow discharge measurements and a nearby high elevation meteorological station, and the Alberta provincial government maintained observation wells and a nearby fire weather station. Marmot Creek Research Basin was intensively re-instrumented with 12 automated meteorological stations, four sub-basin hydrometric sites and seven snow survey transects starting in 2004 by the University of Saskatchewan Centre for Hydrology. The observations provide detailed information on meteorology, precipitation, soil moisture, snowpack, streamflow, and groundwater during the historical period from 1962 to 1987 and the modern period from 2005 to the present time. These data are ideal for monitoring climate change, developing hydrological process understanding, evaluating process algorithms and hydrological, cryospheric or atmospheric models, and examining the response of basin hydrological cycling to changes in climate, extreme weather, and land cover through hydrological modelling and statistical analyses. The data presented are publicly available from Federated Research Data Repository (<https://dx.doi.org/10.20383/101.09>).

## 1 Introduction

The eastern slopes of the Canadian Rocky Mountains form the headwaters of the Saskatchewan River Basin (SRB), whose water supplies are vital to domestic, agricultural, and industrial users in the Canadian Prairie Provinces. These mountain headwaters occupy about 12.6% of total drainage area but generate 87% of total water yield in the SRB (Redmond, 1964).

5 Recognising the importance of these headwaters, the Eastern Rocky Mountain Forest Conservation Act was passed in 1947, which aimed to conserve and protect the Saskatchewan River headwaters (Neill, 1980; Rothwell et al., 2016). The Eastern Slopes (Alberta) Watershed Research Program (AWRP) was created in 1960 to investigate relationships between forest, soil, climate, and water and to examine the impacts of commercial timber harvesting practices on basin water yield and water quality (Jeffery, 1965; Kirby and Ogilvy, 1969). This program was a collaborative effort between several provincial and federal  
10 government agencies to establish experimental watersheds in the headwaters, one of which was the establishment of what was then called the “Marmot Creek Experimental Watershed” during 1961-1962 (Rothwell et al., 2016). This later became the University of Saskatchewan-operated “Marmot Creek Research Basin” (MCRB) by which it is referred to in this paper.

During the historical period of 1962-1986, a paired-basin experiment devised by the Canadian Forestry Service (CFS) explored the effects of forest cutting on snow accumulation and water yield in MCRB. Two types of forest clearing experiment  
15 were conducted in the sub-alpine spruce/fir forest part of basin (Fig. 1): six large “commercial” forest cut blocks were harvested in the Cabin Creek sub-basin during 1971-1972 and a “honeycomb” of numerous small circular clearings, each 12 m to 18 m in diameter, were harvested in the Twin Creek sub-basin during 1977-1979, with Middle Creek left intact as a control sub-basin (Rothwell et al., 2016). Snow accumulation increased by 21% in the large forest cutting blocks (Swanson et al., 1986), and 28% in the small forest clearings compared to under adjacent intact forest canopies (Swanson and Golding, 1982). Overall,  
20 there was no statistically significant change in streamflow that could be associated with the forestry manipulations (Harder et al., 2015). Several other studies were carried out in parallel to the forest clearing experiments. Investigations on soil water storage and soil temperature in relation to snow accumulation and melt, forest, and slope orientation were conducted at several sites in MCRB and provided some early understanding of infiltration and runoff in the basin (Harlan, 1969; Hillman and Golding, 1981). Extensive field campaigns throughout MCRB produced detailed descriptions of soils (Beke, 1969) and  
25 surficial geology (Stevenson, 1967). Additional studies were undertaken to assess the basin’s meteorology (Munn and Storr, 1967; Storr, 1967, 1973). Most hydrometeorological observations in MCRB ceased after 1986 due to opening of adjacent Nakiska Ski Resort in the 1986-1987 ski season and subsequent hosting of 1988 Winter Olympic Games; only streamflow measurements at the main outlet by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and groundwater measurements by  
30 [Alberta Environment and Parks \(AEP\)](#), were continued, though a high elevation weather station was established on Centennial Ridge by ECCC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry maintained a nearby valley bottom weather station (Rothwell et al., 2016).

After the Olympics, research activities in MCRB were minimal until 2004 when the research basin was reactivated by the University of Saskatchewan with the help of the University of Calgary, and ECCC. Wide-ranging research has been conducted

since then to improve the understanding of the impact of forest canopy and forest clearings on snow accumulation and snowmelt energetics (Ellis and Pomeroy, 2007; Essery et al., 2008; Pomeroy et al., 2009; Ellis et al., 2013; Musselman and Pomeroy, 2017), slope and aspect controls on snow accumulation and melt (DeBeer and Pomeroy, 2009; Ellis et al., 2011; Marsh et al., 2012), blowing snow and sublimation in the alpine treeline environment with respect to local wind and topography (MacDonald et al., 2010), alpine snowmelt runoff generation (DeBeer and Pomeroy, 2017), hillslope hydrology of the forest organic layer (Keith et al., 2010), and precipitation phase partitioning (Harder and Pomeroy, 2013). MCRB has also been the site of instrument or methodology development, from an early airborne LiDAR snow depth measurement (Hopkinson et al., 2008) to acoustic measurements of snow (Kinar and Pomeroy, 2009) as well as early telescope based snow surveys (Kinar and Pomeroy, 2015). Utilizing the Cold Regions Hydrological Modelling platform (CRHM) these advances have been synthesised into a physically based hydrological model of MCRB (Fang et al., 2013), which was used to assess the impact of forest disturbances on basin hydrology (Pomeroy et al., 2012), analyse antecedent conditions on flood generation (Fang and Pomeroy, 2016) and diagnose rain-on-snow runoff generation for alpine environment during the 2013 flood in MCRB (Pomeroy et al., 2016).

This paper includes datasets of meteorological, snow survey, streamflow, and groundwater observations measured in MCRB. Meteorological datasets include historical observations by the CFS and ECCC and recent measurements by the University of Saskatchewan Centre for Hydrology. Continuous records of streamflow measurements by ECCC and University of Saskatchewan as well as groundwater levels monitored by AEP are also included. The snow survey data presented were conducted in clearings, under forest canopies and on hillslopes at various elevations and are useful for model evaluation and snow process studies. Some of the studies utilising these datasets document the basin resilience to changes in climate, extreme weather, and land cover (Harder et al., 2015), a sensitivity analysis of climate warming on snow processes (Pomeroy et al., 2015), and assesses variability of climate and its impact on the hydrological processes (Siemens, 2016).

## 2 Site description

Marmot Creek Research Basin (MCRB) (50.95°N, 115.15°W) is in the headwaters of the Bow River Basin in the Front Ranges of the Canadian Rocky Mountains (Fig. 1) and its streamflow discharges into the Kananaskis River. The basin area (9.4 km<sup>2</sup>) is defined by the Water Survey of Canada stream gauge that was installed in 1962 (Bruce and Clark, 1965). MCRB is composed of three upper sub-basins: Cabin Creek (2.35 km<sup>2</sup>), Middle Creek (2.94 km<sup>2</sup>), and Twin Creek (2.79 km<sup>2</sup>), which converge into the Confluence Sub-basin above the main stream gauge (1.32 km<sup>2</sup>). Upper Marmot Creek is an upper sub-basin of Middle Creek (1.178 km<sup>2</sup>) is primarily alpine and is also gauged. Based on a [resampled 20078 LiDAR 8m digital elevation model \(DEM\)](#) (Hopkinson et al., 2012), hypsometric curves were derived for MCRB and its three sub-basins (Fig. 2). Elevation ranges from 1590 m a.s.l. (above sea level) at the main Marmot Creek gauging station to 2829 m at the summit of Mount Allan. [The 8m resampled LiDAR DEM, sub-basin stream network and sub-basin boundary GIS data are also included in the datasets.](#)

5 Most of MCRB is covered by needleleaf vegetation which is dominated by Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmanni*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) in upper-mid elevations of basin (1710 to 2277 m). The lower elevation (1590 to 2015 m) forests are mainly Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *Latifolia*) with trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) present near the basin outlet (Kirby and Ogilvy, 1969). Alpine larch (*Larix lyallii*) and short shrubs are present around the treeline at approximately 2016 to 2379 m. Exposed rock surfaces, grasses and talus are present in the highest alpine part of basin (1956 to 2829 m). Physiographic descriptions of these ecozones are shown in Table 1 and they are mapped in Figure 1. These ecozones were determined from the forest cover map by the Alberta Forest Service (1963) with recent updates from site visits. Forest management experiments conducted in the 1970s and 1980s left six large clear-cut blocks (1838 to 2062 m) in the Cabin Creek sub-basin and numerous small circular forest clearings (1762 to 2209 m) in the Twin Creek sub-basin (Golding and Swanson, 1986). [These old forest clear-cut blocks and clearings have regrown as sparse juvenile forest to varying degrees. The basin surface landcover/land cover GIS data is included in the datasets.](#)

15 The surficial soils are primarily poorly developed mountain soils consisting of glaciofluvial, surficial till and postglacial colluvium deposits (Beke, 1969). Relatively impermeable bedrock is found at the higher elevations, whilst the rest of basin is covered by a deep layer of coarse and permeable soil allowing for rapid rainfall infiltration to subsurface layers overlying relatively impermeable shale (Jeffrey, 1965).

20 Continental air masses control the weather in the region, which has long and cold winters and cool and wet springs with a late spring/early summer precipitation maximum. Westerly warm and dry Chinook (foehn) winds lead to brief periods when the air temperature exceeds 0°C during the winter months – these events can result in snowpack ablation at lower elevations. Annual precipitation ranges from 600 mm at lower elevations to more than 1100 mm at the higher elevations, of which approximately 70 to 75% occurs as snowfall with the percentage increasing with elevation (Storr, 1967). Mean monthly air temperature ranges from 14 °C observed at 1850 m in July to -10 °C observed at 2450 m in January. Mean air temperatures have increased by 2.3 °C from 1967 to 2013, but there are no trends in precipitation or streamflow (Harder et al., 2015).

### 3 Meteorological data

#### 3.1 Recent quality controlled data

25 Quality controlled (QC) 15-minute interval hydrometeorological data were processed from raw data measured at the recent stations in MCRB: Hay Meadow, Level Forest, Upper Clearing, Upper Clearing Tower, Upper Forest, Vista View, Fisera Ridge, and Centennial Ridge. Photos of these stations are shown in Fig. 3, and Table 2 shows a list of the variables in the QC data along with instrumentation, record length and location for the stations. Most current stations started measurements in 2005 and cover 11 water years (WY) from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016 (WY2006 to WY 2016) with two exceptions:  
30 Upper Clearing Tower and Fisera Ridge; the former started data collection 21 October 2007 and the latter started data collection 13 October 2006. The QC data were generated by applying a quality assurance procedure to remove erroneous data in the 15-minute raw data. Table 3 lists the QC thresholds used to remove: 1) measurements outside of defined maximum and minimum

ranges; 2) measurements that exceed a rate of change (ROC) limit; 3) constant measurements due to sensor failure. In the QC data, values of -9999 denote the measurements removed from the raw data. In addition, daily QC soil moisture is provided for 11 water years from the Level Forest station and eight water years (WY2006 to WY2013) from the Upper Forest. From 19 October 2012, soil moisture is monitored at a 15-minute interval at Upper Forest and this higher temporal resolution data is included.

### 3.2 Recent modelling data

Hourly modelling data were obtained by averaging the 15-minute QC observations of air temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), relative humidity (%), wind speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ), incoming solar radiation ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), and soil temperature at either 5 cm or 10 cm below ground surface ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and by summing the 15-minute QC observation of precipitation (mm). Missing observations of air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, incoming solar radiation, and soil temperature were filled using either temporal averaging interpolation or linear regression to nearby stations. When intervals of missing data were less than three hours, temporal averaging was employed where the observations of the variable three hours before and three hours after the missing interval from the same station were used to calculate the average. When the missing data interval was longer than three hours, linear regressions were developed amongst stations using the raw data, the regressions were ranked based on  $r^2$  value, the regression relationship with the highest  $r^2$  value was selected to fill in the missing data. For missing precipitation, observations from nearby station were used along with seasonal precipitation adjustments for elevation to fill in the missing precipitation. The hourly modelling data are provided for 11 water years from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016. As described in the previous section, both Fisera Ridge and Upper Clearing Tower stations were established after WY2006, and the hourly modelling data before station establishment were estimated. For the Fisera Ridge station, air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, incoming solar radiation, and soil temperature from 1 October 2005 to 13 October 2006 were estimated based on linear interpolation to nearby stations, and precipitation from 1 October 2005 to 16 September 2008 was estimated from Upper Clearing precipitation with seasonal precipitation adjustments for elevation. For the Upper Clearing Tower station, the hourly incoming solar radiation measured at 20 m above ground is provided, and from 1 October 2005 to 21 October 2007 it was estimated from incoming solar radiation measured at the lower level Upper Clearing tripod station based on a linear regression because of location of both stations in the same forest clearing. Figures 4-8 show the annual mean daily air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, incoming solar radiation, and accumulated rainfall and snowfall with their inter-annual variability for MCRB stations for the 11 water years.

#### 3.2.1 Air temperature and relative humidity

Air temperature and relative humidity were measured using Vaisala hygrothermometers [with naturally ventilated Gill radiation shields](#) at all seven stations. Table 4 shows that average air temperature at MCRB for the 11 water years ranges from  $-1.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  at the Centennial Ridge station to  $-0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  at the Fisera Ridge station. Both stations are located on alpine ridgetops, above treeline. Higher temperatures are found at lower elevations, where the 11-year average air temperature is  $1.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $3.1^{\circ}\text{C}$

for the Upper Clearing station in a montane forest and the Hay Meadow station in the valley floor, respectively. WY2016 was the warmest, with the average water year air temperature being  $-0.3\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $1.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $2.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $4.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for Centennial Ridge, Fisera Ridge, Upper Clearing, and Hay Meadow stations, respectively. WY2008 was the coolest for the Centennial Ridge and Fisera Ridge stations, with average air temperatures of  $-2.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-1.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , respectively; whereas WY2011 was the coolest for Upper Clearing and Hay Meadow stations, with average air temperatures of  $0.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $1.9\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for Upper Clearing and Hay Meadow stations, respectively. An example of hourly air temperature and relative humidity from Fisera Ridge station is shown in Fig. 9a and b.

### 3.2.2 Wind speed

Wind speeds were measured at all seven stations using propeller-type RM Young anemometers. The 11-water year average wind speeds on wind-exposed alpine ridges are  $5.8\text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $2.5\text{ m s}^{-1}$  at Centennial Ridge measured at 2.41 m a.g.s. (above ground surface) and Fisera Ridge (2.55 m a.g.s.) stations, respectively. Hay Meadow, located in an open grassland valley floor (7 m a.g.s.) has an 11-water year average wind speed of  $2.0\text{ m s}^{-1}$ . Vista View station (4.11 m a.g.s.) is located in a large forest cut block with a short sparse forest cover of young trees and has an 11-water year average wind speed of  $1.1\text{ m s}^{-1}$ . For the wind-sheltered stations (Upper Clearing measured at 2.85 m a.g.s., Upper Forest measured at 2.77 m a.g.s., and Level Forest measured at 2.45 m a.g.s.), the 11-water year average wind speeds range from 0.1 to  $0.6\text{ m s}^{-1}$ . The maximum hourly wind speed recorded during 11 water years is  $37.9\text{ m s}^{-1}$  from Centennial Ridge station. An example of hourly wind speed from Fisera Ridge station is shown in Fig. 9c.

### 3.2.3 Incoming solar radiation

Incoming solar radiation was measured at all seven stations using Kipp and Zonen pyranometers and is included in the hourly modelling dataset except for the Vista View station due to ~~short~~the length of measurement. For the Upper Clearing site, hourly incoming solar radiation measured at the top of the 20m tower station is provided in addition to that from the main tripod station near the ground (1.95 m). For the sub-canopy measurements at Upper Forest (i.e. mature spruce forest) and Level Forest (i.e. mature lodgepole forest) stations, the 11-water year mean values range from  $15.9\text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Upper Forest) to  $23.7\text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Level Forest). For the stations not affected by forest canopy, the 11-water year mean value ranges from  $140.1\text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Upper Clearing 20m tower) to  $150.3\text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Fisera Ridge). An example of hourly incoming solar radiation from the Fisera Ridge station is shown in Fig. 9d.

### 3.2.4 Soil temperature

Soil temperature was measured using thermistors at all seven stations at either 5 cm or 10 cm below ground surface. The 11-water year mean value ranges from  $-0.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Centennial Ridge) to  $6.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Hay Meadow). The maximum hourly soil temperature during 11 water years was  $36.6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  at the Hay Meadow station and the minimum hourly soil temperature during

11 water years was -16.5 °C at the Centennial Ridge station. An example of hourly soil temperature from Fisera Ridge station is shown in Fig. 9e.

### 3.2.5 Precipitation

Precipitation was measured with Alter-shielded Geonor T200B weighing precipitation gauges at Hay Meadow, Upper Clearing, and Fisera Ridge stations, and it was corrected for wind-induced undercatch for the wind-exposed Fisera Ridge and Hay Meadow stations (Smith, 2007). Precipitation is divided into rainfall and snowfall based on the psychrometric energy balance precipitation phase determination method developed by Harder and Pomeroy (2013). Table 4 shows that the average annual precipitation for the 11 water years is 627 mm (229 mm snow), 839 mm (443 mm snow), and 1190 mm (802 mm snow) for Hay Meadow, Upper Clearing, and Fisera Ridge, respectively. The highest annual precipitation during the 11 water years from Fisera Ridge station was 1329 mm in WY2013 when approximately 250 mm of rainfall and snowfall fell during the June 2013 flood (Pomeroy et al., 2016), which also produced the highest annual rainfall (535 mm) recorded during the 11 water years. An example of hourly cumulative precipitation, divided into rainfall and snowfall from Fisera Ridge station, is shown in Fig. 9f.

### 3.3 Historical modelling data

Historical meteorological data is available from the three sites shown in Fig. 1. Observations from Confluence 5 (Con 5, 50.960°N, 115.171°W, 1770 m), Cabin 5 (50.975°N, 115.182°W, 2051 m), and Twin 1 (50.957°N, 115.204°W, 2285 m) are provided. These sites were established in early 1960s by the CFS and ECCC. Based on the availability of data, continuous records of hourly air temperature (°C), relative humidity (%), and wind speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and daily precipitation (mm) are included for 18 water years from 1 October 1969 to 30 September 1987. Air temperature and relative humidity were measured by thermographs or hygrometers (Munn and Storr, 1967); wind speed was measured by MSC type 45B anemometer, and for precipitation, Leupold-Stevens Q12M weighing gauges and MSC (Meteorological Service of Canada) tipping bucket gauges were used to take measurements for snowfall and rainfall, respectively (Storr, 1973). Data quality assurance was undertaken to generate the continuous data from the original observations, which includes removing inconsistent measurement and outliers, filling missing data with linear regressions to nearby stations. Details regarding the quality assurance are provided by Siemens (2016). The original measured data are also provided for these sites.

## 4 Snow survey data

### 4.1 Recent snow survey data

Snow survey data collected from transects near the recent meteorological stations: Hay Meadow, Level Forest, Upper Clearing, Upper Forest, Vista View, and Fisera Ridge are provided for nine WY from 2007 to 2016, except for the Hay Meadow in WY 2007 when no measurements were taken. The snow survey data includes snow depth, density and snow water equivalent

(SWE). In addition, the snow survey data contains field notes on land cover information of each snow survey transect. The snow surveys usually occur monthly during the winter accumulation period and bi-weekly to weekly during the spring melt period. Snow depth was measured by a 1-m ruler for shallow snowpack or a 3-m measuring probe for deep snowpacks, and snow density was measured using an ESC30 snow tube for shallow snowpacks or a Mount Rose snow sampler for deeper snowpacks. At each transect, snow depth was observed at 5-m intervals, and one snow density was collected for every five depth measurements.

#### **4.2.1 Historical snow survey data**

Snow survey data collected by CFS from seven snow courses (SC): 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, and 19 are provided for the waters years from 1963 to 1986. The location of these snow courses is shown in Fig. 1, and a brief description for each snow course is listed in Table 5. Regular measurements were carried out monthly from February to June, and each course consisted of 10 staked points where snow depth and snow water equivalent were measured. In some years, measurements were conducted more than once per month, which provided more details of seasonal snow accumulation. Both monthly snow survey data from 1963 to 1986 and detailed survey data from measurements more than once per month during 1963 to 1980 are included for the historical period. An example of mean transect SWE from historical and recent snow surveys for alpine and montane forest sites is shown in Fig. 10.

#### **4.2 Recent snow survey data**

~~Snow survey data collected from transects near the recent meteorological stations: Hay Meadow, Level Forest, Upper Clearing, Upper Forest, Vista View, and Fisera Ridge are provided for nine WY from 2007 to 2016, except for the Hay Meadow in WY 2007 when no measurements were taken. The snow survey data includes snow depth, density and snow water equivalent (SWE). The snow surveys usually occur monthly during the winter accumulation period and bi-weekly to weekly during the spring melt period. Snow depth was measured by a 1-m ruler for shallow snowpack or a 3-m measuring probe for deep snowpacks, and snow density was measured using an ESC30 snow tube for shallow snowpacks or a Mount Rose snow sampler for deeper snowpacks. At each transect, snow depth was observed at 5-m intervals, and one snow density was collected for every five depth measurements. An example of mean transect SWE from historical and recent snow surveys for alpine and montane forest sites is shown in Fig. 10.~~

## 5 Streamflow data

### 5.1 Recent streamflow data

Recently streamflow observations were made by the University of Saskatchewan starting spring 2007 at the sub-basin outlets of Cabin, Middle, Twin, and Upper Marmot Creeks and at the basin outlet after June 2013 flood. Measurements at outlets of Cabin, Middle, and Twin Creeks ceased in June 2013 as all three gauging stations (and 2013 data holding dataloggers) were destroyed in June 2013. The sites are now difficult to access as the road was destroyed, the channels are unstable and access trails are covered with fallen trees. Flow depth was continuously measured at 15-minute interval with automated pressure transducers, and velocity was manually measured with a handheld SonTek FlowTracker acoustic Doppler velocimeter every few weeks from spring to autumn. Discharge at 15-minute interval is calculated based on rating curves from continuous flow depth and frequently manually measured velocity throughout the spring, summer and fall. Hourly average streamflow ( $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) is estimated from the 15-minute discharge and is provided for Cabin, Middle, and Twin Creeks from 2007 to 2012, Upper Marmot Creek from 2007 to 2016 and Marmot Creek from 26 June 2013 to 2016.

### 5.1.2 Historical streamflow data

Daily average streamflow ( $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) was estimated for Cabin Creek, Middle Creek, Twin Creek, and Upper Marmot Creek for the historical period from 1963 to 1986. Streamflow measurements were made by ECCC's Water Survey of Canada at the outlets of the respective sub-basins: Cabin Creek gauge (CCG, 05BF019), Middle Creek gauge (MCG, 05BF017), Twin Creek gauge (TCG, 05BF018), and Upper Marmot Creek gauge (UMCG, 05BF020) shown in Fig. 1. Year round streamflow discharge was estimated using stage records from flow through V-notch weirs on Middle and Twin Creeks and an H-flume on Cabin and Upper Marmot Creeks (Canadian Forestry Service, 1976; Harder et al., 2015). The Upper Marmot gauge is located higher up the Middle Creek sub-basin and captures the streamflow generated from a predominantly alpine area. The record for Upper Marmot Creek is sporadic due to the ephemeral nature of Middle Creek at this location and site access challenges.

For the Marmot Creek outlet, streamflow was measured by ECCC at Marmot Creek basin outlet V-notch gauging station (05BF016). The streamflow data span from 1962 to 19 June 2013 and are continuous until 1986 and seasonal thereafter. However, the gauging station was severely damaged in the June 2013 flood (Pomeroy et al., 2016), after which no measurements have been made by ECCC. The University of Saskatchewan restored discharge measurements at this site on June 26 2013 as described in the [previous](#) section. The daily average streamflow data for all sub-basins and Marmot Creek can be searched and then accessed from the ECCC Water Survey of Canada "historical hydrometric data search" website at [https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/search/historical\\_e.html](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/search/historical_e.html). The Water Survey of Canada is preparing to restore this gauge in the near future.

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## 5.2 Recent streamflow data

Recently streamflow observations were made by the University of Saskatchewan starting spring 2007 at the sub-basin outlets and at the basin outlet after June 2013 flood mentioned in Sect. 5.1. Measurements at outlets of Cabin, Middle, and Twin Creeks ceased after 2012 as all three gauging stations (and 2013 data holding dataloggers) were destroyed in June 2013. The sites are now difficult to access as the road was destroyed, the channels are unstable and access trails are covered with fallen trees. Flow depth was continuously measured at 15-minute interval with automated pressure transducers, and velocity was manually measured with a handheld SonTek FlowTracker acoustic Doppler velocimeter every few weeks from spring to autumn. Discharge at 15-minute interval is calculated based on rating curves from continuous flow depth and manually measured velocity. Hourly average streamflow ( $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) is estimated from the 15-minute discharge and is provided for Cabin, Middle, and Twin Creeks from 2007 to 2012, Upper Marmot Creek from 2007 to 2016 and Marmot Creek from 26 June 2013 to 2016.

## 6 Groundwater data

Three groundwater wells (GW), 301, 303, and 305, established in the 1960s and one GW, 386, established in 1988 are continuously monitored by AEP. The location of these groundwater wells is shown in Fig. 1, and brief information regarding these wells is provided in Table 6. Daily data for these groundwater wells can be searched and accessed from AEP's "Groundwater Observation Well Network (GOWN)" website at <http://environment.alberta.ca/apps/GOWN/>. Access to the hourly groundwater well data can be requested from the Groundwater Information Centre at [gwinfo@gov.ab.ca](mailto:gwinfo@gov.ab.ca).

## 7 Example data

Data from the June 2013 flood is shown as an example of weather and streamflow observed in MCRB (Fig. 11). The flood event started on 18 June and ended on 24 June. Air temperature observed at Fisera Ridge station was as high as 8 °C during rainfall on 19 June and dropped to 0.4 °C during snowfall on 21 June; the atmosphere became saturated on 18 June and stayed saturated through 21 June (Fig. 11a). Variable wind speeds were observed at the Fisera Ridge station, changing from relatively calm conditions on 18 June to 4  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  on 20 June then dropping to an average of 2  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  before peaking at 5.5  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  on 21 June (Fig. 11b). Overcast skies persisted during much of the flood event and incoming solar radiation observed at Fisera Ridge station dropped from a peak of 533  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  on 18 June to below 266  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  throughout the event and then rose to a peak of 1038  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  on 22 June (Fig. 11b). Similar depths of precipitation fell at all elevations (1436 to 2325 m) in MCRB, with about 257 mm during 19-25 June; however, this measurement was compromised as the Geonor precipitation gauge overtopped on 21 June and could not be immediately accessed for maintenance due to damaged trails and roads. During the snowfall of 21-22 June, the depth of fresh snowpack on the ground was used to estimate precipitation based on assumption of a fresh snow density of 100  $\text{kg m}^{-3}$  (Pomeroy et al. 2016). Approximately 237 mm of rainfall was measured at Fisera Ridge station during

19-25 June, and an 8-cm deep snowpack developed at Fisera Ridge on 21 June and melted after 22 June (Fig. 11c). Rainfall and snowfall rates during the event remained less than  $12 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  and were higher than  $6 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  only on 19 and 20 June, with cumulative daily totals increasing from 41 mm on 19 June to 113 mm on 20 June, and then dropping to 77 and 18 mm on 21 and 22 June, respectively. The streamflow discharge observed at outlet of Upper Marmot Creek remained below  $0.6 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  at start of the flood event on 19 June and increased steadily on 20 June, reaching a peak of  $2.84 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  at 1:00 on 21 June and then falling to below  $1 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  after 21 June for the remaining of the flood event (Fig. 11d). Total discharge generated at the outlet of Upper Marmot Creek was estimated to be 106 mm during 19-25 June, much of which was the result of rain-on-snow in the alpine and treeline elevations.

## 8 Data availability and structure

10 All data presented in this paper are publically available at the Federated Research Data Repository (<https://dx.doi.org/10.20383/101.09>). Headers in most data files are self-explanatory, and all data are measured in Central Standard Time (CST) that is 6 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT-6). Meteorological data are time-series in comma delimited .txt files organized by station. Snow survey data are stored in the .xlsx files. Historical snow survey data are summarized in a single time series file. Recent snow survey data are organized by site for a water year. Recent streamflow data are time-series and are stored in .csv files and are organized by the gauge station. Additional readme files are provided for notes on missing data, data measurement periods and units, and no measurement due to wildlife interruption. Additional GIS shapefiles are provided to show locations of historical and recent hydrometeorological and hydrometric stations as well as historical and recent snow survey transects.

## 9 Relevant graduate student theses

20 ~~A number of recent theses contain detailed contemporary site information for Marmot Creek Research Basin and provide results for the recent research conducted in the basin. These theses can help familiarize researchers with the basin and better understand its hydrology. Table 7 lists the theses that can be searched and accessed from University of Saskatchewan's "eCommons" website at <https://ecommons.usask.ca/>.~~

## 9.10 Compilation of Marmot Creek Memories, Real-time Data and Publications

25 The Centre for Hydrology held a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workshop for MCRB in February 2013 where many of the original and recent researchers gave presentations on a half-century of scientific research in the basin. The Centre has also compiled 120 MCRB publications, and provides real-time observations from many of the current meteorological stations. The workshop presentations, publications and data can be accessed here <http://www.usask.ca/hydrology/MarmotBasin.php>. In addition, a

number of recent theses contain detailed contemporary site information for Marmot Creek Research Basin and provide results for the recent research conducted in the basin. These theses can help familiarize researchers with the basin and better understand its hydrology. Table 7 lists the theses that can be searched and accessed from University of Saskatchewan’s “eCommons” website at <https://ecommons.usask.ca/>.

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#### **101 Summary**

Data presented in this paper provide support to ongoing research in MCRB, a mountain basin located in the Front Range of Canadian Rockies. The data include 11 water years of hourly gap-filled air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, precipitation, incoming solar radiation, and soil temperature from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016 as well as 18 water years of hourly air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed as well as daily precipitation from 1 October 1969 to 30 September 1987. These meteorological datasets are useful for driving hydrological models and carrying out diagnostic change detection analysis in the basin. In addition, 15-minute quality controlled data including other hydrometeorological variables such as snow depth, soil temperature, and soil moisture are presented from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016; these data have gaps but are useful for diagnosing model performance in snow accumulation, soil moisture and temperature. Snow survey data are included for the historical period from 1963 to 1986 and the current period from 2007 to 2016. Hourly streamflow is provided for Cabin, Middle, and Twin Creeks from 2007 to 2012, Upper Marmot Creek from 2007 to 2016, and Marmot Creek after June 2013 flood from 26 June 2013 to 2016. Daily streamflow for Cabin Creek, Middle Creek, Twin Creek, and Upper Marmot Creek from 1963 to 1986 and Marmot Creek daily streamflow from 1962 to 19 June 2013 can be obtained from the ECCC Water Survey of Canada’s “historical hydrometric data search” website. In addition, data from several groundwater wells in Marmot Creek can be accessed from AEP’s “Groundwater Observation Well Network (GOWN)” website. In all, these long-term meteorological and hydrometric data sets are a legacy of previous and current research activities conducted in MCRB and support ongoing efforts to detect and diagnose climate change in the basin and region, examine extreme hydrometeorological events (i.e. drought and flood), and diagnosing the basin response to land cover changes caused by stressors such as insect infestations, fire and forest harvesting. This dataset ultimately serves to advance our knowledge of hydrology of the Canadian Rockies.

25

#### **11 Appendix: acronym list**

AEP Alberta Environment and Parks

a.g.s. above ground surface

AWRP Alberta Watershed Research Program

30 CCG Cabin Creek gauge

CFS Canadian Forestry Service  
CRHM Cold Regions Hydrological Modelling platform  
CST Central Standard Time  
DEM digital elevation model  
5 ECCC Environment and Climate Change Canada  
GIS geographic information system  
GOWN Groundwater Observation Well Network  
GW groundwater wells  
LiDAR Light Detection And Ranging  
10 MCG Middle Creek gauge  
MCRB Marmot Creek Research Basin  
MSC Meteorological Service of Canada  
QC quality controlled  
ROC rate of change  
15 SC snow courses  
SRB Saskatchewan River Basin  
SWE snow water equivalent  
TCG Twin Creek gauge  
UMCG Upper Marmot Creek gauge  
20 WY water year

**Author contributions.** XF cleaned and organized dataset. JWP designed and instrumented research basin, and all authors collected data and contributed to the manuscript writing.

**Competing interests.** The authors declare that there are no conflict of interest.

25 **Special issue statement.** This article is part of the special issues “Hydrometeorological data from mountain and alpine research catchments” and “Water, ecosystem, cryosphere, and climate data from the interior of western Canada and other cold regions”. It is not associated with a conference.

## 12 Acknowledgements

30 The authors would like to gratefully acknowledge the funding assistance provided from the Alberta Government departments of Environment and Parks, and Agriculture and Forestry, the IP3 Cold Regions Hydrology Network of the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada through Discovery Grants, Research Tools and Instrument Grants, Alexander Graham Bell Scholarships, and the Changing Cold

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Regions Network, the Global Institute for Water Security, Global Water Futures and the Canada Research Chairs programme. Logistical assistance was received from the Biogeoscience Institute, University of Calgary and the Nakiska Ski Area. Field work by many graduate students in and collaborators with the Centre for Hydrology and research officers Michael Solohub, May Guan, Angus Duncan and Greg Galloway was essential in accurate data collection in adverse conditions. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service are the owners of the copyright of the historical meteorological and snow survey data. This paper is dedicated to the hundreds of researchers who have contributed to data collection in Marmot Creek over the last 55 years.

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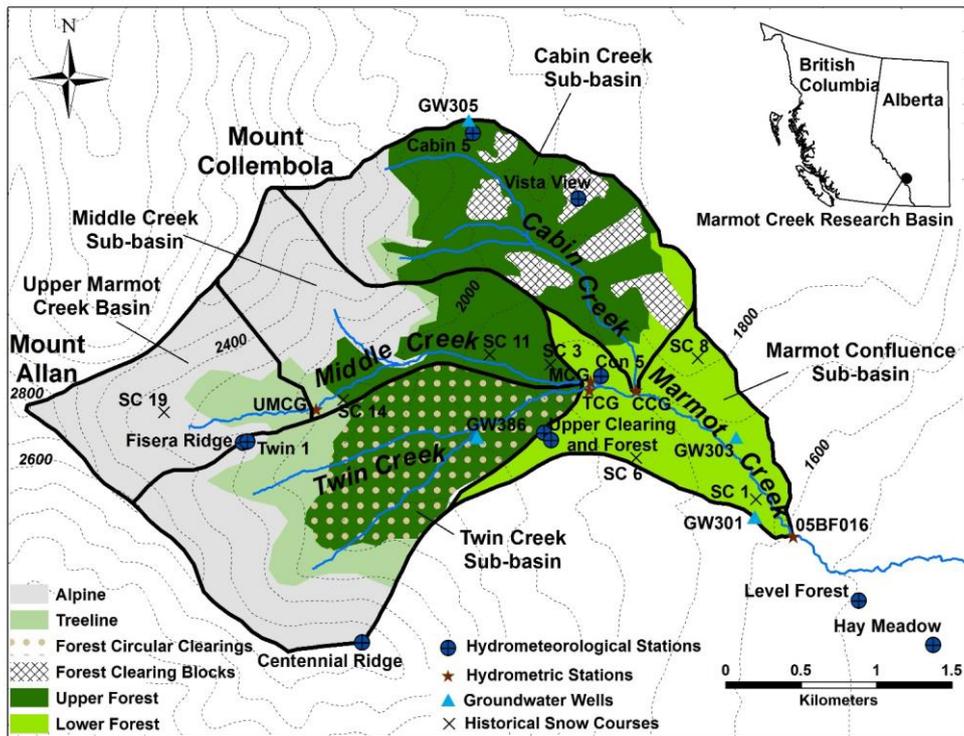
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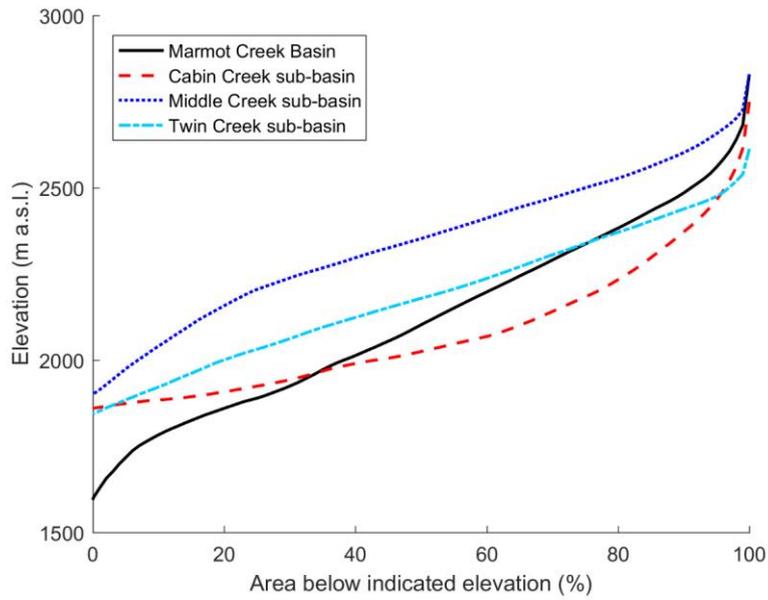
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**Figure 1:** Location and contour map of the Marmot Creek Research Basin (MCRB), showing hydrometeorological stations, hydrometric stations, groundwater wells and snow courses, and ecozones of the MCRB: alpine, treeline, upper forest, forest clearing blocks, forest circular clearings, and lower forest. Note that the size and areas of circular clearings in Twin Creek are not to scale.

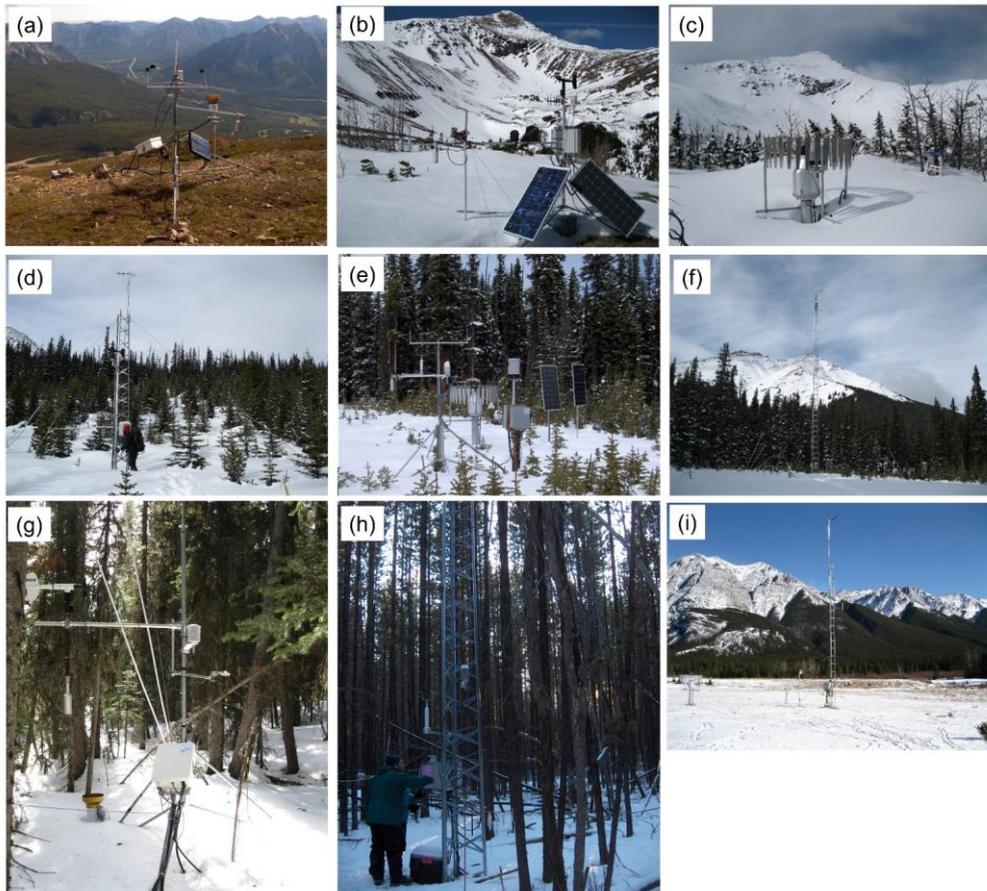


**Figure 2:** Hypsometric curves for the Marmot Creek Research Basin and three sub-basins showing the relationship between the elevation and percent area below the indicated elevation.

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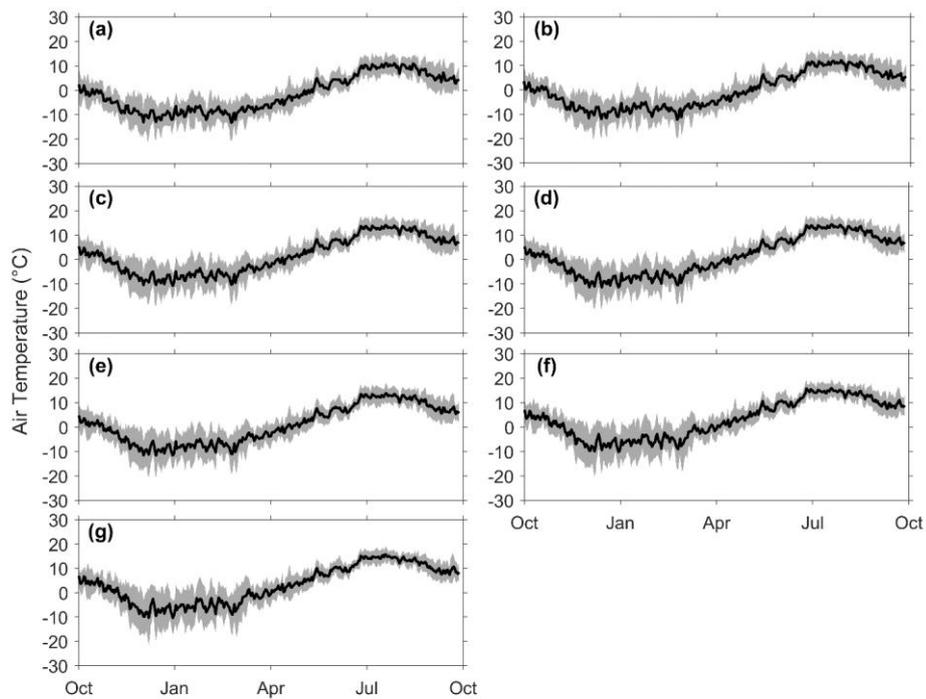


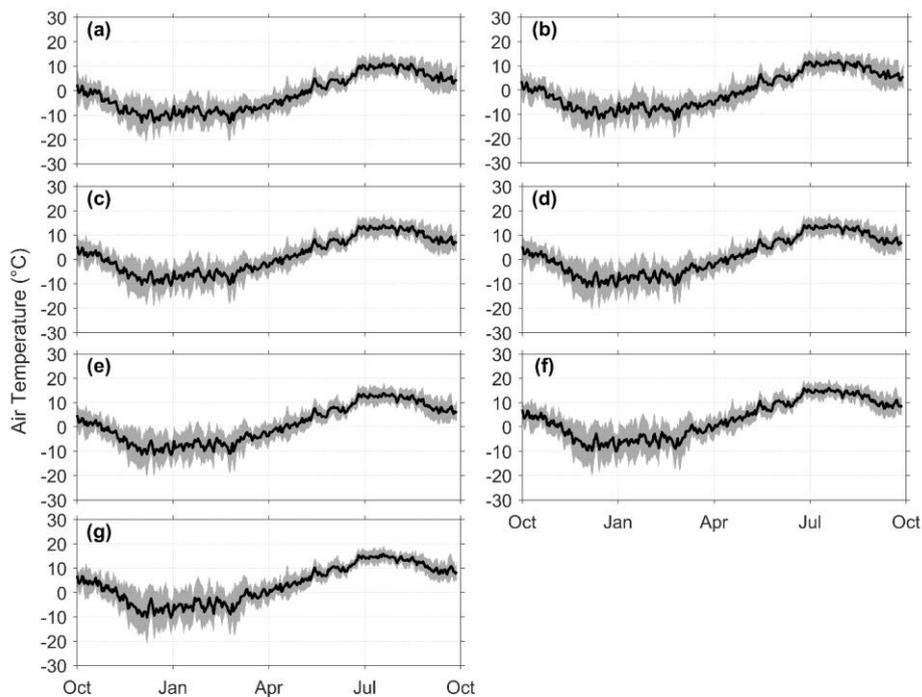
**Figure 3.**



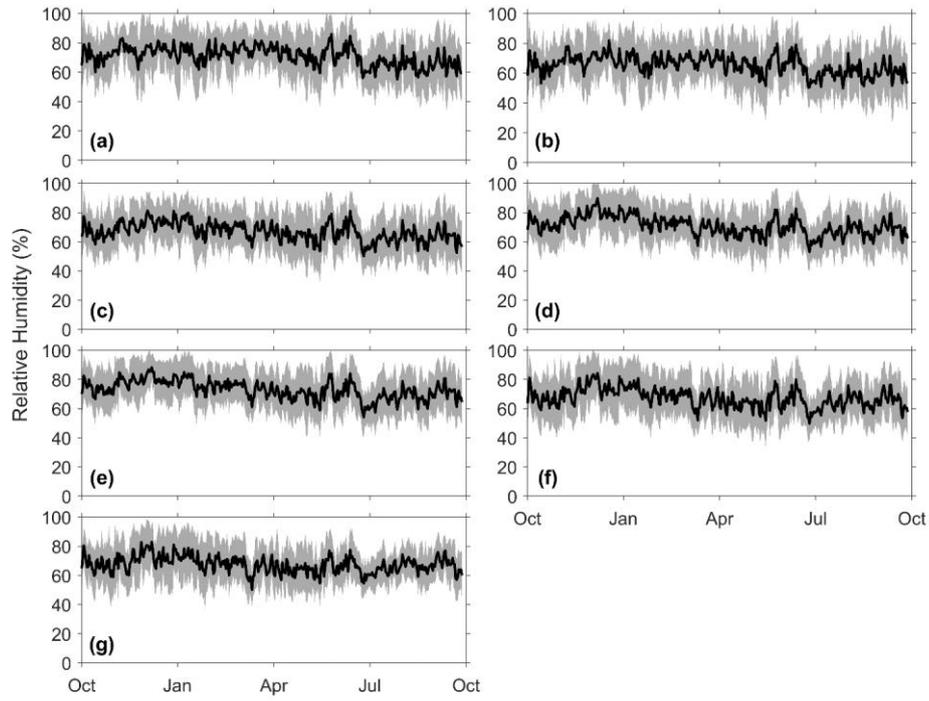
**Figure 3:** Photos of Marmot Creek Research Basin hydrometeorological and hydrometric stations: (a) Centennial Ridge in July 2010 (2470 m), (b) Fisera Ridge tripod station in April 2015 (2325 m), (c) Fisera Ridge Geonor gauge in March 2011 (2325 m), (d) Vista View in February 2011 (1956 m), (e) Upper Clearing tripod station in May 2010 (1845 m), (f) Upper Clearing Tower station in February 2011 (1845 m), (g) Upper Forest in April 2013 (1848 m), (h) Level Forest in January 2010 (1492 m), (i) Hay Meadow in February 2012 (1436 m), (j) Upper Marmot Creek stream gauge in July 2010 (2200 m), (k) Cabin Creek stream gauge in June 2010 (1710 m), (l) Middle Creek stream gauge in June 2010 (1754 m), (m) Twin Creek stream gauge in June 2010 (1754 m), (n) Marmot Creek stream gauge in June 2010 (1592 m),

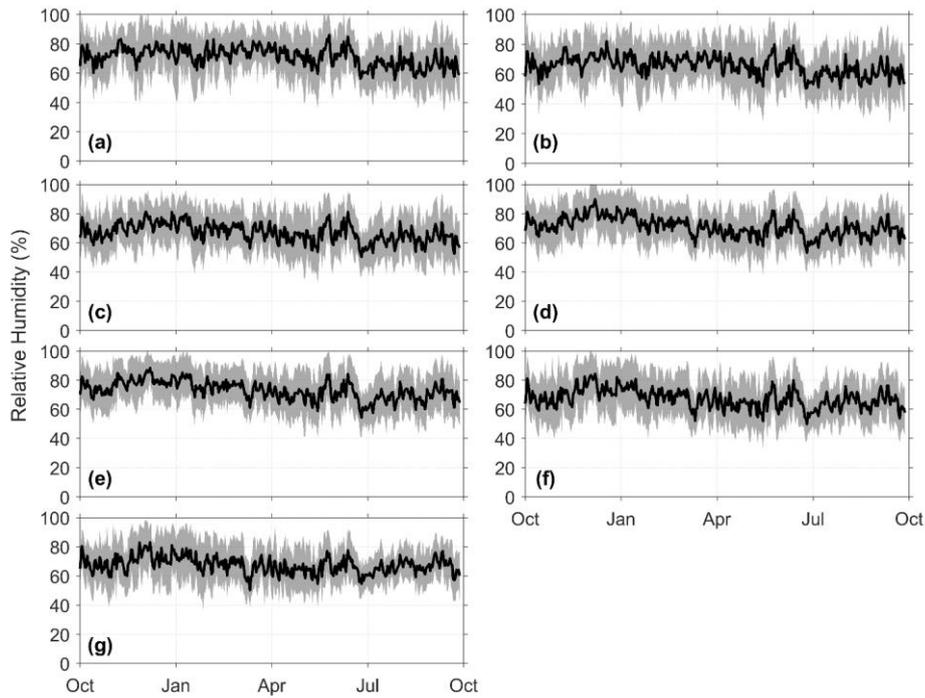
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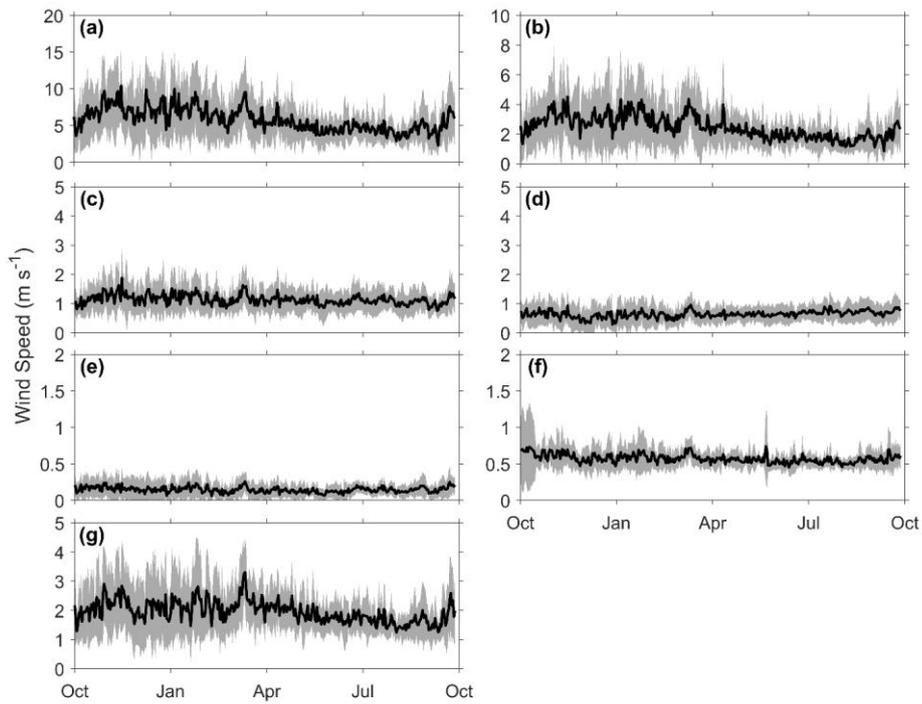


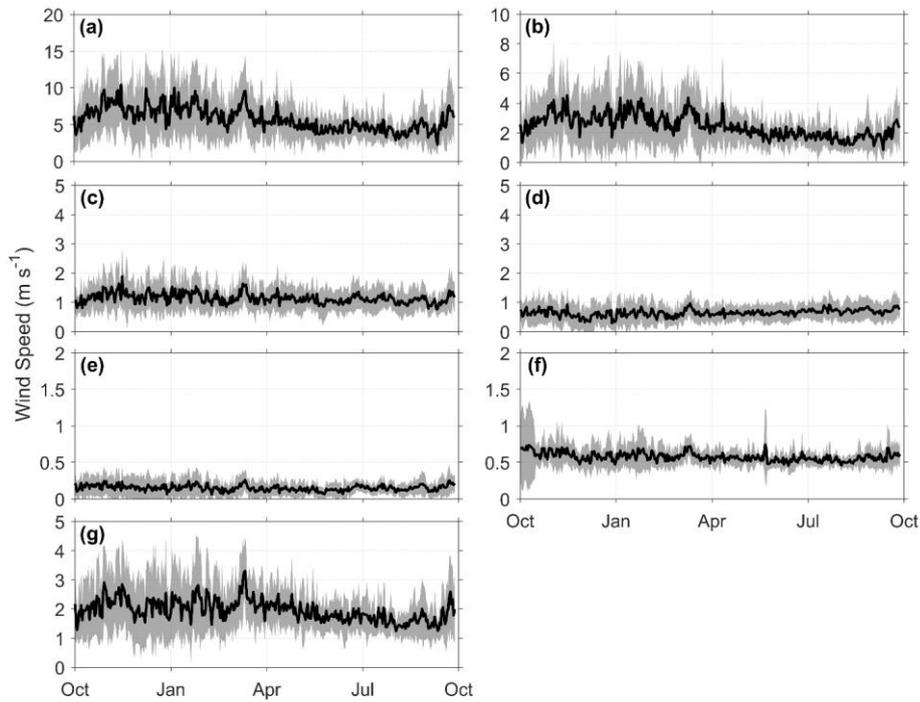
**Figure 4:** Annual mean daily air temperature for 11 water years from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016 at MCRB stations: (a) Centennial Ridge, (b) Fisera Ridge, (c) Vista View, (d) Upper Clearing, (e) Upper Forest, (f) Level Forest, and (g) Hay Meadow. Line represents the annual mean and the shaded area represents the standard deviation of the 11-year daily air temperature.



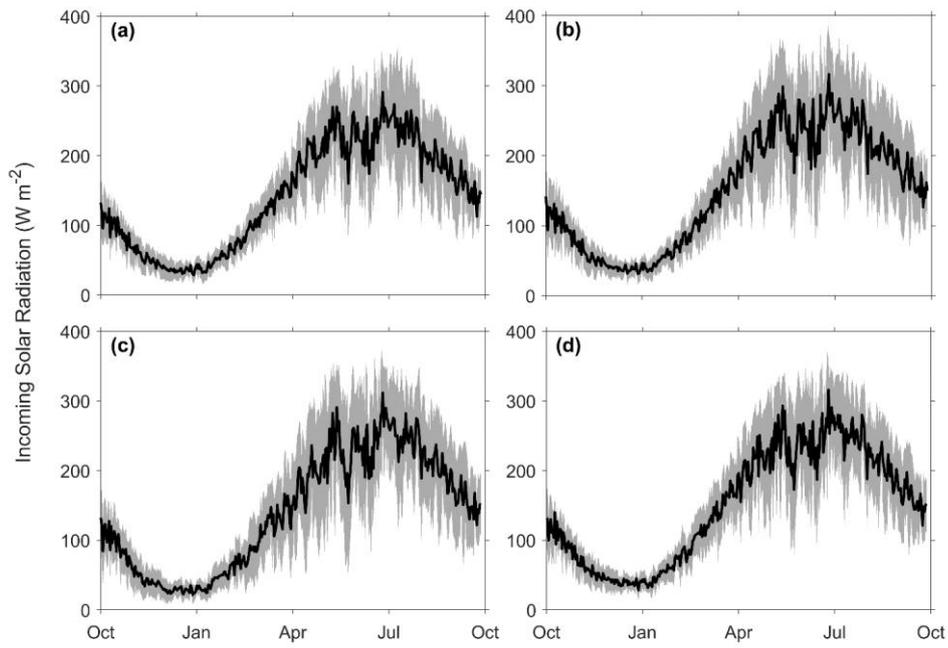


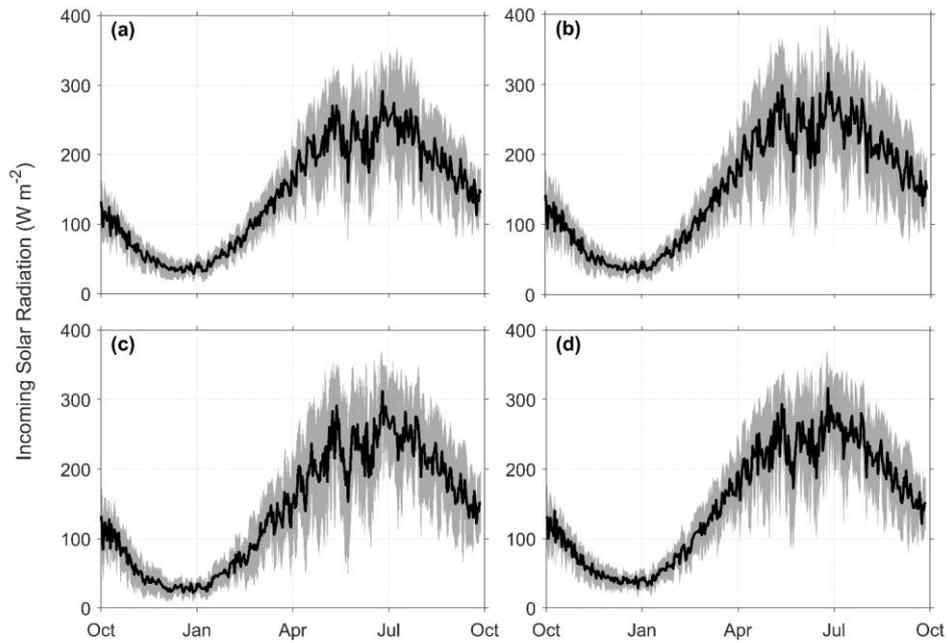
**Figure 5:** Annual mean daily relative humidity for 11 water years from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016 at MCRB stations: (a) Centennial Ridge, (b) Fisera Ridge, (c) Vista View, (d) Upper Clearing, (e) Upper Forest, (f) Level Forest, and (g) Hay Meadow. Line represents the annual mean and the shaded area represents the standard deviation of the 11-year daily relative humidity.



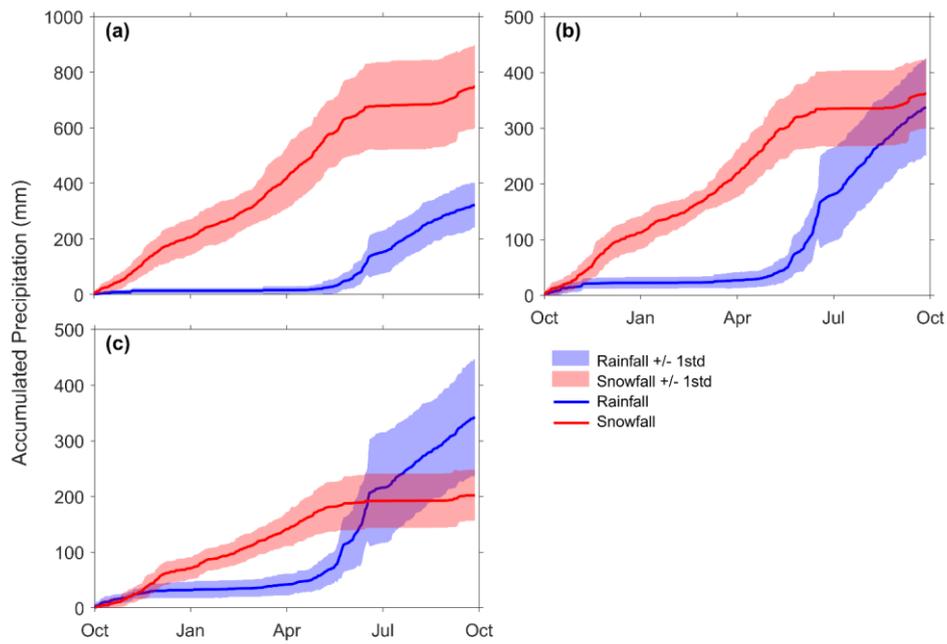


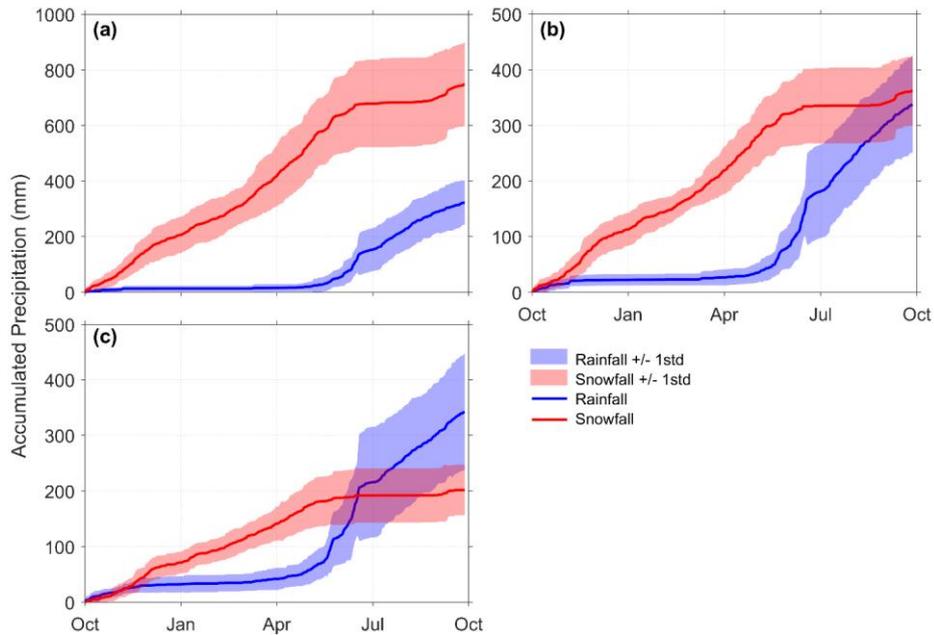
**Figure 6:** Annual mean daily wind speed for 11 water years from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016 at MCRB stations: (a) Centennial Ridge, (b) Fisera Ridge, (c) Vista View, (d) Upper Clearing, (e) Upper Forest, (f) Level Forest, and (g) Hay Meadow. Line represents the annual mean and the shaded area represents the standard deviation of the 11-year daily wind speed.



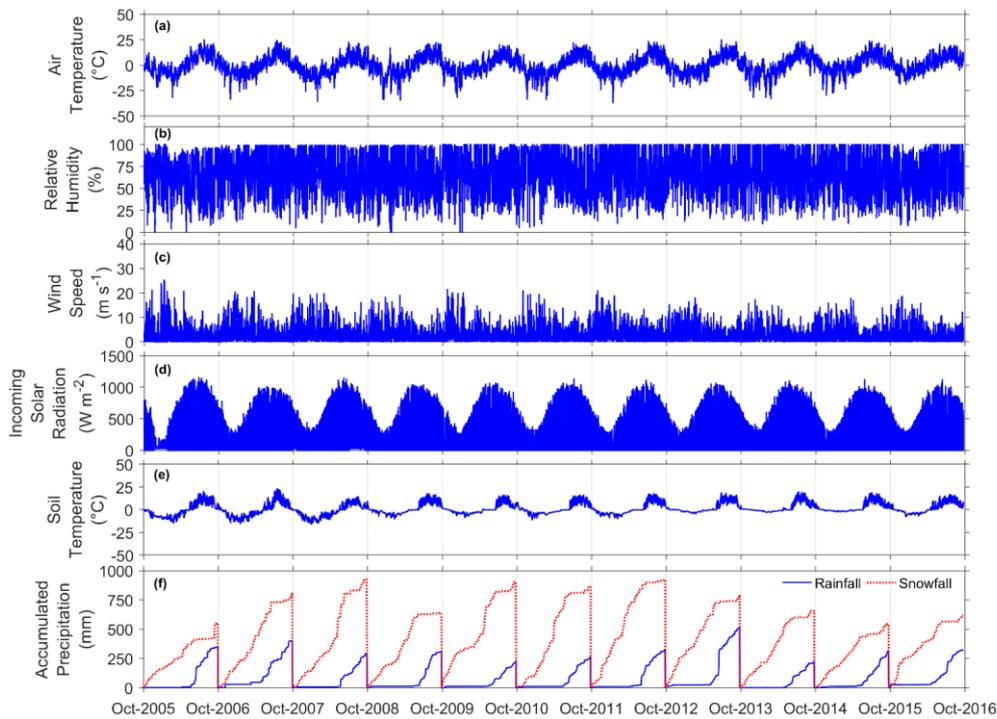


**Figure 7:** Annual mean daily incoming solar radiation for 11 water years from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016 at MCRB stations: (a) Centennial Ridge, (b) Fisera Ridge, (c) Upper Clearing Tower, and (d) Hay Meadow. Line represents the annual mean and the shaded area represents the standard deviation of the 11-year daily incoming solar radiation.

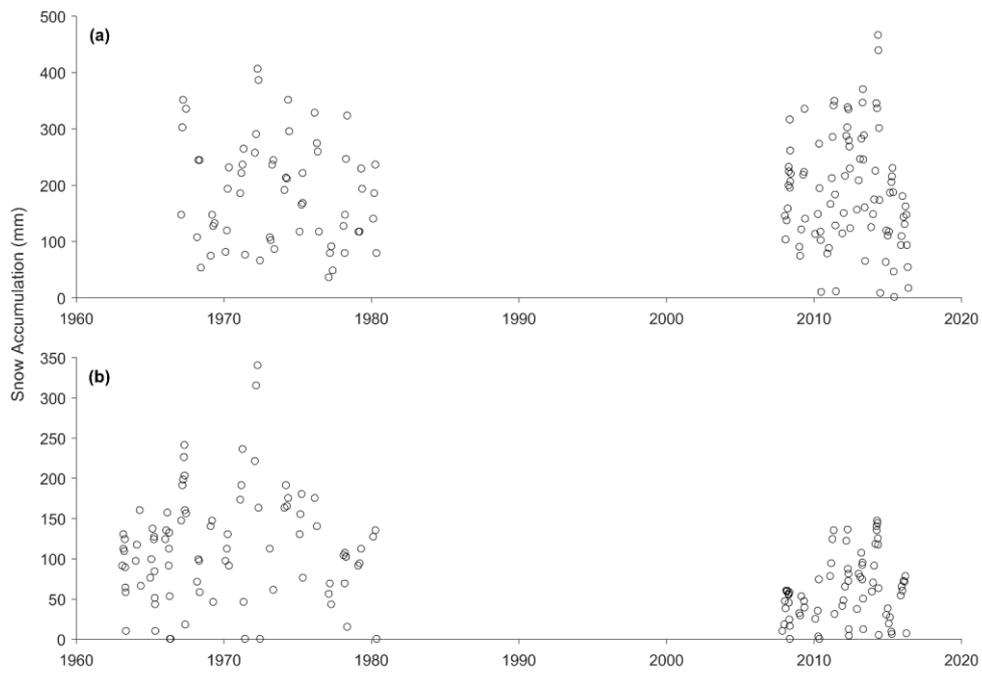


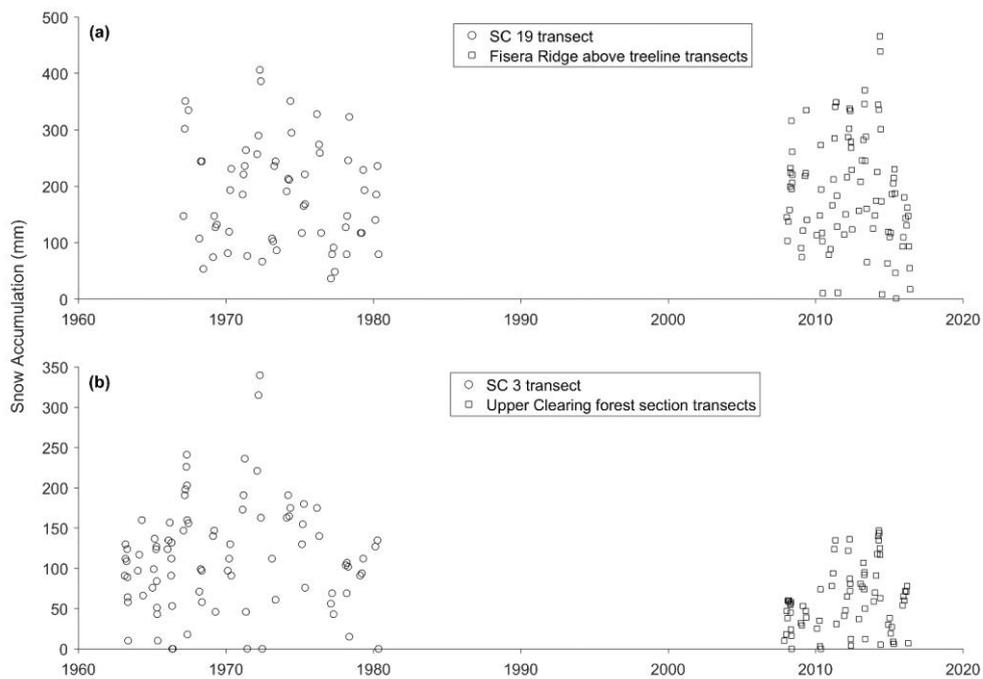


**Figure 8:** Annual mean daily accumulated rainfall and snowfall for 11 water years from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2016 at MCRB stations: (a) Fisera Ridge, (b) Upper Clearing, and (c) Hay Meadow. Line represents the annual mean and the shaded area represents the standard deviation of the 11-year daily accumulated rainfall and snowfall. Rainfall and snowfall are calculated from wind-corrected storage-gauge observations with precipitation phase calculated as per Harder and Pomeroy (2013).

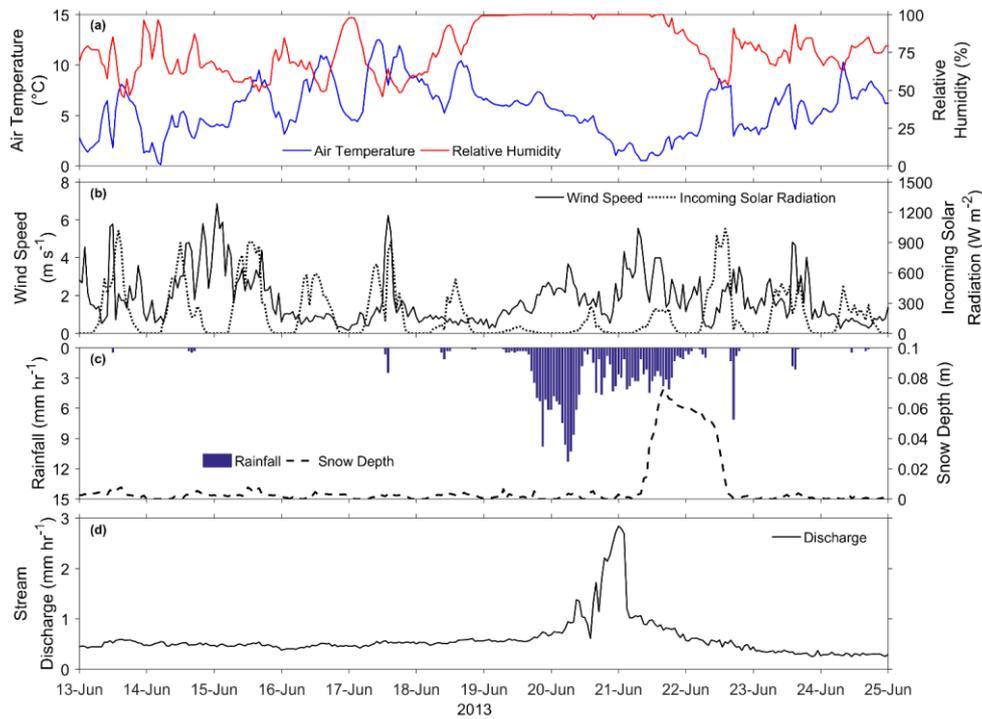


5 **Figure 9:** Example of hourly-averaged forcing data from Fisera Ridge station showing (a) air temperature, (b) relative humidity, (c) wind speed, (d) soil temperature, and (e) rainfall and snowfall for water years starting 1 October. All data are developed from observations except rainfall and snowfall, which are calculated from wind-corrected storage-gauge observations with precipitation phase calculated as per Harder and Pomeroy (2013).





**Figure 10:** Example of mean transect snow accumulation (SWE) from (a) alpine and (b) montane forest snow survey transects. The historical SWE for alpine and montane forest is from SC 19 and SC 3 transects, respectively. The recent SWE for alpine and montane forest is from Fisera Ridge above treeline transects and Upper Clearing forest section transects, respectively.



**Figure 11:** Example of hourly-averaged observations during 13-25 June 2013 from Fisera Ridge station at the Marmot Creek Research Basin showing (a) air temperature and relative humidity, (b) wind speed and incoming solar radiation, (c) rainfall and snow depth, and (d) stream discharge from Upper Marmot Creek.

**Table 1:** Area and mean elevation, aspect, and slope for ecozones at the Marmot Creek Research Basin. Note that the aspect is in degree clockwise from North.

| Ecozone                               | Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Area Fraction (% of basin) | Elevation (m. a.s.l.) | Aspect (°) | Slope (°) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Alpine                                | 3.23                    | 34.5                       | 2413                  | 110        | 30        |
| Treeline                              | 0.93                    | 10.0                       | 2217                  | 91         | 22        |
| Upper Forest                          | 2.75                    | 29.3                       | 1983                  | 108        | 20        |
| Forest Clearing Blocks                | 0.40                    | 4.3                        | 1927                  | 140        | 11        |
| Forest Circular Clearing North-facing | 0.26                    | 2.7                        | 1966                  | 34         | 17        |
| Forest Circular Clearing South-facing | 0.24                    | 2.6                        | 2014                  | 113        | 21        |
| Lower Forest                          | 1.42                    | 15.2                       | 1756                  | 113        | 14        |

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**Table 2:** Hydrometeorological variables, instrumentation and height from the recent stations at the Marmot Creek Research Basin. AGS and BGS denote the distance above ground surface and below ground surface, respectively; n/a denotes not applicable.

| Station  | Hay Meadow                                 | Level Forest                           | Upper Clearing   | Upper Clearing Tower                      | Upper Forest                          | Vista View                               | Fisera Ridge  | Centennial Ridge                        |
|--|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Coordinates  | 50.9441°N;<br>115.1389°W,<br>1436 m        | 50.9466°N;<br>115.1464°W,<br>1492 m    | 50.9565°N;<br>115.1754°W,<br>1845 m                          | 50.9565°N;<br>115.1754°W,<br>1845 m       | 50.9569°N;<br>115.1762°W,<br>1848 m   | 50.9712°N;<br>115.1722°W,<br>1956 m      | 50.9560°N;<br>115.2041°W,<br>2325 m   | 50.9571°N;<br>115.1930°W,<br>2470 m     |
| Record   | 1 October 2005-<br>30 September<br>2016    | 10 March 2005-<br>30 September<br>2016 | 7 June 2005-30<br>September<br>2016                          | 21 October 2007-30<br>September 2016      | 7 June 2005-30<br>September 2016      | 1 September<br>2005-30<br>September 2016 | 13 October 2006-<br>30 September 2016   | 24 July 2005-30<br>September 2016       |
| Air Temperature<br>(°C) and<br>Relative Humidity<br>(%)              | Vaisala<br>HMP45C212                       | Vaisala<br>HMP45C212                   | Vaisala<br>HC2-<br>S3  | Vaisala HMP45C212                         | Vaisala<br>HMP45C212                  | Vaisala<br>HMP45C212                     | Vaisala<br>HMP45C212  | Vaisala<br>HMP45C212                    |
| AGS (m)  | 1.86                                       | 2.27                                   | 2.15   | 17  | 2.33                                  | 2.74                                     | 2.3   | 1.93                                    |
| Wind Speed<br>(m s <sup>-1</sup> ) and<br>Wind Direction<br>(degree) | RM Young<br>05305-10 Wind<br>Monitor       | Met One 50.5<br>Sonic<br>Anemometer    | RM Young<br>05305-10 Wind<br>Monitor                         | RM Young 05305-10<br>Wind Monitor         | RM Young<br>05305-10 Wind<br>Monitor  | RM Young<br>05105-10 Wind<br>Monitor     | Wind Speed and<br>Direction A - RM<br>Young 05305-10<br>Wind Monitor<br>Wind Speed B - 3-<br>cup anemometer | RM Young<br>05105-10 Wind<br>Monitor    |
| AGS (m)  | 7  | 2.45                                   | 2.85   | 18  | 2.77                                  | 4.11                                     | A - 2.55<br>B - 4.2   | 2.41                                    |
| Snow Depth<br>(m)  | SR50                                       | SR50                                   | SR50   | n/a                                       | SR50                                  | SR50                                     | SR50  | SR50                                    |
| AGS (m)  | 1.65                                       | 1.04                                   | 1.76   | n/a                                       | 1.63                                  | 1.59                                     | 1.19  | 1.03                                    |
| Soil Temperature<br>(°C)   | K-type<br>Thermocouple                     | K-type<br>Thermocouple                 | K-type<br>Thermocouple                                       | n/a                                       | K-type<br>Thermocouple                | K-type<br>Thermocouple                   | CS 107B<br>Thermistor   | CS 107B<br>Thermistor                   |
| BGS (cm)   | A - 5<br>B - 10<br>C - 20                  | A - 5<br>B - 25<br>C - 40              | A - 10<br>B - 20   | n/a                                       | A - 10<br>B - 20                      | A - 5<br>B - 10<br>C - 20                | A - 5<br>B - 15   | A - 5<br>B - 15                         |
| Soil Heat Flux<br>(W m <sup>-2</sup> )                               | HFT3 Heatflux<br>Plate                     | HFT3 Heatflux<br>Plate                 | HFP01<br>Heatflux Plate                                      | n/a                                       | n/a                                   | HFP01 Heatflux<br>Plate                  | HFT3 Heatflux<br>Plate  | n/a                                     |
| BGS (cm)   | 10   | 10                                     | 10   | n/a                                       | n/a                                   | 2  | 10  | n/a                                     |
| Soil Moisture<br>(m <sup>3</sup> m <sup>-3</sup> )                   | CS616 Soil<br>Moisture Probe               | CS616 Soil<br>Moisture Probe           | n/a  | n/a                                       | CS616 Soil<br>Moisture Probe          | n/a                                      | n/a   | n/a                                     |
| BGS (cm)   | 15   | 25                                     | n/a  | n/a                                       | 25                                    | n/a                                      | n/a   | n/a                                     |
| Incoming Solar<br>Radiation (W m <sup>-2</sup> )<br>AGS (m)          | Kipp and Zonen<br>CM3<br>Pyranometers      | Kipp and Zonen<br>CM3<br>Pyranometers  | Kipp and<br>Zonen CM3<br>Pyranometers                        | Kipp and Zonen CM21<br>Pyranometer,<br>20 | Kipp and Zonen<br>CM3<br>Pyranometers | Apogee CS300-L<br>Pyranometer,<br>1.97   | Kipp and Zonen<br>CM3 Pyranometers  | Licor LI200s<br>Shortwave<br>Radiometer |
| Outgoing Solar<br>Radiation (W m <sup>-2</sup> )<br>AGS (m)          | 1.95                                       | 1.31                                   | 2.33   | n/a                                       | 1.95                                  | n/a                                      | 1.45  | 1.37                                    |
| Incoming<br>Longwave<br>Radiation (W m <sup>-2</sup> )<br>AGS (m)    | Kipp and Zonen<br>CG3<br>Pyrgeometers      | Kipp and Zonen<br>CG3<br>Pyrgeometers  | Kipp and<br>Zonen CG3<br>Pyrgeometers                        | Kipp and Zonen CG1<br>Pyrgeometer,<br>20  | Kipp and Zonen<br>CG3<br>Pyrgeometers | n/a                                      | Kipp and Zonen<br>CG3 Pyrgeometers  | n/a                                     |
| Outgoing<br>Longwave<br>Radiation (W m <sup>-2</sup> )<br>AGS (m)    | 1.95                                       | 1.31                                   | 2.33   | n/a                                       | 1.95                                  | n/a                                      | 1.45  | n/a                                     |
| Rainfall<br>(mm)   | Texas TE525M<br>Rain Gauge                 | n/a                                    | Hydrological<br>Services TB4<br>Tipping Bucket<br>Rain Gauge | n/a                                       | Texas TE525M<br>Rain Gauge            | n/a                                      | Hydrological<br>Services TB4<br>Tipping Bucket<br>Rain Gauge  | Texas TE525M<br>Rain Gauge              |
| AGS (m)  | 2.56                                       | n/a                                    | 2.36   | n/a                                       | 0.7                                   | n/a                                      | 4.2   | 1.56                                    |
| All Precipitation<br>(mm)  | Geonor T200B<br>Gauge with Alter<br>Shield | n/a                                    | Geonor T200B<br>Gauge with<br>Alter Shield                   | n/a                                       | n/a                                   | n/a                                      | Geonor T200B<br>Gauge with Alter<br>Shield  | n/a                                     |
| AGS (m)  | 1.8  | n/a                                    | 1.85   | n/a                                       | n/a                                   | n/a                                      | 4.1   | n/a                                     |
| Barometric<br>Pressure<br>(mb)                                       | BP61025V<br>Pressure Sensor                | n/a                                    | CS106<br>Barometric<br>Pressure Sensor                       | n/a                                       | n/a                                   | n/a                                      | n/a   | BP61025V<br>Pressure Sensor             |
| AGS (m)  | 1.25                                       | n/a                                    | 1.25   | n/a                                       | n/a                                   | n/a                                      | n/a   | 0.7                                     |

**Table 3:** Quality controlled threshold values for 15-minute hydrometeorological variables for current stations in MCRB; ROC and n/a denote rate of change and not applicable, respectively.

| Variable            | Unit              | Maximum | Minimum | ROC limit | Time steps to flag constant value |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Air Temperature     | °C                | 40      | -60     | 10        | 16                                |
| Relative Humidity   | %                 | 100     | 0       | 30%       | 16                                |
| Wind speed          | m s <sup>-1</sup> | 30      | 0       | n/a       | 16                                |
| Snow Depth          | m                 | 5       | 0       | n/a       | n/a                               |
| Soil Temperature    | °C                | 50      | -40     | 10        | 96                                |
| Soil Heat Flux      | W m <sup>-2</sup> | 1000    | -500    | 100       | 16                                |
| Soil Moisture       | fraction          | 1       | 0       | 0.2       | 16                                |
| Solar Radiation     | W m <sup>-2</sup> | 1368    | 0       | 1450      | 48                                |
| Longwave Radiation  | W m <sup>-2</sup> | 600     | 100     | 300       | 16                                |
| Precipitation       | mm                | 30      | 0       | n/a       | n/a                               |
| Barometric pressure | mb                | 1090    | 650     | 30        | 16                                |

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**Table 4:** Mean water year air temperature and total water year precipitation from the current stations at the Marmot Creek Research Basin. Values inside parentheses are total water year snowfall.

| Water Year         | Mean Air Temperature (°C) |              |            |                |              |            |              | Total Precipitation (mm) |                |            |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
|                    | Centennial Ridge          | Fisera Ridge | Vista View | Upper Clearing | Upper Forest | Hay Meadow | Level Forest | Fisera Ridge             | Upper Clearing | Hay Meadow |
| 2006               | -1.2                      | 0.1          | 2.9        | 2.3            | 1.7          | 4.0        | 4.0          | 902 (551)                | 646 (306)      | 492 (155)  |
| 2007               | -1.7                      | -0.5         | 2.2        | 1.5            | 0.8          | 3.3        | 3.4          | 1215 (815)               | 797 (421)      | 631 (196)  |
| 2008               | -2.7                      | -1.7         | 0.8        | 0.6            | 0.0          | 2.3        | 2.4          | 1218 (926)               | 804 (421)      | 693 (231)  |
| 2009               | -1.4                      | -0.7         | 1.4        | 1.0            | 0.4          | 2.8        | 2.8          | 944 (638)                | 610 (332)      | 450 (210)  |
| 2010               | -2.1                      | -1.0         | 0.6        | 0.6            | 0.0          | 2.6        | 2.4          | 1140 (904)               | 670 (410)      | 476 (205)  |
| 2011               | -2.4                      | -1.2         | 0.4        | 0.4            | -0.2         | 1.9        | 1.8          | 1128 (865)               | 671 (396)      | 522 (271)  |
| 2012               | -1.4                      | -0.2         | 1.5        | 1.6            | 1.0          | 3.6        | 3.6          | 1247 (922)               | 794 (419)      | 586 (201)  |
| 2013               | -1.5                      | -0.2         | 1.3        | 1.4            | 1.1          | 3.1        | 3.0          | 1329 (794)               | 868 (320)      | 762 (207)  |
| 2014               | -2.1                      | -0.8         | 0.7        | 0.5            | 0.2          | 2.2        | 2.1          | 877 (658)                | 650 (419)      | 510 (267)  |
| 2015               | -0.4                      | 0.9          | 2.3        | 2.5            | 2.2          | 4.2        | 4.2          | 857 (543)                | 593 (272)      | 440 (163)  |
| 2016               | -0.3                      | 1.0          | 2.4        | 2.7            | 2.4          | 4.4        | 4.5          | 939 (614)                | 591 (268)      | 426 (118)  |
| 11-water year mean | -1.6                      | -0.4         | 1.5        | 1.4            | 0.9          | 3.1        | 3.1          | 1070 (748)               | 699 (362)      | 545 (202)  |

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**Table 5:** Historical snow courses (SC) at the Marmot Creek Research Basin from description by Fisera (1977).

| Snow Course | Description  |
|-------------|--|
| 1           | East sloping lodgepole pine about 9m tall with natural openings                            |
| 3           | Gently south sloping mature spruce, lodgepole pine and alpine                              |
| 6           | Gently northeast sloping mature spruce, lodgepole pine and alpine fir                      |
| 8           | South sloping lodgepole pine about 6m tall   |
| 11          | Southeast sloping mature spruce, lodgepole pine and alpine fir                             |
| 14          | Northeast sloping mature spruce, lodgepole pine and alpine fir with small natural openings |
| 19          | Variable terrains (i.e. north and south slope, flat and gullies) above treeline            |

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**Table 6:** Active groundwater wells (GW) at the Marmot Creek Research Basin.

| GW Well | Station Name                   | Established      | Elevation (m) | Depth (m) | Aquifer        | Lithology       |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| 301     | Marmot Creek Basin S5250_0301  | 11 October 1964  | 1601.4        | 12.2      | Rocky Mountain | Sandstone       |
| 303     | Marmot Creek Basin N5475_0303  | 9 July 1965      | 1669.1        | 36.58     | Rocky Mountain | Sandstone       |
| 305     | Marmot Creek Basin N6770_0305  | 14 July 1965     | 2063          | 11.58     | Fernie         | Shale           |
| 386     | Marmot Creek Basin N2507E_0386 | 18 November 1988 | 1894          | 12.8      | Surficial      | Gravel and Clay |

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**Table 7: Marmot Creek Research Basin theses in chronological order for the recent period.**

| Thesis Title   | Author             | Year |
|--|--------------------|------|
| Compositional change of meltwater infiltrating frozen ground   | Lilbæk, Gro        | 2009 |
| Energy fluxes at the air-snow interface  | Helgason, Warren   | 2009 |
| Unloading of intercepted snow in conifer forests   | MacDonald, James   | 2010 |
| Hydrological response unit-based blowing snow modelling over mountainous terrain                         | MacDonald, Matthew | 2010 |
| Radiation and snowmelt dynamics in mountain forests  | Ellis, Chad        | 2011 |
| Simulating areal snowcover depletion and snowmelt runoff in alpine terrain                               | DeBeer, Chris      | 2012 |
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