

French Gulch Restoration Project

Pedro Marques

Video Abstract: In 1864, the first gold in the Big Hole River watershed SW Montana was hit in French Gulch.

The mining boom that pre-dated the mining in Butte and Anaconda created an ecological bust for the French Gulch and Moose Creek tributaries. The Big Hole Watershed Committee recently restored over 3 miles of these channels, re-setting ecological trends and dramatically improving habitat, water quality, and recreational amenities of the streams and the public land on which they flow. The project removed 30,000 cubic yards of tailings and created a deformable stream system designed to maximize surface and groundwater interaction to maximize creation of wetland habitat and fish habitat.

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