

## FRIDLEY CREEK RECONNECTION PROJECT<sup>AFS</sup>

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Fridley Creek is located south of Emigrant, Montana flowing east out of the Gallatin Range into the Paradise Valley. The stream was historically a tributary to the Yellowstone River but has been disconnected due to interception by an irrigation canal. Reconnection of Fridley Creek to the Yellowstone River allows a positive exchange of fish between the two systems that did not occur before the project. Re-establishing fish exchange is especially beneficial at this location because so many tributaries in this portion of the drainage are disconnected or are severely dewatered each year. Fridley Creek already supported a self-sustaining population of native Yellowstone Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*). The reconnection will aid increased spawning and recruitment of Yellowstone Cutthroat to the Yellowstone River. The poster presentation will discuss: Benefits to native trout, water rights, fish passage, sediment transport and other design considerations of reconnection of Fridley Creek to the Yellowstone River.