

**Judith/Moccasin Mountain Collaboration  
Cultural Resource Management  
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**CRM:** What it's not: Indiana Jones  
Jurassic Park

NHPA 1966, amended

Federal undertakings require that we know what cultural resources could be affected.

Inventory (much is contracted @ +/- \$12/acre)

Site Evaluation

Effects & Mitigation

Consultation – SHPO, Tribes

Sacred Areas/Vision Quests, Landmarks, Burials, Battles, Plants/Minerals

Involves private land when it is a federal undertaking

Over 30 documented sites in Judith/Moccasins, mostly historic & most unevaluated for NRHP.

### **Site Types/Themes**

#### **Native American**

Presence of Native American sites, particularly lithics and vision quests

Black Butte 1814 – Bull Lodge's first vision (age 12). Gros Ventre/White Clay

1879 – Métis noted use for buffalo scouting

#### **Military/Exploration**

Carroll Trail (1874-75) routed through Cone Butte (Ross) Pass as supply route to Ft. Maginnis

Fort Maginnis (1881-1890): one of 5 post Custer/Sitting Bull forts; timber came from surrounding hills

Judith Peak Radar Site (1950s-60s)

#### **Homesteading**

In the early part of the twentieth century, thousands of homesteaders arrived and the area was quickly settled. The majority of homesteads are on the flanks of the mountains. We tend to encounter them when we conduct joint projects, such as fuels reduction work.

#### **Mining**

From 1886 through 1950 the total gold production of Fergus County was about 653,000 ounces; all but 500 to 1,000 ounces was from lodes. The periods of greatest activity were 1901-22 and 1936-42. The bulk of the gold production from Fergus County has come from the Warm Springs district in the Judith Mountains and from the North Moccasin district near Kendall in the North Moccasin Mountains.

### North Moccasin District

The North Moccasin (Kendall) district produced about 425,000 to 450,000 ounces of gold through 1959, about two-thirds of the county production. In 1903 and 1904, when Fergus County was the leading gold producer in Montana, nearly all the gold came from this district.

These deposits were discovered in 1893, about 13 years after the discovery of gold ore in the Judith Mountains, but they were not developed until about 1900, when a cyanidation plant was built to recover the gold from the refractory ores which were not amenable to amalgamation. Mining thereafter was almost continuous through 1922, at which time the North Moccasin mine, the most productive in the district since 1911, closed (U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1924, pt. 1, p. 350). The district was practically idle until the middle 1930's. In 1936 the old Barnes-King property was reopened, a 50-ton cyanide plant was built, and there was substantial production from the district through 1942. Only small-scale operations were carried on after World War II, and the district was idle from 1948 through 1959.

Named after town's boarding house owner and operator, Harry Kendall, the town began to come alive about 1899 with the discovery of the Goggle Eye mine. Kendall bought into a mine just getting started. Investing additional funds for equipment gave Kendall controlling interest. As the mine began to produce more and more ore, more and more money was needed for more and more equipment. Kendall went to Spokane to interest some mining promoters to buy his interest for \$450,000 plus 10% of all future profits. They did and Mr. Kendall went back to managing his boarding house.

### Warm Springs District

The Warm Springs/Cone Butte (Maiden-Gilt Edge) district is near the southwest end of the Judith Mountains in the central part of the county about 10 miles northeast of Lewistown. Cone Butte was the district north of the 4<sup>th</sup> Standard Parallel (just north of Maiden). The first ore discoveries in Fergus County, which were placer gravels in the Judith Mountains, were made in either 1879 or 1880 (Lyden, 1948, p. 28). Soon afterward gold-silver lodes were found. The placers were worked on a small scale but their output is not known. The lode mines of the district yielded gold ores worth \$939,230 (about 45,400 ounces) before 1900 (Robertson, 1950, table 4, p. 10). Lode mining continued after 1900; the most prosperous period probably was 1901-21. From 1932 through 1954 activity was desultory, and the district was idle from 1954 through 1959. Total gold production through 1959 was about 200,000 ounces.

Miners began working the Judith Mountains for gold and silver in 1880, and towns like Maiden and Gilt Edge sprang up near the mines. Joe Anderson and David Jones made the first discovery in May 1880 (Leeson 1885). Somewhat later, the mining spread to the nearby Moccasin Mountains and the town of Kendall was created.

Collar Mine was discovered in August 1880, and the associated 20-stamp mill was constructed in 1880 as well. Even though the Collar Mine was not the first mine discovered in the district (that happened four months earlier) it was the first mine to be developed.

In 1885 the Fergus County sheriff sold the mine and mill to Eugene Smith for \$7,550. The mill equipment ended up at the Spotted Horse Mine, about two miles away. The Spotted Horse Mine did not produce enough water for industrial use, so a pumping plant was placed in Collar Gulch. The dams currently identified in Collar Gulch may be associated with that mining and milling activity at Spotted Gulch.

The town of Maiden is in the Judith Mountains where the first discoveries of gold were made in that part of the state. One of the early prospectors was a man by the name of Maden. At his site, he put up a sign that read "Camp Maden." The location eventually became the center of a town, the word "camp" was dropped and an "I" inserted to make the name "Maiden" and that became the name of the town, with or without female influence, so the story goes. Maiden was, of course, a gold mining town and reached a population of 1200 by 1888. However, it was not to last. As the ore began to run out, people began to leave and 1896 left only 200.

Despite its name, Giltedge was not a very successful town. The low ore content of its mines didn't attract too many people but just enough to call it a town. Its most prosperous time was around the turn of the century. Not many of the town's original buildings remain in a locale that today presents a stark and lonely atmosphere to the visitor.