

12th ESEH Conference
**MOUNTAINS
AND PLAINS**
Past, present and future
environmental and climatic
entanglements



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University of Bern, 22–26 August 2023

Excursion

The Jura Lakes melioration project – Input Mont Vully

Sebastian de Pretto

26 August 2023

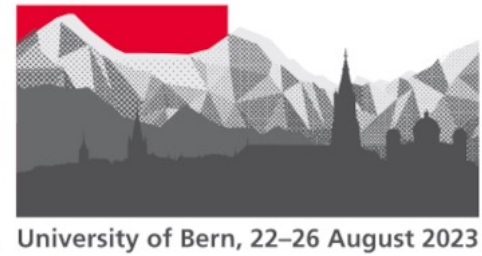


The Jura Lakes melioration project – Input Mont Vully

Mont Vully

Where are we?

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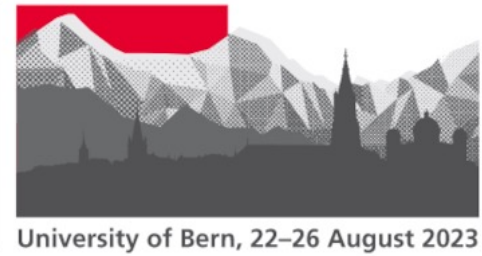


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The Great Marsh

Grosses Moos/Grand-Maraais

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The Great Marsh 1950 (StABE)

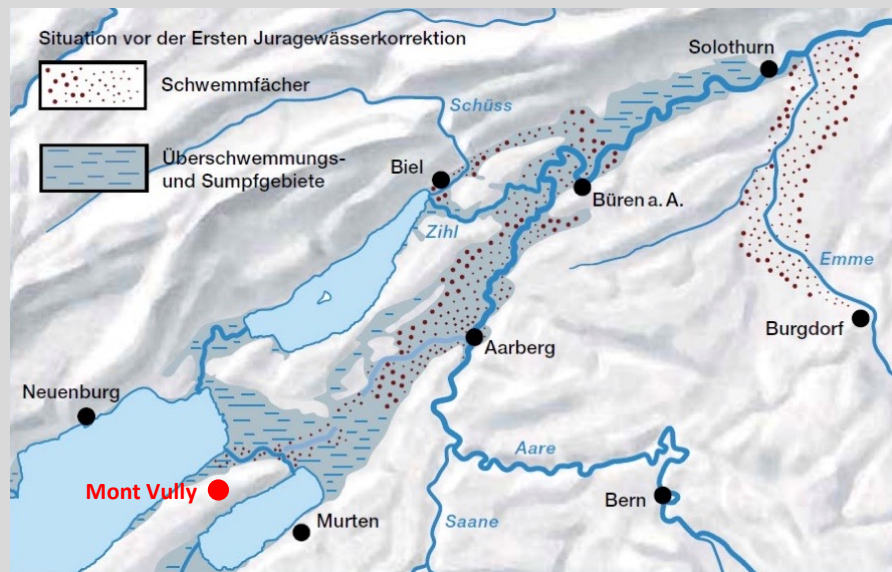
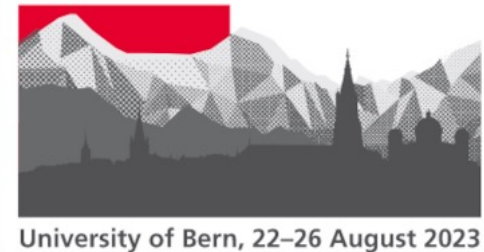


The Great Marsh today (FLS)

The Jura Lakes melioration project – Input Mont Vully

The Jura Lakes melioration project

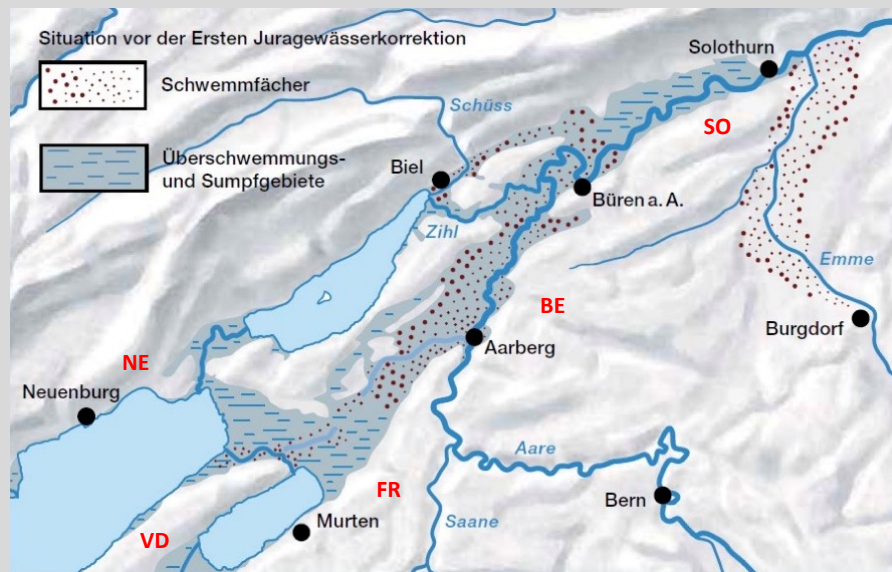
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The Jura Lakes before 1868, drawing Chr. Rohr

Before the Jura lake melioration, the Aare flowed from Aarberg in a northerly direction, i.e. past Lake Biel. The area around the three Jura lakes as far as Solothurn was marshy and flooded again and again. The area around the Lake Murten and the Lake Neuchâtel was deeply affected by the flooding too.

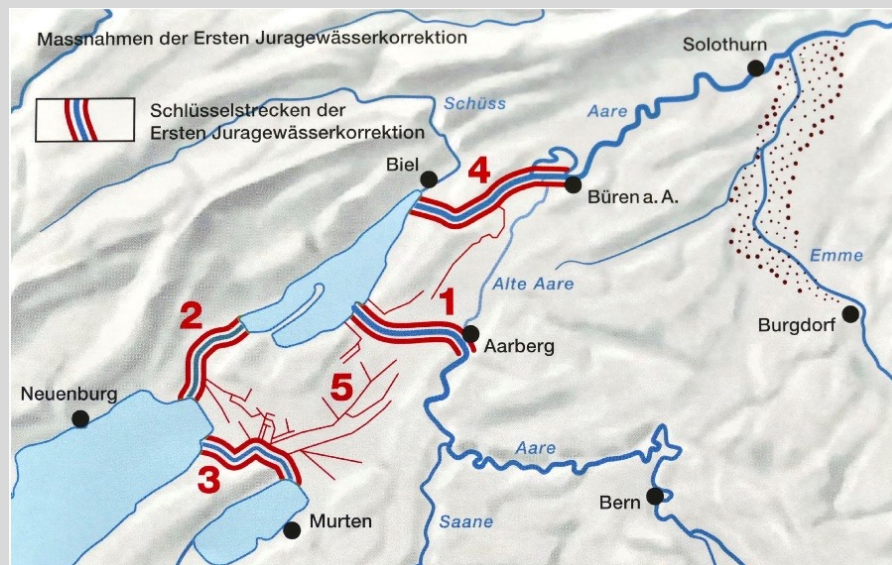
The Jura Lakes melioration project



The Jura Lakes before 1868, drawing Chr. Rohr

The Great Marsh is shared by the cantons of Solothurn, Bern, Fribourg, Vaud and Neuchâtel. The political breakthrough was only possible after 1848. Before the foundation of the modern federal state, there was no solution between the five sovereign cantons in sight.

The Jura Lakes melioration project



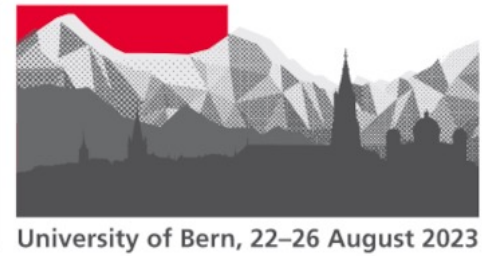
Measures 1868–1891, drawing Chr. Rohr

During the First Jura Lakes melioration project (1868-1891) the Aare River was diverted through the Hagneck Canal (1) into Lake Biel. In addition, Lake Biel, Lake Neuchâtel and Lake Murten were lowered by more than 2 metres and connected by a canal system. Namely through the Zihl Canal (2), the Broye Canal (3) and the Nidau-Büren Canal (4). In addition, an extensive network of canals (5) was constructed to drain the Great Marsh.

The Jura Lakes melioration project – Input Mont Vully

The Jura Lakes melioration project

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The Great Marsh after 1891 (Der Bund)



Lake Murten after 1891 (Der Bund)

Bibliography

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