



In 1903, the Western Pacific Railroad (the second of two WP's) was formed to build a line between Oakland, California, and Salt Lake City, Utah, which was completed in 1909 to compete with the SP (former Central Pacific) transcontinental. The line south from Sacramento to Stockton crosses wetlands of the Sacramento River Delta and required significant fill to raise the grade above the wetlands. This southward view 2 miles north of Mokelumne City shows the WP (1909) on a high fill grade, the overgrown ditch that penetrated the shallow water table and provided fill for the grade, and drained wetlands used for agriculture.