



The Union Pacific Railroad arrived in Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 1868 and immediately began exploiting the abundant coal in the area to power its steam engines. I can't tell when the first branch line was built to the coal mines north of town, but ultimately a coal branch line extended 12 miles north of Rock Springs along Killpecker Creek to the mining town of Winton. Winton was declining by the 1930's, so I assume the UP Winton Branch was built around 1900. In 1962, US Steel extended the line about 70 miles to iron deposits around Atlantic City, Wyoming, but that line was abandoned back to a point about 6 miles south of Winton in 1983.

The through tracks on the left are the UP mainline and Rock Springs sidings. The bolted branch line in the foreground is the Winton Branch and its siding.



The same location as above, showing the bolted Winton Branch and its siding, with UP mainline to the right.



Another view of the Winton Branch, with a train on the UP mainline.



The Rock Springs Depot; the UP mainline is to the left of the fence.



A heritage UP caboose near the Rock Springs Depot.