



The McCloud River Railroad was chartered in 1897 and by 1901 extended 18 miles from a connection with the California & Oregon Railroad (1887) at Mount Shasta, California, to McCloud (this location). The railroad was primarily a logging railroad and had several different owners over the years. The railroad had regular passenger service until 1952. By 1955, the railroad operated on 96 miles of track, including branch lines to Lookout Junction, where it connected with the Great Northern Railway (1931), and to Burney on a branch line built in 1955. Around 2005, the railroad abandoned the entire line except for the original 18 miles between McCloud and Mount Shasta, which operated briefly for excursion trains. The property was for sale as a rail trail as of 2012.

The MR runs north of the town of McCloud, where the now-abandoned lumber mill is located along with railroad shops and sidings for lumber loading/unloading. The rail complex north of town also includes a wye, which connects the MR mainline to a 2,000-foot track that runs straight south to downtown McCloud. Tracks remain on the MR (1905) mainline for 3 miles east of the McCloud rail complex (this location).

Northeastward view of part of the rail complex north of town, including an old passenger car.





Northward view of part of the rail complex, same passenger car as previous photo. The white building in the middle distance is part of the abandoned mill.





Northward view of part of the rail complex north of town.





Northward view near the south end of the 2,000-foot track that runs south to downtown McCloud (2,000 feet south of previous location). An old passenger car and a leaning water tower remain.





The end of the 2,000-foot spur track in McCloud, same passenger car as previous photo visible in the distance.