



The Apache Railway was incorporated in September 1917, grading began in October 1917, and construction of the entire 72-mile line from Holbrook -- on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, formerly Atlantic & Pacific mainline -- to what would become the logging town of McNary, was completed in July 1920. In 1923, James McNary and William Cady purchased the railroad and renamed the sawmill town McNary. In 1943, McNary's Southwest Forest Industries was awarded the timber contract for the Maverick Unit and the railroad was extended there a year later on a route with elevations exceeding 9,000 feet. The Apache Railway offered passenger service until the 1950's. In 1964, the route from Maverick to McNary became the White Mountain Scenic Railroad, which operated steam powered passenger excursions over the Southwest Forest Industries-owned line. As track conditions deteriorated, the excursions were cut back and in 1976 the railroad ceased operations. In the 1970's, the White Mountain Apache Tribe stopped selling logs to Southwest Forest Industries and the mill shut down in 1980. The Southwest Forest Industries line and the southern half of the original Apache line were abandoned in the early 1980's.

The abandoned Apache Railway, 15 miles north of McNary.





The abandoned Apache Railway, 5 miles north of McNary.





The abandoned Apache Railway, 4 miles north of McNary. Note the predominance of Ponderosa pines, compared to the junipers of the lower elevations in the previous photos.





The abandoned Apache Railway, at the Southwest Forest Industries mill at McNary. Foundations and abandoned structures are spread across several acres.





Closer view of the abandoned Apache Railway at its 1920 end-of-track at McNary.





Closer view of discarded ties and foundations for a loading facility along the abandoned Apache Railway at its 1920 end-of-track at McNary.