



In January 1904, the Minidoka & Southwestern Railroad was incorporated to build a railroad from the town of Minidoka, on the Oregon Short Line (1884), southwestward to access agricultural lands surrounding the Snake River. The M&SW mainline crossed the Snake River just north of Burley (this location), where the alignment turned due west to follow the southern floodplain of the Snake River. The line was built westward through this location at Hansen and opened to Twin Falls in May 1905; the line continued west another 15 miles to Buhl, probably in 1907 (as shown on the Southwest Railroad History Map; however, some references imply the M&SW reached Buhl in 1905 during the original construction). In 1910, the Idaho Central Railroad, which had no other trackage in the map area, built a line southward from the M&SW (1905) at Twin Falls to Rogerson to access agricultural traffic. In the same year of 1910, the OSL acquired the M&SW; the branch line to Rogerson remained an IC property. Around 1912, the OSL built the Wendell and Goose Creek branches, both to access agricultural areas. In 1916, the OSL built the Raft River Branch. The OSL trackage in southeastern Idaho, including all the former M&SW trackage and the IC Rogerson Branch (1910), were eventually folded into the UP system. The UP abandoned the IC Rogerson Branch (1910) in 1979-1980 and, probably around the same time, partially abandoned the OSL Goose Creek Branch (c1912) and OSL Raft River Branch (1916). In 1993, the UP sold the remaining lines to the Eastern Idaho Railroad, which runs trains to the present day.

Eastward view of the M&SW (1905) Hansen. Note the well-used bolted rails and the sidings to the right and left adjacent to agricultural facilities.