



The Union Pacific-controlled Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad (originally San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad) completed its Cedar City Branch in 1923 to serve the iron mines in the district west of Cedar City. The Cedar City Branch started on the LA&SL mainline (original Oregon Short Line [1899]) at Lund, Utah, and ran the first passenger train from Lund to Cedar City on July 1, 1923. In 1924, the 4-mile-long, Desert Mound Spur was built southwestward from Iron Springs on the LA&SL Cedar City Branch (1923)(this location) to the Desert Mound Mine. In 1935, the spur was extended 11 miles southwest to the Iron Mountain Mine. Following some mine closures and re-openings primarily during the 1980's, the CML Railroad has operated ore trains over the Comstock Subdivision of UP's Cedar City Branch, between the re-opened iron mines at Iron Mountain and UP's Cedar City Branch at Iron Springs (this location).

Eastward view of the wye for the LA&SL Desert Mound Spur (1924). The LA&SL Cedar City Branch (1923) runs across the image in the distance.





Northeastward view of the wye for the LA&SL Desert Mound Spur (1924). The LA&SL Cedar City Branch (1923) runs across the image in the distance.





Southward view of the switch for the wye, same location as previous. Mine tailings from the Desert Mound Mine are in the distance.





Southwestward view of the LA&SL Desert Mound Spur (1924), a few steps southwest of previous location. Iron Mountain is hidden in the distance by the haze on this wet morning in the Utah desert.