



The Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway originated in Denver and was planned to terminate in Salt Lake City, Utah. Construction began in 1902 from Denver, crossed the continental divide at Rollins Pass, and by 1913 had reached Craig, Colorado, under the name of Denver & Salt Lake Railroad. The coalfield at Craig was its final terminus, less than half the distance toward its goal of Salt Lake City. In 1931, the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad acquired the D&SL and in 1934 completed the Dotsero Cutoff at Bond. The D&SL between Bond and Craig became a D&RGW coal branch.

This view of the D&SL grade shows the rolling topography and wetter conditions above the Colorado River. This flat area is dotted with ponds and is on the drainage divide between Egeria Creek, which flows southward about 10 miles to the Colorado River, and the Yampa River, which flows north and west to the Green River in Utah. From this point, the D&SL follows the Yampa River through Steamboat Springs all the way to Craig, and could have followed it all the way to Utah.