



The first decade of the 1900's was a period of frenzied railroad-building in southwestern Nevada, with rich silver ore discovered at Tonopah and Silver Peak and gold-bearing quartz at Goldfield. The narrow gauge Tonopah Railroad was built during 1903-1904 from the narrow gauge Carson & Colorado at Sodaville Junction (9 miles south of Mina). This 60-mile-long Tonopah Railroad was the first to reach Tonopah. The line merged with the Goldfield Railroad in November 1905 to create the Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad, which extended its trackage in 1905 to cover the 31 miles from Tonopah south to Goldfield and the nine miles north from Sodaville Junction through Sodaville to Mina with standard gauge track, and re-laid its existing tracks to become a standard gauge road. With the gold and silver mines in full production, the T&G soon had competition from the Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad, the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad, and the Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad. The T&G permanently ceased operations in October 1947.

The Tonopah Railroad (later T&G) grade near Coaldale Junction is still the only sign of civilization in Fish Lake Valley, except for the lightly traveled US Highway 95 that replaced the railroad. This route was first graded in 1903-1904 and laid with narrow gauge track, then was converted to standard gauge track in 1905, which was removed around 1950.