



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, where the alignment turned due west to follow the southern floodplain of the Snake River. The line opened to Twin Falls in May 1905 and continued west another 15 miles to Buhl (this location), 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 OSL acquired the M&SW. Branch lines to access agricultural areas included the Idaho Central Rogerson Branch (1910)(the OSL did not acquire the Rogerson Branch in 1910 as part of the M&SW acquisition, but the OSL did acquire it sometime before the mid-1920's), the OSL Wendell Branch (c1912), the OSL Goose Creek Branch (c1912), and the Raft River Branch (1916). The OSL trackage in southeastern Idaho, including all the former M&SW trackage, 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 and Raft River branches. In 1993, the UP sold the remaining lines to the Eastern Idaho Railroad, which runs trains to the present day.

Eastward view of the end of track of the M&SW Buhl Extension (1907). This is the end of the line of the M&SW mainline. Note the grain silos to the left (north) of the track, a common sight along today's Eastern Idaho Railroad.