



The San Luis Central is a privately-held shortline built in 1913 to handle sugar beet traffic, but eventually transitioned to hauling other agricultural products when beets didn't work out. The route runs 13 miles north from the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad (now San Luis & Rio Grande) Creede Branch connection at Sugar Junction (just east of Monte Vista) to Center, Colorado. The SLC was never part of the D&RG system and was originally built as a standard gauge road, having been built about a decade after the Creede Branch was converted to standard gauge.

Southward view of the SLC tracks at the north end of the wye with the D&RG (now SL&RG) line at Sugar Junction. Note the flat green fields of the San Luis Valley, whose agricultural products have been shipped out via rail on the SLC since 1913.



Northward view of the SLC tracks a mile north of the wye with the D&RG (now SL&RG) at Sugar Junction (previous photo). The abundant water in the San Luis Valley comes from the 14,000+ foot mountains that bound the valley – the Sangre de Cristos to the east and the San Juans to the west.