



The Western Pacific Railroad was founded in 1903 and was financed by the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad to form a WP-D&RGW transcontinental route to complete with the Southern Pacific (original Central Pacific)-Union Pacific transcontinental route. The WP is noted for the engineering feats needed to cross the Sierra Nevada via the Feather River drainage. The engineering key to the WP's Feather River Route was a crossing from the North Fork Feather River to the Middle Fork Feather River at a location called Spring Garden. The following pictures are taken along the North Fork Feather River moving up river (east) toward the Keddie wye (junction with WP-Great Northern Inside Gateway).

Starting at the west end of our traverse is the double bridge near Pulga, where the WP crosses the North Fork Feather River on a steel truss bridge and California Highway 70 crosses over both on a steel arch bridge.





Only a relatively minor cut was needed for this stretch of the WP (now Union Pacific) along the North Fork Feather River.



There are several small diversions of the North Fork Feather River for hydroelectric generation; the WP grade on the left (northwest) bank.





One of 34 tunnels on the Feather River Route. California Highway 70 on the left bank.





This grade was cut into solid granite.





A trestle carries the WP over a tributary of the North Fork Feather River.



Dual steel truss bridges over the North Fork Feather River near Storrie, with the WP in foreground and California Highway 70 on the right.





WP bridge near Storrie.





The WP bridge near Storrie is more than a century old but the nameplate looks like new. The builders somehow knew their times would one day be legendary and sent us this dated message.





Near Storrie, the WP passes over California Highway 70.





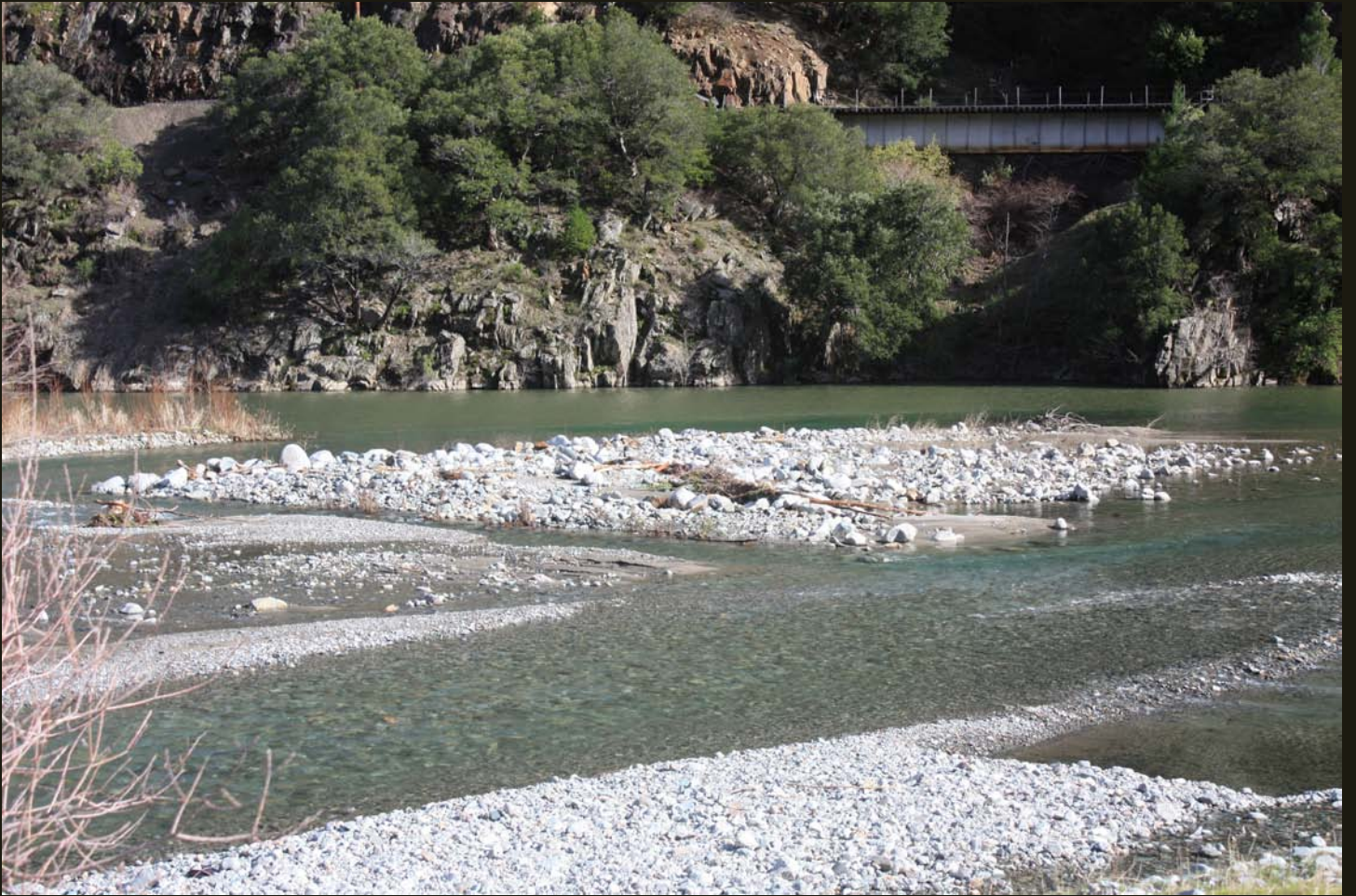
WP climbs the canyon wall to maintain the grade.





Small tunnel where the WP grade is just a few feet above the water level of Rock Creek Reservoir, where the North Fork Feather River is diverted for hydroelectric generation.





The WP uses a small bridge to cross a tributary of the North Fork Feather River.





In narrow part of the canyon, the WP built a concrete retaining wall to carry the grade between the river and a vertical wall of rock.





Cut and fill grade across a landslide.