



The Union Pacific organized the Oregon Short Line Railway on April 14, 1881, to build northwest from the UP mainline at Granger, Wyoming, to Portland, Oregon. The OSL would create a direct "short line" to Oregon that did not require the UP to use Central Pacific tracks (via Donner and Siskiyou passes). The line reached Kemmerer, Wyoming, in 1882, where the OSL established facilities about 5 miles east of the summit over the divide between the Colorado River drainage and the Great Basin.

The OSL (now UP) yard at Kemmerer.





Three miles west of Kemmerer begins an 8-mile rerouting of the 1882 OSL route over the summit (Colorado River-Great Basin divide), which does not have a name that I can find. Nor can I find any information on the timing of the rerouting, but it was likely around 1900. The new route, shown here, runs north of the original route, which can be seen as a vague linear feature to the left (south) of the tracks.



The new (c1900) OSL grade near the west end of the rerouting. The 1882 grade is out of view to the right in this eastward view.