

Management railroad lands, are the subject of this archeological report. This is the culmination of a multi-year program to document and understand these resources. It builds upon previous studies and investigations; such as Robert Utley's (1960) early documentation of the park's national historical significance, James Ayres' 1982 archeological investigations of the town site of Promontory Station, and the Cultural Landscape Report prepared by Homstad, Caywood, and Nelson (2000).

Much has been written on the history of the world's first transcontinental railway, and analyses of its authorization history, economics, politics and associated machinations, and social history abound (Ames 1969, Daggett 1922, Davis 1894, Trent 1981, White 1895). The lives of powerful men who were behind the railroad and of those who made fortunes on the effort are well known (Lewis 1969, Williams 1988). Additionally, the general procedures, technology, and strategies employed during the construction effort have been addressed at length (Ames 1969, Dodge 1965, Galloway 1950, Griswold 1962, Kraus 1969a, Williams 1988). Because this information is widely available and the park's library has a wealth of relevant publications, this document does not go into detail about the history of the transcontinental railroad. Instead, it focuses on documenting and interpreting the physical evidence of construction of the railroad across the Promontories.

Research Arenas

The research design for this project posed many questions that guided the field work and analysis reports for this multi-year project (Anderson and Fox 2000). Most of the questions are addressed in the body of this report. All questions, however, are listed in Appendix A. If the question was addressed, the appendix references the section of the report where it was answered. The following research arenas were used to guide this project:

1. Chronology
2. Railroad construction and operations - east and west slopes of the Promontory mountains
3. Railroad construction and operation - Promontory summit
4. Ethnicity, gender, and material culture
5. Settlement patterns, demographics, and community organization
6. Subsistence and resource utilization
7. Paleoenvironment
8. External relations / ties to the east and west
9. Investigation of elusive features and oral traditions (Appendix B)