

List of Railroads that Operated in Montana

This page contains a list of railroads that operated in Montana. As with any list - this is in no way the "complete" comprehensive directory of all railroads that ever ran in the Big Sky State

They are arranged by the city or area of Montana. Much is not known about many of these obscure rail enterprises, but hopefully the mention of them here can spur on additional research

Dale Jones Collection – www.railroads-of-montana.com

| Area Covered | Railroad Name | Dispositions | Start of Operation | End of Operation | Miles of Track | Main Lines |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
| Arlee | Heron Lumber Company | Unknown | 1925 | 1933 | 20 | |
| Arlee | Donlan Company | Unknown | 1920 | 1928 | 10 | |
| Bigfork | W. H. Best | Unknown | 1937 | 1947 | 28 | |
| Billings | Billings Traction Company | Abandoned | 1910 | 1917 | 6 | Billings - Battery Cars |
| Billings | Billings & Central MT Railway. | Sold to Northern Pacific Railway | 12/1/1913 | 9/30/1921 | 12.8 | Billings to Shepherd |
| Billings | Rocky Fork & Cooke Railway | Sold to & Merged with NP Railway | 3/15/1890 | 4/21/1898 | 44.37 | Laurel to Red Lodge |
| Bonner | Western Lumber Company | Unknown | 1912 | 1928 | 10 | |
| Bonner | Big Blackfoot Midland Railroad | Unknown | 1903 | 1915 | 30 | |
| Bonner | Big Blackfoot Milling Company | Unknown | 1900 | 1915 | 27 | |
| Bonner | Anaconda Copper Mining Company. | Unknown | 1904 | 1949 | 35 | |
| Bozeman | The Camp Creek Railway | Sold to Northern Pacific Railway | 1/23/1912 | 6/22/1914 | 15.15 | Manhattan to Anceny |
| Bozeman | Gallatin Valley Railway | Sold to Milwaukee Road | 11/1/1910 | 12/31/1918 | 73.533 | Bozeman to Three Forks |
| Butte | Butte Electric Railway Butte City Street Railroad | Abandoned | 1886 | 1937 | 23 | |
| Butte | Montana Railway | Sold to Northern Pacific Railway | 8/18/1884 | 1908 | 14.83 | Stuart to Anaconda |
| Butte | Rarus Railway | In Operation | 5/1/1985 | Operating | 26 | Butte to Anaconda |
| Butte | Montana Western Railway | In Operation | 9/15/1986 | Operating | 51.59 | Butte to Garrison |
| Butte | Montana Union Railway | Merged into Northern Pacific Railway | 1886 | 10/31/1898 | 72.22 | Butte City to Garrison |
| Butte | Montana Southwestern Railway | Abandoned | 1931 | 1933 | 38 | Divide to Wise River (Allentown) & Coolidge |
| Butte | Gaylord & Ruby Valley Railway | Sold to Northern Pacific Railway | 1898 | 2/28/1899 | 21.9 | Renovo to Twin Bridges |
| Butte | Butte, Anaconda & Pacific Railway | Became Rarus Railroad | 1/1/1894 | 4/27/1985 | 46.78 | Butte to Anaconda |
| Central Montana | The Montana Central Ry | Sold to Great Northern Ry. | 11/25/1887 | 6/30/1907 | 269.05 | Great Falls to Butte City |
| Central Montana | White Sulpher Springs & Yellowstone Park Railway | Ceased with MILW Route Abandonment | 1/1/1911 | 6/15/1980 | 19.292 | Dorsey to White Sulpher Springs |

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|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------|---|
| Central Montana | Montana RR Co | Merged with Milwaukee Road | 8/1/1897 | 1/15/1910 | 160.49 | Lombard to Lewistown |
| Central MT | Central MT Rail, Inc | In Operation | 3/19/1985 | Operating | 87 | Moccasin to Geraldine |
| Central US to NW | Milwaukee Road | Abandoned | Circa 1907 | 03/1980 | 10,540 | Chicago, Milwaukee to Seattle |
| Central US to NW & Texas | Burlington Northern Railroad | Became BNSF Ry | 3/2/1970 | 9/1995 | 21,776 | Chicago to St. Louis, Galveston, Denver, Seattle & Portland |
| Columbia Falls | F. H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company | Unknown | 1933 | 1946 | 20 | |
| Columbia Falls | State Lumber Company | Unknown | 1913 | 1933 | 20 | |
| Columbia Falls | A. O. Westburg Lumber Co. | Unknown | 1915 | 1932 | 3 | |
| Columbia Falls | Columbia Lumber Company | Unknown | 1917 | 1917 | 1 | |
| Dayton | American Timber Company | Unknown | 1938 | 1940 | 10 | |
| Dayton | Hans Larson | Unknown | 1934 | ? | 6 | |
| DeBorgia | Mann Lumber Company | Unknown | 1908 | 1925 | 11 | |
| Eureka | Eureka Lumber Company | Unknown | 1915 | 1922 | 12 | |
| Eureka | P. L. Howe Lumber Mills | Unknown | 1919 | 1922 | 9 | |
| Eureka | Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company | Unknown | 1922 | 1926 | 9 | |
| Fortine | Lincoln Logging & Lumber Company | Unknown | 1911 | 1918 | 9 | |
| Gardener | Rocky Mountain Railroad Company of Montana | Sold to & Merged into NP Railway | 9/22/1883 | 4/21/1898 | 51.70 | Livingston to Cinnabar |
| Glendive | Missouri River Railway | Sold to Northern Pacific Railway | 8/1/1912 | 6/20/1914 | 54.81 | Glendive to Sidney |
| Great Falls | Great Falls Street Railway | Abandoned | June 1890 | 1931 | 18.67 | |
| Great Falls | The Great Falls & Canada Railway | Sold to Montana & Great Northern Ry. | 10/2/1890 | 7/31/1901 | 134 | Great Falls to Sweet Grass |
| Great Falls | Great Falls & Teton County Railway | Sold to Great Northern Railway | 12/22/1913 | 12/31/1928 | 42.97 | Power to Bynum |
| Helena | Helens & Jefferson County Railroad | Merged with NP Ry | 12/19/1883 | 4/21/1898 | 20.17 | Jefferson Jct. to Wickes |
| Helena | Helena Street Railway | Abandoned | 3/18/1886 | 1927 | 20? | |
| Helena | Helena, Boulder & Butte Railroad | Consolidated into NP & MT RR | 12/1/1887 | 9/7/1888 | 30.06 | Jefferson to Calvin |
| Helena | Helena & Northern Railroad | Consolidated into NP & MT RR | 11/20/1887 | 9/7/1888 | 12.58 | Clough Jct. to Marysville |
| Helena | Casey Mining & Equipment Company | Unknown | 1951 | 1951 | 8 | |
| Helena | Helena & Red Mountain Railroad | Sold to Northern Pacific Railway | 12/15/1886 | 12/15/1899 | 16.37 | Helena to Rimini |
| Jessup | Jessup Milling Company | Unknown | 1911 | 1917 | 2 | |
| Kalispell | Isaacs Lumber & Lath Company | Unknown | 1928 | 1929 | 0 | |
| Kalispell | Enterprise Lumber Company | Unknown | 1913 | 1913 | 2 | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|--|
| Kalispell | Empire Lumber Company | Unknown | 1926 | 1930 | 3 | |
| Libby | J. Neils Lumber Company | Unknown | 1918 | 1956 | 25 | |
| Libby | Libby Lumber Company | Unknown | 1911 | 1918 | 23 | |
| Libby | Burlington Lumber Company | Unknown | 1912 | 1912? | 6 | |
| Libby | Dawson Lumber Company | Unknown | 1910 | 1911 | 8 | |
| Livingston | Yellowstone Park Railway | Abandoned | 12/1/1898 | 1916 | 11.2 | Brisin to Trail Creek |
| Livingston | The Shields River Valley Railway | Sold to & Merged into NP Railway | 1901 | 6/23/1914 | 23 | Mission to Wilsall |
| Missoula | Anaconda Copper Mining Company | Abandoned | 1904 | 1949 | 35 | Bonner, Butte, Fife, McNamara Landing, Trout Creek |
| Missoula | Missoula Street Railway | Abandoned | 3/4/1889 | 1/24/1932 | 11 to 17 | |
| Missoula | Northern Pacific & Montana Railroad | Sold to Northern Pacific Railway | 9/7/1888 | 8/31/1896 | 360.04 | Logan to Butte City & DeSmet to Idaho line |
| Missoula | The Drummond & Philipsburg Railroad | Consolidated into NP & MT RR | 9/15/1887 | 9/7/1888 | 25.80 | Drummond to Philipsburg |
| Missoula | Big Blackfoot Railway | Merged with MILW Ry | 7/1/1913 | 12/31/1916 | 11.47 | Bonner Jct. to Blackfoot Jct |
| Missoula - South | The Missoula & Bitter Root Valley Railroad | Consolidated into NP & MT RR | 6/1/1888 | 9/7/1888 | 50.85 | Missoula to Grantsdale |
| North East Montana | Montana Eastern Railway | Sold to Great Northern Ry. | 12/15/1913 | 12/13/1928 | 108.27 | Snowden to Watford & Richey |
| Northeast MT | Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railway | Operated under the Soo Line Ry | 1915 | 1/1/1961 | 2,135 | Chicago, Duluth & St. Paul to Whitehall |
| Montana | Great Northern Railway | Merged with BN RR | 9/18/1889 | 3/2/1970 | 7,768 | Duluth & St. Paul to Seattle & Vancouver |
| Plains | Livingston & Cottrell | Unknown | 1938 | 1939 | 14 | |
| Red Lodge | Montana, Wyoming & Southern Railroad | Abandoned | 9/1/1909 | 8/2/1953 | 25.199 | Bridger to Washoe |
| Ronan | Polleys Lumber Company | Unknown | 1911 | 1934 | 11 | |
| Shelby | The Montana Western Railway | Abandoned | 12/31/1909 | 12/31/1969 | 20.20 | Conrad to Valier |
| Somers | Somers Lumber Company | Unknown | 1914 | 1942 | 47 | |
| Somers | John O'Brian Lumber Company | Unknown | 1901 | 1910 | 12 | |
| St. Regis | Montana Logging Company | Unknown | 1918 | 1943 | 15 | |
| Trout Creek | Tuscar Lumber Company | Unknown | 1917 | 1918 | 0 | |
| Troy | Sandpoint Lumber & Pole Company | Unknown | 1922 | 1924 | 0 | |
| Twin Bridges | Sage Lumber Company | Unknown | 1950 | 1959 | 1 | |
| Victor | Harper Logging Company | Unknown | 1927 | 1938 | 12 | |
| Victor | E. O. Everson | Unknown | 1940 | 1947 | 5 | |
| Warland | Baird- Harper Lumber Company | Unknown | 1910 | 1924 | 18 | |
| Warland | Warland Lumber Company | Unknown | 1924 | 1927 | 20 | |
| West Yellowstone | W. N. Womack | Unknown | 1938 | 1940 | 4 | |

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|---|
| Western MT-Kalispell | Montana & Great Northern Railway | Merged with Great Northern Railway | 8/1/1901 | 6/30/1907 | 185.51 | Great Falls to Sweet Grass & Jennings to Columbia Falls |
| Whitefish | Hutcheson (Brothers) Lumber Company | Unknown | 1909 | 1928 | 2 | |
| Whitehall | Pyfer's Sawmill | Unknown | 1951 | 1951 | 15 | |
| Montana | Northern Pacific Railway | Merged with BN Inc. | 8/18/1896 | 3/2/1970 | 6,404.73 | Duluth & St. Paul to Portland |
| Montana | Montana Rail Link, Inc | In Operation | 10/31/1987 | Operating | 600.1 | Huntley to Helena & Phosphate to Sandpoint |