

Arkansas Valley Railway



County: Cheyenne
 Site Name: Arkansas Valley Railway
 Approximate Location: Just southwest of Kit Carson, CO



This location has all the classic elements of a historic railroad tale. It's got wild pioneer businessmen, competing companies, and harsh winters. And what great story would be complete without some cattle?

In December 1869, Pueblo businessmen mapped a wagon road from Pueblo to Kit Carson to help transport supplies from one city to another. But after seeing the success of the Denver Pacific, which was completed in 1870, the Pueblo men urged the Kansas Pacific to build a railroad to Pueblo.

Under engineer Leonard Eicholtz, the 76-mile line was constructed in 1873, reaching West Las Animas on October 18. It was built to service the great volumes of traffic to New Mexico, Arizona and, in general, the southwest region. Each autumn, the branch would find itself inundated with the annual cattle rush. And, in order to move out the large herds before winter, the station would use just about every single car it had. From stock cars to coal cars, anything with wheels under it was used!

Meanwhile, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad was hoping to serve the same customers headed for Pueblo. Bent County voters approved a bond issue of \$150,000 for the Santa Fe and the race was on! Which company set out on the right track for victory? You will just have to stop by the site to find out!

OBT Directions



- From Kit Carson, go south on Highway 287
- Two miles south of the Highway 40 junction, turn west on Road K
- Destination on right at 2.5 miles

OBT Since You're in the Area

- Find some wild clover and take in the fresh scent.
- Try to find another road where the railroad crosses.
- Grab a map and draw the railroad route on it.
- Visit the Kit Carson Museum.*

* Please visit www.ourjourney.info for opening dates/times.

OBT Geocache Information

Coordinates	N 38° 44.100 W 102° 49.452
Size of Cache Box	Regular
Difficulty Level	Easy
Terrain Rating	Easy

Treasure location clue: You are on the right track if you are near the fence.

Our Journey

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