
The Big Fill Trail, Part 3

A short walking tour along two rival railroad grades

Ed De Leonardis - June 22, 2019



Inside the Union Pacific cut camera looking westbound.

Below is a closer view of one of the walls of the UP cut. The vertical white lines are original hand drill scars where the blasting powder was placed.





As you leave the UP Cut (on the right) you can look back and see the CP Grade above (on the left). Amazingly, there is a partial cut in between the two grades (UP False Cut, middle). The descriptive narration said it was a cut begun by the UP crews but then abandoned in favor of the shorter one on the right.



The Big Fill

From Golden Spike Drive turnout, you can see The Big Fill in the distance. The UP Big Trestle would block most of the view of The Big Fill, green this May from all the rain.





The two parallel horizontal thin green lines (just to the left of center, in the middle of the photo) are from spring grasses growing on the adjacent CP (above) and UP (below) grades. This view is from the East Auto Tour on a different section of the old CP grade. Just around the bluff to the right where a cut is visible is The Big Fill, out of sight from this view.



Panoramic view south from the East Auto Tour with an extension of the Great Salt Lake and further, snow on the Wasatch Mountains. Except for the modern vehicles, probably not much has changed in 150 years since the rails were joined a few miles west.