

IVANPAH RAILROAD, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Gregg Wilkerson and Larry Vredenburg
Feb. 9, 2024

INTRODUCTION

This report is part of a research project that describes the relationships between mines and railroads in the Mojave Desert and southwestern Great Basin of southeastern California and southwestern Nevada. t

The collection can be accessed at
<http://www.greggwilkerson.com/railroads.html>

Italics indicate quotations.

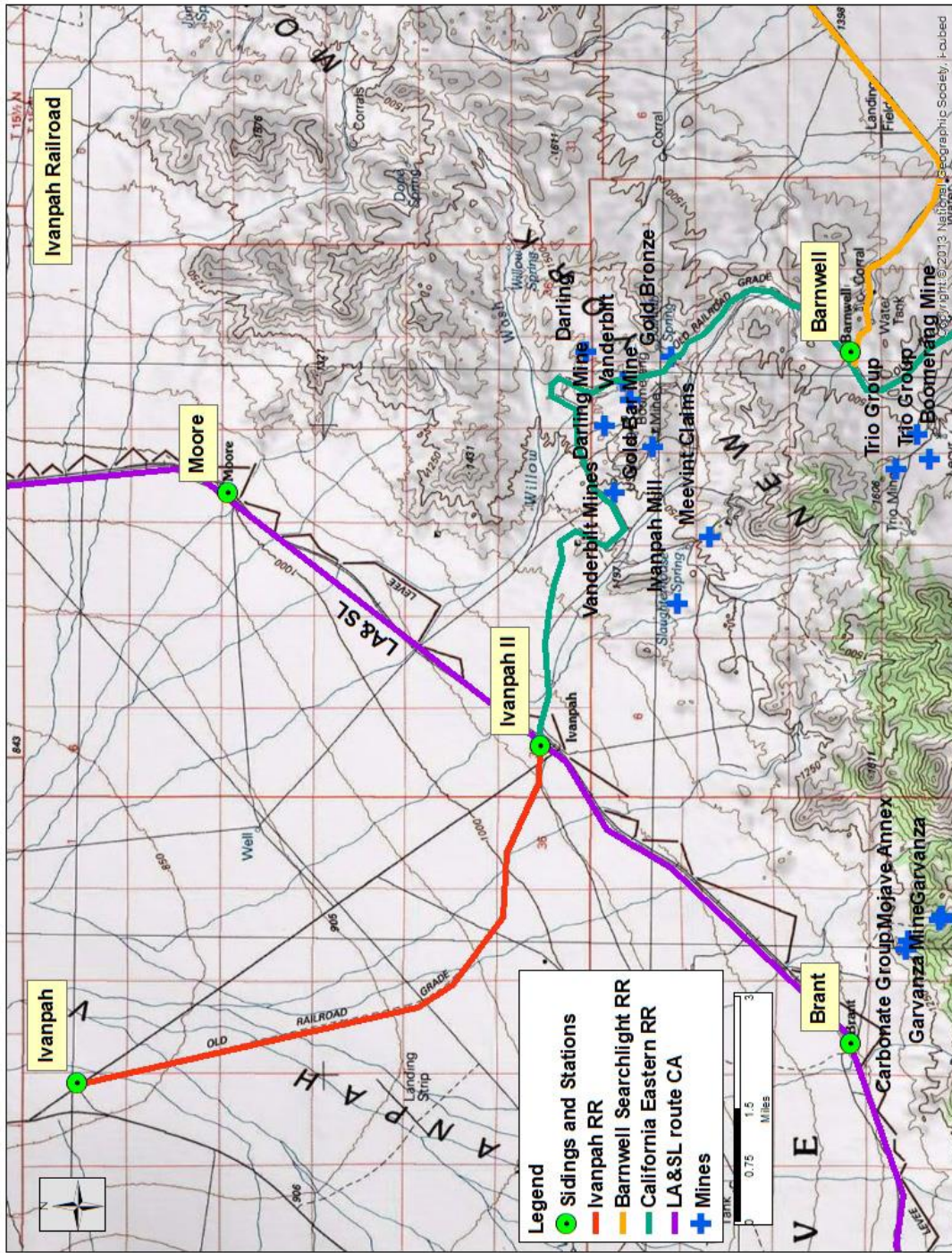
HISTORY

The Ivanpah Railroad was a spur line that connected to the Los Angeles and Salt Lake (LA&SL) railroad. It was in the Ivanpah Valley adjacent to the Ivanpah mining district.

Ivanpah (sometimes referred to as Ivanpah I) was a short-lived silver mining town located in San Bernardino County, California, United States. Gold was discovered in the Ivanpah Mountains in 1882. The town of Ivanpah was founded in 1869 and existed until at least the mid-1880s. Mining continued through 1915 with some activity in the 1930's and up to WWII. The Morning Star mine was developed between 1927 and 1933. It became an open pit operation from 1974 to 1990. Concentrates were made at the refurbished Vanderbilt mill in the New York Mountains (Wilkerson, 2022g; Tengelen, 2023; Western Mining History, 1923i).

The town moved south to Ivanpah Valley in 1905 with the arrival of LA&SL railroad which joined the Nevada Southern-California Eastern Railway (NS&CE) at the Ivanpah Junction. A spur line was built from the LA&SL/NS&CE junction north to the mines from "Ivanpah II" to the Ivanpah Mountain Mining District. The Ivanpah was a northward continuation of the California Eastern Railroad. The Ivanpah Railroad and its associated lines (Barnwell and Searchlight, California Eastern) were decommissioned after several washouts in 1923 (Myrick, 1963:842-845).

The main mines of the Old Ivanpah district were the Kewanee, Mollusk, Morning Star, New Era, Teutonia. In the 1990's the Morning Star was expanded to an open pit operation (Hewett, 1956; Tucker and Sampson, 1943:438-465; Wright and others, 1953: 69-86; Wilkerson, 2022g). In addition, there was a spur line built to the Vandenberg Mine.



REFERENCES

All references in this report are available at <http://www.greggwilkerson.com/iv-references.html>