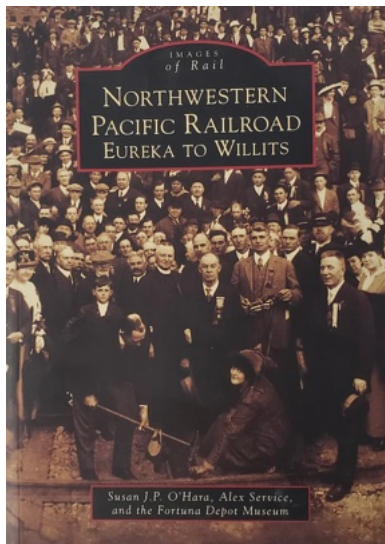
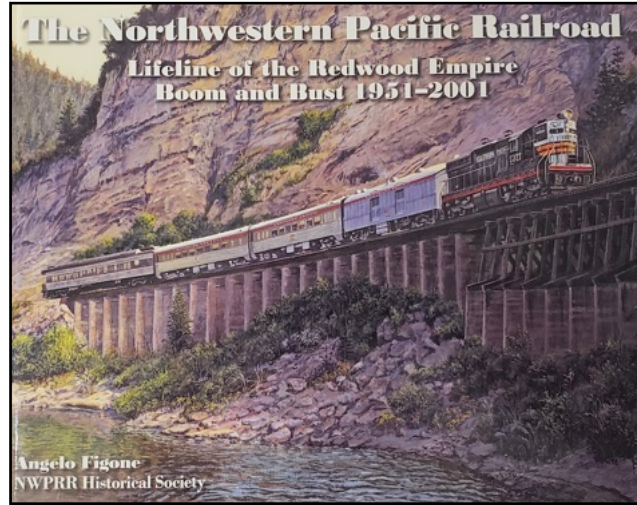


5. GARY MASON'S PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOOKS

I model a segment of the Mendocino County portion of the 277-mile-long Northwestern Pacific Railroad (NWP) in northern California, an independent subsidiary of the Southern Pacific (SP). The period modeled is the late 1950s-early 1960s. The NWP's operations during this period were centered around moving forest products from the state's "North Coast" counties south to interchange with other railroads, principally the SP. Seasonally, the NWP also handled considerable numbers of Pacific Fruit Express reefers to transport pears, apples, plums, and even some citrus to canneries in the San Francisco Bay Area or to eastern markets.

In order to model this segment of the NWP with a sequence of realistic scenes, the design work was heavily dependent on historical information on the industries served, their associated spur track plans, and how operations could be emulated in HO scale.

Angelo Figone's book, *The Northwestern Pacific Railroad - Lifeline of the Redwood Empire Boom and Bust 1951-2001*, is a thorough treatment of the last 15 years of the NWP's profitability followed by its decline and eventual closure in 1983.



Images of Rail - Northwestern Pacific Railroad - Eureka to Willits is another of the pictorial neighborhood, local or regional history publications released by Arcadia Publishing. This book, like most from the publisher, consists of a series of public domain photographs and other images with limited text and numerous captions. Photographs from these publications can sometimes reveal details about a railroad's trackage and structures, rolling stock, and even, on occasion, operations.
Gary Mason

