

SOUTHERN PACIFIC SD9 4404

Over the past several years, the FRRS has undertaken a sometimes controversial reevaluation of our mission and collection. With the membership expressing strongly that they wish to focus on the Western Pacific family of railroads, several of the items that come from other railroads have been considered or approved for deacquisition. These have included Southern Pacific 0-6-0 1215, now cosmetically restored in San Jose, CA; Southern Pacific / Simplot RS32 4004, now at the Pacific Southwest Railroad Museum in Campo, CA, and Milwaukee Road U25B 5057, currently being worked on for movement to Cle Elem, Washington.

In all these cases, the FRRS follows a set of policies and guidelines based on recommendations from the Association of Railway Museums. These guidelines ensure that other museums / historical entities are given first and ample opportunity to preserve items deemed to no longer fit in our collection. If there is no interest from these quarters, then the search widens to include industrial buyers and, finally, can even include scrapping.

For over three years, we have been advertising SP SD9 4404 for preservation and, later, commercial sale, following the decision to deaccession it from our collection. This move was undertaken for several reasons, including relevance to the overall mission, operational viability of an SD9 on our museum railroad and the priority of other pieces for repair and restoration. In the end, it was decided that the 4404 needed to go to a new home.

Although several museums expressed interest, various issues prevented any from completing acquisition. In keeping with our guidelines, we widened the offering and a locomotive broker has stepped forward seeking to acquire the 4404 for its lease fleet.

What this means is that the locomotive will see a second life of railroad service and the FRRS will be able to focus its resources, as well as income from the sale of the locomotive, toward other projects that better fit with our mission and goals. These include repainting of WP equipment, improvements to the security of our museum grounds and public exhibits utilizing our archives.

While we wish we could save everything, the fact is that we must make choices in light of fiscal and volunteer-power constraints.

These decisions will not go away. With a collection of over 150 pieces, more hard choices will need to be made. If there is a piece you feel strongly about, consider joining the FRRS' Sponsorship Program, a unique opportunity to provide direct care to a historic item of rolling stock. Recently, a group of members formed to sponsor one of our former Southern Pacific Baldwin AS-616s with the intent of seeing it repainted and placed into Run A Locomotive service to provide income to support the rest of the collection and archives.

Hopefully, at some point we will be able to bring you stories of 4404's new career.

HOW TO MAKE ADDRESS and MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

In our efforts to inform and keep in touch with our members, one of the difficulties we often face are members who have moved or changed their contact information without sharing the changes with us. If you move, get a new email or phone number, or need to make other changes to your contact information, there are several easy ways to let us know.

By postal mail: FRRS - Membership, P O Box 608, Portola, CA 96122

By email: memberships@wplives.org or info@wplives.org

Or you can call the museum directly at 530.832.4131

When sending new contact info, please include your full name, member number, former contact information (and mark it as your old information) and your new contact information. Also, if you have an email address, please consider adding it to your membership information so we have multiple ways to contact you. This will help us keep in touch with you in case other methods do not work.