

March 8, 2005

Dear Tom,

I bought you this book so you can study up on what there is to see in Colorado. I've been reading a copy I got from the library.

In an email I sent a while ago, I said we might consider arranging a guided hike, but after doing some reading, I'm thinking that we'd be better off going on our own. There seems to be lots of places to hike, and they are easily accessible and quite close to Denver. Going on our own gives us more flexibility and it is cheaper.

We probably don't want to go any earlier than June – April and even May could be too cold and wet. Late summer or early fall would be OK, because we are less likely to get rained on, and we might see some leaf color. In either case, we should carry rain gear on long hikes.

I could go just about any time except the 4th of July weekend. Carol will want to go somewhere that weekend. She has no interest in the trip to Colorado. She wouldn't be able to hike.

These are the places described in the book that looked interesting to me:

- Roxborough State Park and Castlewood Canyon State Park, page 72-73.
- Mt. Evans, Echo Lake, Mt. Goliath Natural Area, page 84
- Red Rocks Park, page 89
- Elk Meadows Park, Mt. Falcon Park, page 90
- Golden Gate Canyon State Park, page 95
- Indian Peaks Wilderness (in Roosevelt National Forest), page 101
- Eldorado Canyon State Park, page 102
- Pike's Peak Cog Railway (train to top of Pike's Peak), page 234
- Royal Gorge Route (train through Arkansas River gorge), page 247
- Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area, page 252
- Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, page 254

Also, there are rafting trips on the Arkansas River, page 256.

Love, Dad