

There were a few small patches of Nodding Sunflowers here.



As we were taking photos and eating lunch at this scenic spot, the clouds began to descend into the valley just north of Snowdon Peak. We also started hearing thunder, and saw some lightning across the valley.



Panorama looking north, east, and south again, as the clouds get darker.



Looking northeast towards where this trail will go. Bear Mountain can be seen to the left of center in this photo. We had originally planned to go much farther on this trail, but due to the concern of lightning we decided to head back from here.



Heading back along the trail. Notice that Engineer Mountain seems to be one of the few places that is still in the sun. It looks clearer to the south and towards Durango.



Looking over towards Jura Knob from partway back down the trail.



I think this is Subalpine Larkspur.



Looking south again as we are heading back. It is getting cloudier towards Durango now.



The flowers alongside the trail were becoming more noticeable on the hike back.



There appeared to be an old trail or road-cut of sorts heading southwest from here (it is marked on the Latitude 40 map of the Durango area).



The most common flower here was these greenish ones; I'm not sure what they are called. There also were some flowers which could be of the same type that were red.



Taking another look at this nice patch of flowers.



Here the trail has switchbacked and we are now heading northeast.



Looking up at the small peaks just south of the Grand Turk.



Looking south again, down the Lime Creek valley.



The flowers certainly were more apparent with the darker lighting provided by the storm clouds.



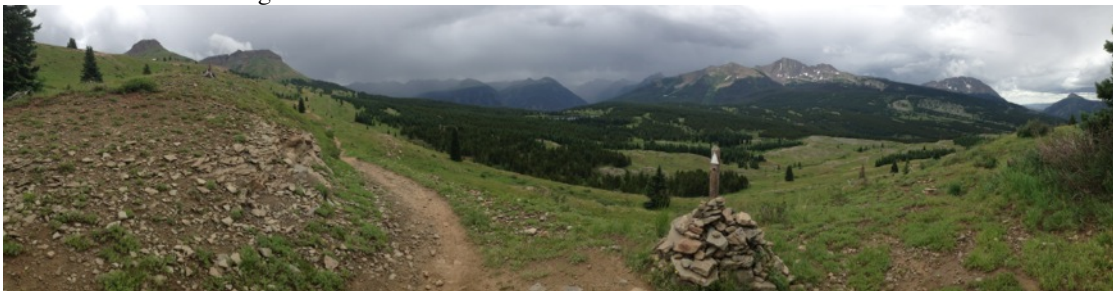
Looking up at a hillside covered with the flowers I haven't identified and with Indian Paintbrush.



I'm not sure if this is Nodding Sunflower or Orange Sneezeweed.



Panorama with Snowdon Peak to the right of center.



Some Alpine Harebell flowers near a small stream.



It looks like it is raining on Segment 24 of the Colorado Trail.



Here we are approaching the small stream photographed on the hike up.



Notice how the wildflowers are more apparent in the darker lighting.



This would be a nice spot to stop for a snack, except that biting insects seemed to be congregating here.



There were many of these small pink flowers near the stream.



Here are some tall white blooms.



The ever-present Indian Paintbrush.



On the left is a close-up of the blooming plants we have been seeing so many of on this hike. I think the yellow flowers on the right are called Alpine Avens.



The flowers are certainly denser near the stream than they are on the rest of this hike.



I am not sure what this plant with the dark-colored berries is called. I think I recall seeing it (or something very similar) in the Lake Louise area of Banff National Park.





Looking down the rather steep hillside at some more flowers.



Here the trail enters the trees. Notice that the sky is getting darker. It actually started raining right when we were loading our packs in the car, so we were fortunate to be off the trail before the rain started.



The trees and clouds here made for good HDR photography.



Looking north towards the two peaks just south of the Grand Turk.



This is a small patch of white flowers we spotted alongside the trail.

