

Day 19: 226 miles for the day, 2864 miles since leaving home.

Oh Yeah!!! This was a good day's drive. Again, the car is running great. It was a chilly 54 degrees in Cortez when I got up at 7:00, so I opted for jeans today. I also started out with a long sleeved shirt over my T-shirt.

I had decided to head toward Gunnison today as it is about halfway from Cortez to Colorado Springs. Looked over the map and found a good route. I also noted a couple of places where there were some dashed line roads (backroads). I drove into Teluride even though it was a few miles off the main road as it was a good place to top off the gas tank, and I just wanted to check out the town. It is definitely very touristy.

I then headed up to the town of Sawpit where the first of the backroads was shown. I stopped at the general store there and asked where the road was as I did not find it right off. The guy asked if I was going to do it in "that car"? He proceeded to tell me that it was a "jeep road" and had very steep grades and switchbacks. I told him the car was up to the task so he told me how to get there. He was right, the grades were steep. I wish I knew what they were. There were fairly long stretches where I was driving in low ruxtell, and low pedal at 7 to 8 mph. This road was about 12 miles long. Wow, what fun!!

The second back road started about a mile north of Ridgeway, CO. It crosses Owl Creek Pass. It was about 42 miles long. The grades were not as steep on this one, but there were still narrow stretches and plenty of switchbacks.



Stopped at a straight wide area for a snack.



View from near the top.



At the summit. Sign is hard to read 10,114 feet.

I got into Gunnison at about 6:00 and found another nice little local motel. The ABC Motel. I walked down the street to a pizza place for dinner, and am now pretty well settled in for the night.