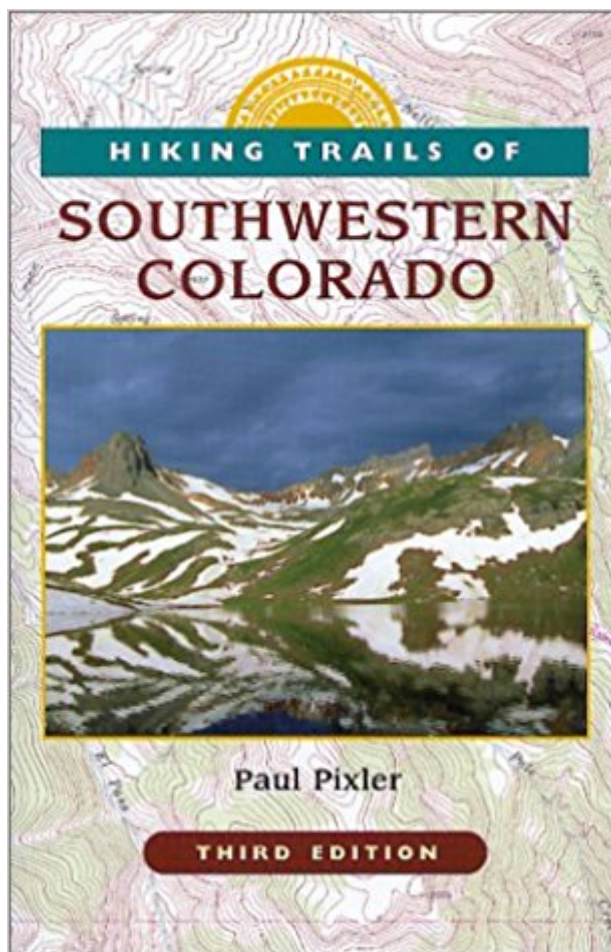


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Hiking Trails Of Southwestern Colorado



Synopsis

The first and second editions of this authoritative guide to Colorado's hiking paradise has been a best-seller among seasoned and beginning hikers for years. This completely revised third edition includes: seventy trips of varying length with corresponding maps, directions to conquer six of Colorado's fourteeners, and sixteen new maps providing alternative trail access and updated routes. Whether you enjoy afternoon excursions around the city trails of Durango or exploring the Colorado Trail, this third edition remains the most comprehensive guide to world-renown hiking.

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Customer Reviews

The first and second editions of this authoritative guide to Colorado's hiking paradise has been a best-seller among seasoned and beginning hikers for years. This completely revised third edition includes: seventy trips of varying length, with corresponding maps, directions to conquer six of Colorado's fourteeners, and sixteen new maps providing alternative trail access and updated routes. Whether you enjoy afternoon excursions around the city trails of Durango or exploring the Colorado Trail, this third edition remains the most comprehensive guide to world-renown hiking.

Paul Pixler is a retired professor of philosophy at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and a former chairman of the San Juan Chapter of the Colorado mountain Club. He divides his time between Durango and southern Arizona and is an avid hiker.

Beware, although the descriptions of the actual hikes are average, the directions given to the trailheads are terrible! I used this book to climb Mt. Handies, Redcloud, Sunshine, and Sneffels (all 14,000' peaks) and was utterly confused on how to find the trailheads! Located in the Alpine Loop that connects Ouray, Silverton, and Telluride, we spent many precious hours searching in four-wheel drive terrain for the trailheads. In the end, the trailhead was a simple location and could have been described in a much better way. The result was that we nearly ended up stuck in the mountains due to running out of gas! We only made it because of a kind stranger. To Pixler's credit, the description of the actual hikes are good, although the distances seemed consistently off. I especially appreciated a few hints on shortcuts for the Redcloud hike, as it saved about a mile and a half of hiking! There are definitely better books out there, but this will do if you can't find anything else.

I recently acquired the Fourth Edition of this guide. I haven't seen the previous editions, but the new version is, according to the preface, greatly revised and improved. Local hiker John Peel took over the editing of the descriptions and reorganized the layout to contain an introduction, directions to the trailhead, trail description, and options. He corrected errors and brought descriptions up to date and improved some of the maps. I compared this book to the FalconGuide "Weiminuche & South San Juan" guide. I found the Pixler/Peel descriptions a bit more, well, descriptive, being written by locals in the style of someone telling you more than just the step-by-step process. The payoff: Pixler/Peel tells you how to go beyond the end of the Lime Mesa trail, climbing up to Overlook Point (nearly 13,000) from which you have spectacular views of Chicago Basin! And Pixler/Peel direct your attention to the peaks you can see in various directions--always a useful inclusion. Nonetheless, the directions still sound at times as if they assume you are already well-familiar with Durango. And the maps often lack useful notations such as "Trailhead." You have to study some of them for a bit to figure out which end of the line is the beginning and end (especially trails that join other trails). However, if you want to hike trails around Durango, this would be an essential addition to your library! However, you need to find the FOURTH EDITION (which, at this writing, was not found at).

As the other review states, this is the classic SW Colorado hiking guide. One caveat: the difficulty ratings are for SW Colorado climbs *compared to each other*. I have run across many tourists on trails in the San Juans who tackled a "moderate" climb from the book only to find it extremely difficult. I think the ratings are accurate, *if* you live in the area and hike regularly. If you're not used

to altitude and not in good shape, take this into consideration.

Since I've moved to Durango, a ratty copy of the 2nd edition of this book from the public library has been my hiking bible. The 3rd edition is completely revised, chock full of great maps and is really THE reference for day hikes and backpacking trips in the Durango/Silverton area. If you're visiting or living in Southern Colorado, you need this book. Thanks Paul!

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