Changes

In a previous report I showed water flowing over a small dam on the future park property that I am managing. The water level is much lower now. Some dirt was removed from the top of the dam, but the rocks were not disturbed by the flooding.

On Wednesday I started working in a different neighborhood in Longmont with Samaritan's Purse flood relief. This van likely was floated during the flood until it came to rest on the edge of this deep sinkhole that developed at the edge of the street.

At the end of the street at the left side of that view is a railroad. The next photo shows the undermined and twisted rails and debris along the track. I worked in several homes in both this new neighborhood and the one of last Friday. This time my task was working in the previously flooded basements removing nails and screws from the wooden wall framing. I also removed some "drywall", sheets of gypsum plaster, that were still wet.
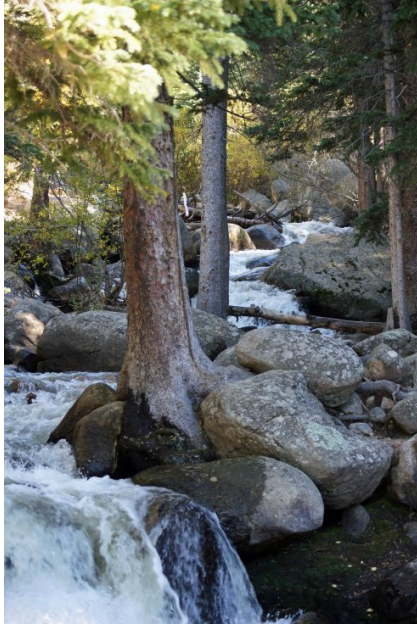
It rained again for most of Friday, but it snowed in the mountains. Saturday had clear skies and very clean air. The first photo shows snow-covered high mountains beyond Echo Lake, more than 3 kilometers above sea level. Some of the leaves were turning yellow, which is what a group of us went up there to see on Saturday afternoon. The annual trip was organized by Terry and Trudy from the Baptist Church in Golden. Our guests were international students and visiting scholars at Colorado School of Mines. I was the third driver using my own van. I carried three adults and three young girls from Peru and Chile, so Spanish language was often spoken in my van. The other guests were three from Brazil, three from South Korea, and lots of Chinese.

The aspen trees were changing color from green to yellow to brown, providing a good contrast with the dark green pine and spruce trees. It was chilly up there, at about 9 degrees C, and somewhat windy. There was fresh snow on the ground. We had snacks at the end of Echo Lake. I took some photos of birds who eagerly cleaned the picnic tables of any leftover food. The dark blue bird is a Steller's Jay. The other is a Gray Jay.

Our last stop was to view this rapidly flowing stream coming down the mountain slopes.

Terry took this group photo. I am in the rear upper left behind Jiahuan. The six people in front were passengers in my van. We all greatly enjoyed this trip into the Colorado mountains on a beautiful day.

Ed Holroyd
29 September 2013