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Comments: The Five Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited (5RTU) provides the following comments to the Junction-Falls Integrated Resource Management Environmental Assessment (EA)

5RTU is in support of the Streambank Rehabilitation detailed in Figure-3 and described in the Dry Fork/Junction Creek Riparian Corridor Geographic Area and documented in Need 2b. The reach of Junction Creek described in the EA does contain a small population of trout, primarily Rainbow Trout. These trout are somewhat isolated in that the lower reach of Junction Creek does typically dry after peak spring runoff. The proposed rehabilitation, streambank restoration and reduction in erosion and sedimentation would be beneficial to those fish in Junction Creek and to the Animas River, at the confluence with Junction Creek. The proposed revegetation of the riparian corridor in Junction Creek would provide additional shade in the creek, helping to keep water cool and could potentially provide additional woody debris to the stream course, both of which are beneficial to trout. The members of 5RTU appreciate the work of the San Juan National Forest and the Columbine Ranger District in protecting and improving regional trout habitat and coldwater fisheries.