



**HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



**NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Updated: February, 2003**

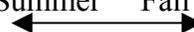
**COLORADO TRAIL – Kennebec Pass to
Junction Creek**

Length: 21 miles. (34 km.)

Recommended Season

***Also refer to Sliderock and Junction Creek Trails**

Spring Summer Fall Winter



Use: Heavy

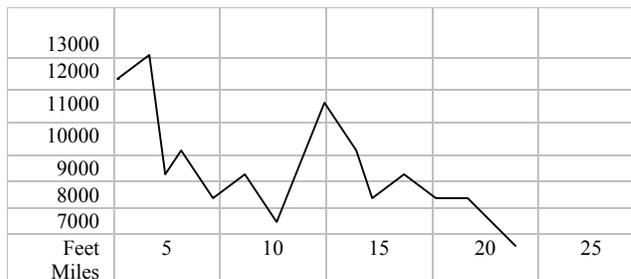
Difficulty: More difficult

USGS Map (s): La Plata,
Monument Hill and Durango West

Starting Elevation: 11,600'
Kennebec Pass (Forest Road 571)

Ending Elevation: 6960'
Junction Creek (Forest Road 543)

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall



Access # 1: (Kennebec Pass) Go 11 miles west of Durango on U.S. 160 and turn north on FDR 571. The trailhead is about 14 miles from U.S. 160. The last few miles are unmaintained 4WD road.

Access # 2: (Junction Creek) Turn west on 25th street in Durango. Go about 3 miles to the Forest boundary and the trail begins to the left (west). There is more adequate parking 1.1 miles up the road (FDR 543) at the first switchback. The trail is on the west side of the road.

Access #3: Continue beyond Access #2 on FDR 543. About 17.5 miles from the FDR boundary, there is a side road to the south. Turn and follow for .7 miles and the trail crosses the road.

Attractions & Considerations: The drop in elevation from Kennebec Pass to Junction Creek Trail is 4,790', which is the greatest single altitude change on the Colorado Trail. There may be some confusion about trail location roughly ½ mile below Access #3, due to right-of-way problems across a mining claim. Part of this trail follows the historic Oro Fino (Fine Gold) Trail. Keep in mind two hazards: flash floods can occur in the flood plains, and there is poison ivy. Water is scarce until you reach the canyon floor.



Fishing Considerations:

Junction Creek has a reputation for large trout. Most of the fish in the river are in the 10-inch to 15-inch range. They include rainbows, browns, and cutthroats.

Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map

Forest Service Maps and other publications available at the Public Lands Center in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off of Highway 160 or by calling 970-247-4874. www.sjma.org

