

## 7.0 Trail Difficulty Rating System - User Guide

	<b>Very easy</b>  <b>White Circle</b>	<b>Easiest</b>  <b>Green Circle</b>	<b>More Difficult</b>  <b>Blue Square</b>	<b>Very Difficult</b>  <b>Single Black Diamond</b>	<b>Extremely Difficult</b>  <b>Double Black Diamond</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>Likely to be a fire road or wide single track with a gentle gradient, smooth surface and free of obstacles.</p> <p>Frequent encounters are likely with other cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders.</p>	<p>Likely to be a combination of fire road or wide single track with a gentle gradient, smooth surface and relatively free of unavoidable obstacles.</p> <p>Short sections may exceed these criteria.</p> <p>Frequent encounters are likely with walkers, runners, horse riders and other cyclists.</p>	<p>Likely to be a single trail with moderate gradients, variable surface and obstacles.</p>	<p>Likely to be a challenging single trail with steep gradients, variable surface and many obstacles.</p>	<p>Extremely difficult trails will incorporate very steep gradients, highly variable surface and unavoidable, severe obstacles.</p>
<b>Suitable for</b>	<p>Beginner/ novice cyclists. Basic bike skills required. Suitable for most bikes.</p>	<p>Beginner/ novice mountain bikers. Basic mountain bike skills required. Suitable for off-road bikes.</p>	<p>Skilled mountain bikers. Suitable for mountain bikes.</p>	<p>Experienced mountain bikers with good skills. Suitable for better quality mountain bikes.</p>	<p>Highly experienced mountain bikers with excellent skills. Suitable for quality mountain bikes.</p>
<b>Fitness Level</b>	<p>Most people in good health.</p>	<p>Most people in good health.</p>	<p>A good standard of fitness.</p>	<p>Higher level of fitness.</p>	<p>Higher level of fitness.</p>
<b>Trail Width</b>	<p>Two riders can ride side by side.</p>	<p>Shoulder width or greater.</p>	<p>Handlebar width or greater.</p>	<p>Can be less than handlebar width.</p>	<p>Can be less than handlebar width.</p>
<b>Trail Surface and obstacles</b>	<p>Hardened with no challenging features on the trail.</p>	<p>Mostly firm and stable. Trail may have obstacles such as logs, roots and rocks.</p>	<p>Possible sections of rocky or loose tread. Trail will have obstacles such as logs, roots and rocks.</p>	<p>Variable and challenging. Unavoidable obstacles such as logs, roots, rocks drop-offs or constructed obstacles.</p>	<p>Widely variable and unpredictable. Expect large, committing and unavoidable obstacles.</p>
<b>Trail Gradient</b>	<p>Climbs and descents are mostly shallow.</p>	<p>Climbs and descents are mostly shallow., but trail may include some moderately steep sections.</p>	<p>Mostly moderate gradients but may include steep sections.</p>	<p>Contains steeper descents or climbs.</p>	<p>Expect prolonged steep, loose and rocky descents or climbs.</p>

## 8.0 Trail Difficulty Rating System Land Managers Guide

	<b>Very easy</b>  <b>White Circle</b>	<b>Easiest</b>  <b>Green Circle</b>	<b>More Difficult</b>  <b>Blue Square</b>	<b>Very Difficult</b>  <b>Single Black Diamond</b>	<b>Extremely Difficult</b>  <b>Double Black Diamond</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>Likely to be a fire road or wide single track with a gentle gradient, smooth surface and free of obstacles.</p> <p>Frequent encounters are likely with other cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders.</p>	<p>Likely to be a combination of fire road or wide single track with a gentle gradient, smooth surface and relatively free of obstacles.</p> <p>Short sections may exceed these criteria.</p> <p>Frequent encounters are likely with other cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders.</p>	<p>Likely to be a single trail with moderate gradients, variable surface and obstacles.</p> <p>Dual use or preferred use</p> <p>Optional lines desirable</p>	<p>Likely to be a challenging single trail with steep gradients, variable surface and many obstacles.</p> <p>Single use and direction</p> <p>Optional lines</p> <p>XC, DH or trials</p>	<p>Extremely difficult trails will incorporate very steep gradients, highly variable surface and unavoidable, severe obstacles.</p> <p>Single use and direction</p> <p>Optional lines</p> <p>XC, DH or trials</p>
<b>Trail Width</b>	2100mm plus or minus 900mm	900mm plus or minus 300mm for tread or bridges.	600mm plus or minus 300mm for tread or bridges.	300mm plus or minus 150mm for tread and bridges.	150mm plus or minus 100mm for tread or bridges.
<b>Trail Surface</b>	Hardened or smooth.	Mostly firm and stable.	Possible sections of rocky or loose tread.	Variable and challenging.	Structures can vary. Widely variable and unpredictable.
<b>Average Trail Grade</b>	<p>Climbs and descents are mostly shallow.</p> <p>Less than 5% average.</p>	<p>Climbs and descents are mostly shallow, but may include some moderately steep sections.</p> <p>7% or less average.</p>	<p>Mostly moderate gradients but may include steep sections.</p> <p>10% or less average.</p>	<p>Contains steeper descents or climbs.</p> <p>20% or less average.</p>	<p>Expect prolonged steep, loose and rocky descents or climbs.</p> <p>20% or greater average</p>
<b>Maximum Trail Grade</b>	Max 10%	Max 15%	Max 20% or greater	Max 20% or greater	Max 40% or greater
<b>Level of Trail Exposure</b>	Firm and level fall zone to either side of trail corridor	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes downward slopes of up to 10%	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes downward slopes of up to 20%	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes steep downward slopes or freefall	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes steep downward slopes or freefall