

Mountain Bicycle Trail Class Matrix:

This is a Matrix of trail characteristics is specific to Mountain Bicycles. This Class Matrix does not directly correlate to the Mountain Bike Design Parameters for Difficulty Ratings because Difficulty Ratings from Easy to Most Difficult may be present on any Mountain Bicycle Trail Class. The sub categories of Obstacles and Constructed Structures & Trail Elements are further defined in the Mountain Bicycle Design Parameters Difficulty Ratings.

Mountain Bicycle Trail Classes are general categories reflecting trail development scale, arranged along a continuum. The Trail Class identified for a National Forest System (NFS) trail prescribes its development scale, representing its intended design and management standards.¹ Local deviations from any Trail Class descriptor may be established based on trail-specific conditions, topography, or other factors, provided that the deviations do not undermine the general intent of the applicable Trail Class.

Identify the appropriate Mountain Bicycle Trail Class for each National Forest System trail or trail segment based on the management intent in the applicable land management plan, travel management direction, trail-specific decisions, and other related direction. Apply the Mountain Bicycle Trail Class that most closely matches the management intent for the trail or trail segment, which may or may not reflect the current condition of the trail.

| Trail Attributes | Mountain Bicycle Trail Class 1 | Mountain Bicycle Trail Class 2 | Mountain Bicycle Trail Class 3 | Mountain Bicycle Trail Class 4 | Mountain Bicycle Trail Class 5 |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Overriding Designations 1. Classic 2. Open 3. Technical | Primarily Classic may be Open | Primarily Classic and Open may be Technical | Primarily Open and Technical may be Classic | Primarily Open and may be Technical | Primarily Open and may be Technical |
| Planning, Construction and maintenance | *Plan, construct or maintain as remote, historic, primitive, low-impact trail, *Avoid tread grubbing *Hand built | *Plan, construct or maintain as native surface single-track trail *Generally hand built. Where machine built tread is reduced to appropriate width. | *Plan, construct or maintain primarily as native surface single-track trail *May be machine built | *Plan, construct or maintain as native or improved surface double-track or single-track trail *Machine built, remove all embedded trail obstacles *possible use of existing old native roadbeds, crushed gravel with fines or well-compacted gravel | *Plan, construct or maintain as improved surface double-track or road like trail *Machine built, remove all embedded trail obstacles *possible use of crushed gravel with fines, well-compacted gravel or pavement |

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|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Planned Design Mountain Bicycle Difficulty Ratings | May be associated with Difficulty Ratings Easy to Most Difficult | May be associated with Difficulty Ratings Easy to Most Difficult | May be associated with Difficulty Ratings Easy to Expert Unlimited | May be associated with Difficulty Ratings Easy to Expert Unlimited | May be associated with Difficulty Ratings Easy to More Difficult |
| Tread & Traffic Flow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Tread intermittent and often indistinct *No minimum tread or corridor width *May require route finding *Single track with no allowances constructed for passing *Predominantly native materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tread narrow continuous and discernible *Tread width 12"-18" *Single track with possible minor allowances constructed for passing where applicable. *possible use of one way designation to improve traffic flow *Typically native materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tread continuous and obvious *Tread width 16"-30" *Single track with possible allowances constructed for passing where applicable. *possible use of one way designation to improve traffic flow *Native or imported materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tread wide *Tread width 3' for single track and 6'-10' for double track *Single track, with allowances constructed for passing where applicable. *Double track where traffic volumes are high and passing is frequent *possible use of one way designation to improve traffic flow *Native or imported materials * May be hardened | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tread wide, firm, stable, and generally uniform *Tread 10'-20' for double track *Single track, with frequent turnouts where traffic volumes are low to moderate *Double track where traffic volumes are moderate to high * Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material |
| Corridor Clearing | *Corridor height 6' | *Corridor width 3' minimum *Corridor height 6' to 8' | *Corridor width to 4' to 6' *Corridor height 7' to 8' | *Corridor width 6' for single-track and up to 16' for double-track *Corridor height 8' | *Corridor width to 40' for double-track *Corridor height 8' |

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|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Obstacles See detail in Design Parameters (Difficulty Ratings) Mountain Bicycle</p> | <p>*Obstacles may be common, naturally occurring, often substantial and may be intended to provide increased challenge *Narrow passages</p> | <p>*Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge *Blockages cleared to define route and protect resources *Vegetation may encroach into trail way *Minor sightline clearing may be done.</p> | <p>*Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge *Vegetation should be cleared outside of trail way (sight lines)</p> | <p>*Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge *Vegetation should be cleared outside of trail way (sight lines)</p> | <p>*Obstacles not present *Grades typically < 8%</p> |
| <p>Constructed Structures & Trail Elements (trail and resource protection) See detail in Design Parameters (Difficulty Ratings) Mountain Bicycle</p> | <p>*Structures minimal to nonexistent *Drainage typically accomplished without structures *Natural fords *Typically no bridges *Minimal to non-existent Trail Features depending on Overriding Designation</p> | <p>*Structures and of limited size, scale, and quantity; typically constructed of native materials *Structures adequate to protect trail infrastructure and resources *Natural fords *Bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access *Generally fewer Trail Features depending on Overriding Designation</p> | <p>*Structures may be common and substantial; constructed of imported or native materials *Natural or constructed fords *Bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access *More concentrated level of Trail Features depending on Overriding Designation</p> | <p>*Structures frequent and substantial; typically constructed of imported materials *Constructed or natural fords *Bridges as needed for resource protection and user convenience *Trailside amenities may be present *More concentrated level of Trail Features depending on Overriding Designation</p> | <p>*Structures frequent or continuous; typically constructed of imported materials *May include bridges, boardwalks, curbs, handrails, trailside amenities, and similar features *Possible Trail Features on Open Trail Designation</p> |

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|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Typical Recreation Environments & Experience | *Natural, unmodified *ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural | *Natural, essentially unmodified *ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural Typically | *Natural, primarily unmodified *ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural | *May be modified *ROS: Typically Semi-Primitive to Rural Roded Natural to Rural setting | *May be highly modified *Commonly associated with visitor centers or high-use recreation sites *ROS: Typically Roded Natural to Urban |
| Trail corridor and tread clearing, Common to all | <p>*Tread width is from ground level to 18" high. Above 18" is corridor width.</p> <p>*Delineation of the tread width by clearing downed logs is acceptable only when logs are touching the ground. Any logs suspended in the air must be cleared to 4' from the center of the trail or to where they touch the ground.</p> <p>*Tree and brush branches must be cut at the bole, stobs must be cut as close to the ground and flush as possible.</p> <p>*Never leave "stobs" "pongees" or stumps that could cause injury in the fall zone.</p> | | | | |

1. CLASSIC TRAIL DESIGNATION:

Other than the below limitations Classic Trails are categorized by the same difficulty ratings as all other trails.

*Classic trails are generally all natural terrain and conform to Class 1 or 2.

*There may be some grandfathered NTFs.

*No further proliferation of NTFs or TTFs will take place on these trails.

*No use of dirt working machines for routine maintenance. A new trail or section built by machine can there after be maintained as "classic".

Machines may be used for creating drainage where handwork is not effective.

*No constructed structures except bridges crossing water bodies or as needed for proper drainage or soil erosion mitigation. Natural deadfall may be incorporated into the trail as an NTF if it is not moved from where it fell naturally. Other than bridges, drainage and signs, there will be no use of fasteners.

*All dirt work will be minimal and be primarily for drainage, keeping the tread narrow or other wise keeping users on the trail. No obvious jumps or berms will be constructed however enhancements that are consistent with the natural terrain or historic trail building techniques are acceptable.

2. OPEN TRAIL DESIGNATION:

NTFs and TTFs shall be alternate to the main tread.

3. TECHNICAL TRAIL DESIGNATION:

Technical Trails are categorized by the same difficulty ratings as all other trails except that NTFs and TTFs are allowed in the main tread of the trail and are not restricted to being an alternate line. I.E., Lair, Slalom play loop, Whoops etc.