

USFS Trail Classes

Photo Examples

Updated 10/16/2008

The photos below provide visual examples of typical Trail Class scenarios. Remember that Trail Classes are general categories reflecting development scale, arranged along a continuum, with no hard and fast lines drawn between the classes. The photos below can be used as visual aids to assist in consistent application of trail classification.

Trail Class 1



TC1 – Tread: Tread intermittent and indistinct.



TC1 – Obstacles: Obstacles common, naturally occurring, often substantial



TC1 – Constructed Features: Constructed features minimal to non-existent.



TC1 – Signs: Route identification signing limited to junctions. Route markers present when trail location is not evident.

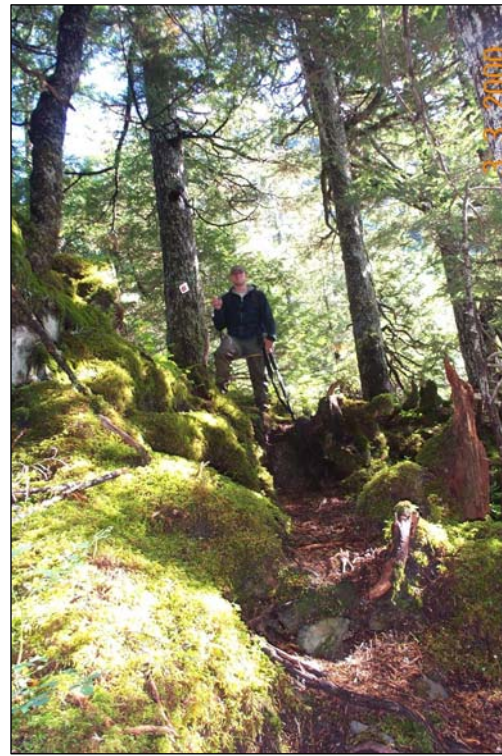


TC1 – Typical Rec. Environment / Experience: Recreation environment natural and unmodified.

Trail Class 2



TC2 – Tread: Tread continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough.



TC2 – Obstacles: Obstacles may be common and substantial. Blockages cleared to define route and protect resource. Vegetation may encroach into trailway.



TC2 – Constructed Features: Structures are of limited size, scale, and quantity.



TC2 – Signs: Route identification signing limited to junctions. Route markers present when location is not evident.



TC2 – Typical Rec. Environment / Experience: Recreation environment natural and essentially unmodified.

Trail Class 3



TC3 – Tread: Tread continuous and obvious.



TC3 – Obstacles: Obstacles may be common. Vegetation cleared outside of trailway.



TC3 – Constructed Features:
Trail structures (walls, steps, drainage, raised trail) may be common and substantial.



TC3 – Signs: Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance. Route markers as needed for user reassurance. Destination signing likely outside of wilderness.

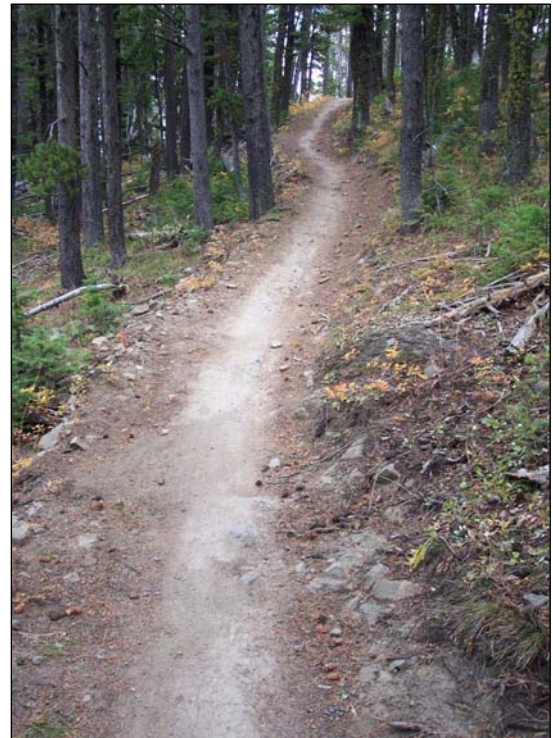


TC3 – Typical Rec. Environment / Experience: Recreation environment natural and primarily unmodified.

Trail Class 4



TC4 – Tread: Tread wide and relatively smooth, with few irregularities.



TC4 – Obstacles: Obstacles infrequent and insubstantial. Vegetation cleared outside of trailway.



TC4 – Constructed Features: Structures frequent and substantial. Trailside amenities may be present.



TC4 – Signs: Wide variety of signs likely present, informational signs likely, interpretive signs possible.



TC4 – Typical Rec. Environment / Experience: Recreation environment may be modified.

Trail Class 5



TC5 – Tread: Tread wide, firm, stable, and generally uniform. Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material.



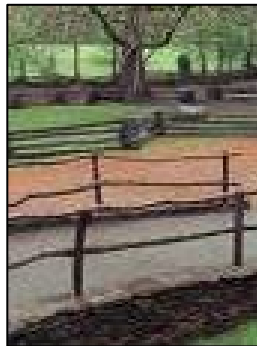
TC5 – Obstacles: Obstacles not present. Grades typically $< 8\%$.



TC5 – Constructed Features: Structures frequent or continuous; may include bridges, boardwalks, curbs, handrails, trailside amenities, and similar features.



TC5: – Signs: Wide variety of signs present, information and interpretive signs common.



TC5 – Typical Rec. Environment / Experience: Recreation environment may be highly modified.