








# Trail Audit Template



## Trail Audit Template - Sample

| <i>Trail Location / Network Name:</i> |                                      |                |               | <i>Assessment Date:</i>                                       |                     |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---|---------------------|--|
| <i>Trail Name:</i>                    |                                      |                |               | <i>Assessor/s:</i>  |                     |  |
| <i>Ref #</i>                          | <i>Location</i>                      | <i>Photo #</i> | <i>Issue</i>  | <i>Feature/Maintenance Issue Description and Measurements</i> | <i>Trail Rating</i> |  |
| Example 1                             | WP 205 or<br>50 394604E<br>6459558N  | 3              | Steep Section | Gradient of 20% for 30m                                       | Blue                |  |
| Example 2                             | WP 206 or<br>50 394614E<br>6459559N  | 3              | Erosion       | Fall line trail eroded for 10m – requires realignment         | NA                  |  |
| Example 3                             | WP 207 or<br>50 394615E<br>64595560N | 3              | Berm          | Natural earth berm height - 800mm, radius - 5m                | Blue                |  |
| Example 4                             | WP 208 or<br>50 394613E<br>64595760N | 3              | Trail Marker  | Blue trail marker in correct location, good condition         | NA                  |  |
| <b>Overall Trail Classification</b>   |                                      |                |               |   | <b>Blue</b>         |  |

## Trail Classification Matrix

| Classification  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very easy   | Easy  | Easy / Intermediate   | Intermediate  | Intermediate / Difficult  | Difficult   | Extreme   |


## Notes

1. GPS used in recording waypoints need to be:
  - » Set to UTM coordinates, GDA94 Datum
  - » Downloadable
2. Gradients are to be measured using a clinometer, and not estimated by eye. Always- measure gradient as a percentage.
3. Feature includes: TTFs, built structures, turns, slowing points, steep sections, change in trail surface etc.
4. Issues may include, erosion, drainage required/not working, safety issue, trail drainage, damage, signage, etc.

## Trail Audit Process

The trail audit procedure is a two person job. When assessing a trail the following equipment will be required:

- Trail Classification Matrix
- Trail Assessment Form
- Pen
- Clinometer
- GPS records in .shp
- Graduated survey staff
- Measuring wheel (optional)
- Camera
- Tape measure

Travel along the trail until you come to an element that exceeds the classification of Easy  on the Trail Classification Matrix or a maintenance issue.

Remember gradient, tread width, trail surface, trail exposure, natural obstacles, technical trail features all affect a trail's classification.

Assess the individual feature or maintenance issue.

Feature may include:

- technical trail features (TTF)
- steep sections
- structures
- turns
- changes to the trail width or surface
- slowing features

Maintenance issues may include:

- safety issue
- erosion
- drainage issue
- damaged TTF
- overgrown vegetation

Record the results on the Trail Audit Form by:

1. Taking a GPS waypoint in the middle of the feature or issue

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**Note: if there are alternate routes through a feature, identify the separate routes as 'main trail and alternate route'.**

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2. Photograph the feature or issue (record number of photograph) using a graduated survey staff as a scale (allows for monitoring and future comparison).
3. Record the feature type.
4. Describe the feature and record the specifications and condition.
5. For each feature, work through the Trail Classification Matrix to work out which classification the feature falls under.
6. Move onto the next feature and repeat process for each feature until all of the features along the trail have been recorded.
7. Complete Trail Audit Form, where the overall trail classification is the highest individual feature classification. The basic premise is that anyone riding the trail will need to have the appropriate experience and skill to attempt the most difficult feature on the trail.