

Survey123 Trail Reporting Definitions

Excessive trail outslope (>5%) – Sections of trail, longer than ~100 ft, in which the tread is outslowed >5%. Tread with >5% outslope is noticeably different to walk on compared to flatter tread, you will likely feel it in your feet/ankles.

Landslide – Sections of trail on a sidehill, greater than ~10 ft, in which the upslope material or tread itself has moved downhill and eliminated part of the trail or made it significantly outslowed. Often the area moved by a landslide contrasts in appearance to the surrounding area.

Excessive Braiding – Sections of trail, longer than ~20 ft, in which there are multiple paths running parallel to or nearby the original route. This does not include temporary paths that are created to get around annual maintenance tasks like down trees.

Entrenched Trail Tread – Sections of trail, longer than ~20 ft, in which the tread has become deeply (>5") rutted in either a U or V shape. You likely will have to catwalk (one foot directly in front of the other) through these sections or may be worried about catching a pedal on the side wall if riding a bike/moto. There may be evidence of a trail forming directly adjacent to the rutted trail from users not wanting to walk in the rut.

Seep or Spring in trail – Sections of trail, longer than ~5 ft, in which water is running onto the trail from an upslope source. This mostly appears as muddy sections when the rest of the area is dry. This best time to see this is in the spring/early summer on a day without any recent precipitation.

Signage Issue – Any signage that is missing, damaged beyond readability, no longer set securely in the ground, or provides incorrect information.

Brushing Needed – Sections of trail, longer than ~25 ft, in which woody vegetation has become overgrown on either side of the trail to the point where it completely obscures the tread or may injure users.

- Woody vs grassy brush
 - Woody brush has thicker stems that usually need a saw/loppers to cut and don't return every spring. Ex: aspen saplings or scrub oak
 - Grassy brush generally has thinner stems and provides less resistance. It returns every spring. Ex: false hellebore or mullein

Can be used to note shorter segments if the issue is extreme or is needed for safety. For example clearing for sight distances on the Boggy Draw Trail System.

Down Trees – Trees that are larger than 24" in diameter or large clusters of down trees that are piled up and blocking the trail. Generally, only record significant obstructions with a GPS point. Otherwise a general estimate of trees down on the entire length of a trail is preferred. Down trees are not something that is static from year to year so this data is useful to the extent that your group would like to see it. For FS us we are only really interested in large trees and major obstructions and a more general report. If creating a general report of down trees record the point at the Trailhead.

Maintenance of Existing Drainage Needed – Culverts, water diversion features and , turnpikes that have stopped functioning as intended.

Narrow Trail tread – Sections of trail, longer than ~100 ft, in which the tread has become <8” width. You will likely have to catwalk through these sections.

Failing Infrastructure – Maintenance features that have been built into the trail that are no longer functioning as intended. Any pedestrian bridges in which the decking has been damaged are especially important to report.

Switchback Maintenance Needed – Any switchback in which the tread has become too outsloped (>5%) or the turn is too tight to allow for horseback/bike/moto riders to use the switchback safely. Any switchback in which it is apparent that a large portion of users are cutting the switchback instead of staying on the trail.

Excessive Rutting - Sections of trail, longer than ~20 ft, in which the tread has become deeply (>5”) rutted in either a U or V shape. You likely will have to catwalk (one foot directly in front of the other) through these sections or may be worried about catching a pedal on the side wall if riding a bike/moto. There may be evidence of a trail forming directly adjacent to the rutted trail from users not wanting to walk in the rut.