

Trails

The following inventory and management concepts are applicable to all National Forest System Trails.

Trail Fundamentals

[TMO: Trail Management Objectives](#)

[TRACS: Trail Condition & Assessment Surveys](#)

[Trail Data Dictionary](#)

[Trail Data & Reporting Requirements](#)

[Trail Reports](#)



Key Trail References

Forest Service Manual 2350

Forest Service Handbook 2309.18

National Quality Standards: Trails

Standard Drawings & Specifications

Interagency Trail Data Standards

Trail Fundamentals

Trail Fundamentals Overview • Trail Class **Matrix** • Design Parameters • CASM • Productivity Factors

Trail Fundamentals include five key concepts that are cornerstones of Forest Service trail management: Trail Type, Trail Class, Managed Use, Designed Use, and Trail Design Parameters.

Trail Fundamentals Overview (1/2004)

This document provides definitions and business rules for the five Trail Fundamentals: Trail Type, Trail Class, Managed Use, Designed Use and Design Parameters.



Trail Fundamentals PowerPoint (6/2007)

This PowerPoint slideshow provides an overview of the five Trail Fundamentals and also includes a discussion of two additional concepts: CASM and Productivity Factors. Refer to the Trail Fundamentals PowerPoint Notes for an expanded explanation of each slide.

PowerPoint Notes: To view or print **the Notes** for this presentation, open the PowerPoint, single click on File, single click on Print. Under "Print What?" select Notes Pages, then print.

Trail Definitions (4/2007)

This document provides definitions of a trail, forest trail, National Forest System Trail, and the "umbrella" USFS/NPS/BLM/FWS interagency definition of a trail.

Trail Class Matrix (1/31/2005)

This document describes the five national Trail Classes applicable to all National Forest System Trails.

Trail Class Photo Examples (2/2007)

This document provides photo examples to assist in the identification of the Trail Class that is representative of the management intent for a particular trail.

Trail Design Parameters (1/31/2005)

This document provides nationally standardized technical specifications for trail construction and maintenance, based on Designed Use and Trail Class.

Where a Design Parameter variable is presented as a range of values, a specific value should be prescribed for an particular trail or trail segment. Local deviations to Design Parameter variables may be established based on trail-specific conditions, provided the general intent of the Trail Class is still met.

Version 1/31/05 replaces Version 6/18/02, incorporating minor changes to Pack and Saddle parameters for Design Tread Width in non-wilderness (Trail Class 3 and 4). Trail Design Parameters are incorporated in Infra Trails and TRACS and are currently undergoing agency-wide application and validation (FY04 - FY05). The Design Parameters build upon and will replace the previous design guides for Easiest, More Difficult, and Most Difficult in FSH 2309.18 (Trails Management Handbook, WO Amendment 2309.18-92-2).

CASM (4/27/2005)

CASM outlines minimum survey accuracy guidelines for trail condition surveys. It recommends the appropriate survey accuracy needed for each Trail Class. These guidelines also apply to the amount and accuracy of corresponding data entered into the Infra Trails Module.

Productivity Factors (11/2006)

This document provides an overview of Trail Productivity Factors, a core set of physical attributes that have a predominant effect on the accomplishment and cost of trail construction, maintenance and construction. Refer to the TRACS User Guide for additional information on completing a Productivity Factor Survey.

TMO: Trail Management Objectives

TMO Overview & Instructions • TMO Form

Trail Management Objectives are an essential tool for effective trail management.

TMOs document, in one convenient place, the management intention for the trail and provide key reference information for subsequent trail management, design and construction, maintenance, condition assessment and prescriptions, and reporting.

TMO Overview & Instructions (2/2007)

This document provides an overview of what Trail Management Objectives are, why they're important, step-by-step instructions for documenting trail-specific TMOs, and examples of completed TMOs.

TMO Form (v4.2_12_5_2006)

Use this blank copy of the TMO form to **document** trail-specific TMOs.

[This Excel spreadsheet includes 3 tabs: TMO page 1, TMO page 2, TMO continuation sheet]

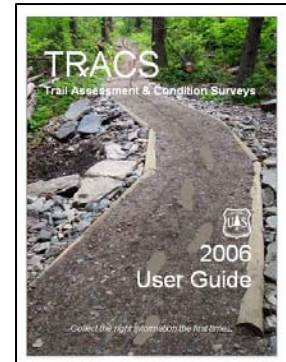


TRACS: Trail Assessment & Condition Surveys

TRACS User Guide • TRACS PowerPoint • TRACS Forms

TRACS is the nationally required approach for conducting field inventory and condition assessment surveys. TRACS complements the Infra Trails Module and Forest Service deferred maintenance protocols by providing standardized terminology, data fields, and business rules.

Refer to the introduction in the TRACS User Guide for a synopsis of the TRACS approach and additional information.



TRACS User Guide (12/5/2006)

Click on [this link](#) to open or download the entire TRACS User Guide including the cover, table of contents, and appendices.

If printing a hard copy: It is recommended that you assemble the TRACS User Guide in a three-ring binder, inserting tabbed dividers that are organized and labeled to match the sections in the User Guide table of contents.

The User Guide Cover and Table of Contents are also optionally provided [below as individual documents:](#)

TRACS Cover & Spine (color): Click on this link to print a color version of the TRACS User Guide cover and spine.

TRACS Table of Contents: Click on this link to review the sections of the TRACS User Guide.

If printing multiple copies: Refer to the enhanced printing instructions at the bottom of this screen.

TRACS PowerPoint (6/22/2006)

This PowerPoint slideshow provides an overview of the TRACS approach for trail condition assessments and prescriptions. Refer to the TRACS PowerPoint Notes for an expanded explanation of each slide.

PowerPoint Notes: To view or print [the Notes](#) for this presentation, open the PowerPoint, single click on File, single click on Print. Under "Print What?" select Notes Pages, then print.

TRACS Forms

Click on the link above to open or download copies of all of the TRACS forms, or click on the individual links below for specific forms. Refer to TRACS User Guide for step-by-step instructions and examples for completing each form.

[TRACS TMO Form \(v4.2_12_5_2006\)](#)

[TRACS Field Checklist](#)

[TRACS Survey Form](#)

[TRACS Productivity Factor Form](#)

[TRACS Sign Inventory Form](#)

[TRACS Photo Log Form](#)

[TRACS Photo Record Form](#)

Enhanced Printing Instructions

Click on this link to print one or more copies of the TRACS User Guide with a color copy of the cover and spine, color versions of the photo sections, and printed tab divider sheets. This approach is usually preferred for training sessions and if printing multiple copies.

TRACS User Guide: Enhanced Printing Instructions

To print one or more copies of the TRACS User Guide with a color printing of the cover and spine, color printing of photo sections and sub-sections of the Data Dictionary (recommended for clarity), black & white printed tab divider sheets, and black & white version of the main text, follow these steps:

1st Step: Printing and Compilation Instructions: Print a color copy of this document and follow the instructions for printing various components and assembling the TRACS User Guide. This document provides specific instructions regarding printing color versus black and white sections, printing single-sided versus double-sided sections, etc.

If using a commercial printer, provide them with a color copy of these Printing and Compilation Instructions.

2nd Step: TRACS User Guide Components: Follow the Printing and Compilation Instructions in the document above to print and assemble the following components of the TRACS User Guide.

1. TRACS User Guide: Cover
2. TRACS User Guide: Spine
3. TRACS User Guide: Labeled Tab Dividers
4. TRACS User Guide
5. TRACS Forms

Trails Data Dictionary

[Trails Data Dictionary](#) • [Feature View](#) • [Task View](#) • [Feature / Task Spreadsheet](#)

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Trails Data Dictionary (12/5/2006)

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