

# FINAL

## Trail Suitability and Evaluation Criteria

Revised 7/18/05

<b>Quality of Visitor Experience</b>				
	<b>High Suitability</b>	<b>Medium Suitability</b>	<b>Low Suitability</b>	<b>Not Suitable</b>
<b>Visual Quality</b>	Dramatic vistas or high interest scenic features.	Partial vistas or high interest scenic features.	Few or no vistas or high interest scenic features.	
<b>Diversity of Vegetation and Landform</b>	Trail generally passes through more than one vegetation type or landform.	Trail primarily passes through a single vegetation type or landform.	Trail generally passes through degraded or heavily altered vegetation or landform.	
<b>Trail Connections / Enhanced Trail Opportunity</b>	Critical link to the existing trail system; possible opportunity for longer-distance trail, loop trail, or improved access to existing destination.	Important link to the existing trail system or planned trail system; possible opportunity for longer-distance trail, loop trail, or improved access to existing destination.	Less important trail connection or trail enhancement.	
<b>Remoteness from Human-Made Features and Sounds</b>  (e.g., roads, structures, utility lines, subdivisions)	Few human-made features or sounds experienced once on trail; natural or constructed barriers add to the sense of remoteness (e.g., hill or ridge, constructed sound or visual barrier).	Some human-made features or sounds once on trail; some natural or constructed barriers add to the sense of remoteness.	Many human-made features or sounds once on trail; barriers are few or non-existent.	
<b>Access to Water Resources</b>	Direct access to water in an area not prone to erosion or vegetation trampling.	Limited access to water in an area prone to erosion or vegetation trampling.	No access to water or ephemeral water source.	
<b>Presence of Safety Hazards</b>  (e.g., road crossings)	Largely clear of hazards.	Some hazards.	Many hazards.	
<b>Access to Vehicle Parking Areas</b>	Number of parking spaces is adequate enough so as not to cause frequent overflow parking conditions.	Number of parking spaces is constrained so as to cause somewhat frequent overflow parking conditions.	Number of parking spaces is very inadequate and causes very frequent overflow parking conditions.	
<b>Opportunities for Education and Resource Interpretation</b>  (e.g., ecological, geological, cultural, agricultural resources)	Good opportunities to interpret or educate about important resources.	Some opportunities exist to interpret or educate about important resources.	No education or interpretation opportunities exist due to location, rarity, or sensitivity to human impacts.	

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<b>Physical Sustainability</b>				
	<b>High Suitability</b>	<b>Medium Suitability</b>	<b>Low Suitability</b>	<b>Not Suitable</b>
<b>Trail Grade</b>	Gentle grades between 2 and 7%.	Moderate grades between 7 and 14%.	Steep grades greater than 14% or flat grades less than 2%.	
<b>Cross Slope</b>	Moderate slopes of 10 to 70%.	Gentle slopes (between 0 and 10%) or Steep slopes (between 70 and 90%).	Natural surface trails are difficult to sustain on Very Steep slopes (exceeding 90%).	
<b>Soil Types</b>	A good mixture of fines and small angular rock.	A good mixture of soil and small rock intermixed with larger cobbles or small boulders or mostly rock of uniform or varying size containing little or no soil.	Soils with uniformly fine texture with little or no rock content or material with uniform sand-grain texture with few fines.	
<b>Land Types</b>	Stable uplands. Well drained soils.	Heavy brush, loose rock or unstable slopes, saturated soils.	Trail alignments within seasonal high water flow levels.	
<b>Drainage Characteristics</b>	Water does not collect on trail.	Water collects at times without the addition of drainage structures.	Water collects often without the addition of drainage structures.	

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<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>				
	<b>High Suitability</b>	<b>Medium Suitability</b>	<b>Low Suitability</b>	<b>Not Suitable</b>
<b>Impacts to Rare and Imperiled Species, Habitats, or Communities</b> (listed as rare or imperiled on federal, state, county, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, or OSMP lists)	Impacts no rare and imperiled species or habitats.	Impacts few rare and imperiled species or habitats.	Impacts several rare and imperiled species or habitats.	Legal requirements to avoid impacts to habitat of threatened or endangered species (designated by state or federal agencies).
<b>Habitats, Species, or Communities Sensitive to Human Use That May Not Appear on List of Rare and Imperiled Resources</b>  (e.g., wildlife travel corridors, areas of high species diversity, wildlife foraging areas, calving areas etc.)	Impacts no sensitive species or habitats.	Impacts few sensitive species or habitats.	Impacts many sensitive species or habitats.	
<b>Size and Functioning of Habitat Blocks</b>	Maintains or increases the size and function of habitat blocks.	Moderately decreases the size and function of habitat blocks.	Significantly decreases the size and function of habitat blocks.	Significantly decreases the functioning of habitat that supports threatened and endangered species (designated by state or federal agencies).
<b>Special Wildlife Protection Needs</b>  (e.g., bear feeding areas, raptor nesting areas, calving grounds, rattlesnake hibernaculum, etc.)	No wildlife protection closures or visitor restrictions.	Presence of seasonal or occasional wildlife protection closures or visitor restrictions.	Presence of seasonal wildlife protection closures or visitor restrictions.	
<b>Presence and Threat of Spread of Priority Weed Species due to Construction and Visitor Use</b>	Has low potential to contribute to the spread or continued presence of OSMP priority weeds.	Has moderate potential to contribute to the spread or continued presence OSMP priority weeds.	Has high potential to contribute to the spread or continued presence of State A and B Listed weeds or OSMP priority weeds.	
<b>Baseline Monitoring of Health and Status of Environmental Resources</b>	Baseline information exists or can be easily obtained.	Baseline information does not exist, but opportunities for baseline monitoring are good.	Baseline information does not exist and obtaining baseline monitoring is unlikely or difficult.	

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Environmental Sustainability (continued)	High Suitability	Medium Suitability	Low Suitability	Not Suitable
<b>Area Review and Inventory of Natural Resources</b>	Natural resource inventory (particularly rare species and biological communities) is complete for the area.	Natural resource inventory (particularly rare species and biological communities) is partially complete.	No natural resource inventory exists.	
<b>Potential for Mitigation of Impacts and Restoration of Natural Conditions</b>	Limited scope and difficulty of impact mitigation. Natural conditions are easily restored.	Moderate scope and difficulty of impact mitigation. Natural conditions are costly and difficult to restore.	Impact mitigation is very difficult and costly or not feasible. Natural conditions are impossible to restore.	
<b>Potential for Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems</b>	Area has low or no potential for recovering native habitat / community value or ecosystem functioning.	Restoration potential exists but will require significant resources to recover native habitat / community value or ecosystem functioning.	High potential to recover native habitat / community value or ecosystem function.	
<b>Water Resources</b>  (e.g., streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands)  Note: The situation is variable for how visitor use affects water resources. For example, more impacts can be anticipated with trails running parallel to water bodies vs. crossing them.	Trail does not cross or degrade water resources.	Trail does not cross or significantly degrade water resources.	Trail crosses or significantly degrades the functioning or quality of water resources.	Trail will violate legal requirements to avoid or significantly impact federal- or city-regulated water resources.

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<b>Cultural / Paleontological Resources</b>				
	<b>High Suitability</b>	<b>Medium Suitability</b>	<b>Low Suitability</b>	<b>Not Suitable</b>
<b>County, State (State Historic Preservation Officer) or Federal (National Register of Historic Places) Historic Designation</b>	Designated and protected; may be interpreted.	Designated and needs protection; interpretation potential moderate.	Needs protection; no interpretation potential.	Trail will violate legal requirements to avoid or significantly impact federal-, state-, or county-regulated historic resources.
<b>Known Cultural Sites with Documented Artifacts or Evidence of Human Habitation</b>	Protected, may be interpreted.	Needs protection.	Needs protection.	
<b>Known Paleontological Locality with Documented Fossil Occurrences</b>	Protected, may be interpreted.	Protected, may be interpreted.	Needs protection.	
<b>Property Review and Inventory Completed and Reported</b>	Property inventory completed.	Inventory completed.	No property inventory.	
<b>Site or Alignment Assessment Completed</b>  (with Tribal Monitors and others)	Site assessment completed.	Site assessment completed.	No site assessment.	