



# ARKANSAS VALLEY VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERS

COLORADO PUBLIC LANDS VOLUNTEERS



## Adopt-a-Trail General Construction Specs and Guidelines:

### Trail Class 2 Specs\*

- 1) Tread width: 12" – 24"
- 2) Design surface: Native; may be continuously rough. Protrusions (6") may be common & continuous. Obstacles of 12" may be common.
- 3) Target Grade: 5% - 12%. Grade over 12% -15% will require armoring. Short Pitch Maximum (soil dependent): 25% (35% on downhill) for 10% - 20% of trail.
- 4) Outslope: 5%. NOTE: Drainage feature 15% outslope.
- 5) Backslope: 1:1 target
- 6) Corridor clearing: 8' wide x 10' high. May be wider to accommodate for assumed foliage growth.
- 7) Turn radius: 6'

### Maintenance Standards:

1. Trails are to be cleared of downed material for a minimum total width of 8 feet wide and 10 feet high. Material is to be completely removed from the trail tread so that it will not roll back onto the trail.
  - a. Clearing will include removing all trees, logs, limbs, branches, shrubs, rocks, dirt, and other materials that obstruct traffic within the trail, cleaning out existing drainage dips and waterbars, and removal of slides or sloughs that may present erosion potential by their continued existence.
  - b. Be careful to minimize off-trail impacts in this loose soil by walking & working as much as possible on the established trail. Cut trees flush to the ground and grub out stumps on the trail- avoid creating hazards.
  - c. Outside of the tread, low-stump but do not grub out to prevent further soil destabilization. If a log, windfall, branches or shrubs are obstructing the trail, they will be cut to the clearing limits, a minimum distance of four (4) feet horizontally from and perpendicular to the centerline on both sides of the trail. The portion of a log that remains on the uphill side of the trail shall be firmly anchored to prevent sliding onto the trail or moved across and off the

trail to the lower side of the trail as described in next section. Pruning live trees shall be done in a manner to prevent tearing of the bark

2. Brush along the trail should be cut off at the ground level so that it does not protrude into the trail tread and branches protruding in the travel way should be pruned to a height of 10 feet so that a person on horseback or biking will not hit the branch. All material should be scattered randomly along the downhill side of the trail.
  - a. Pay attention to brush & limb dispersal. Remove from trail sight distance, cut end away from trail. Do not intentionally accumulate brush or add material in drains, as it may hold water and create a dam.
  - b. Cleared materials will be removed and disposed of by scattering randomly along the downhill side of the trail a minimum of four (4) feet from the centerline of the trail. Logs and brush will NOT be cut to even lengths and stacked or decked adjacent to the trail in uniform or unnatural patterns. Cleared debris will be disposed of out of sight of the trail wherever practical.
3. Clean existing waterbars (erosion control) structures by removing the soil that has accumulated on the uphill side of the structure and allowing water to flow away from the trail tread. Slides or sloughs that may present erosion potential by their continued existence of impair the trail tread and travel way should be removed.
  - a. Look uphill frequently to look for needed drainage features in trail. Create frequent rolling grade dips/drains. Clear drains to encourage water flow off the trail. Insure drainages carry water well away from trail. Where side slope is steep, armor drains. 15% outslope in drainage low points, 5% general trail outslope.
  - b. Some drainages may need to be built as stream ford crossings, or may need to be armored, with armored spillways.
4. In some cases to create good tread & grade, the trail may require fill, in some cases, removal of downslope material, in some cases excavating, in some cases all 3. Compact all fill in thin layers.
  - a. To measure tread, remove organic material on hillside down to mineral soil. Then, measure tread inward from there. Tread work - Remove any organic material down to mineral soil. We will need to collect it, carry it away or broadcast it. When we need to remove soil as well, save mineral soil/rocks where possible for later use in filling tread/retaining walls/armoring critical edges. If we do not need it elsewhere on the trail, it also may need to be carried away, at least broadcast far down the slope.
  - b. Soil, and organic debris cannot be allowed to accumulate in any 1 location more than 2". Less is better.

- c. Rock used in structure work needs to be large to withstand trail use impacts - think horse & rider, during prolonged wet & muddy conditions. Stabilize (rock work) critical edges where necessary.
  - d. Installation of natural looking features (large logs, rocks) can protect the critical edge by encouraging the flow to traffic to be pushed towards the inside of the trail.
5. The Adopt-A-Trail volunteer should examine all trail signs along their trail and contact the USFS or BLM office responsible for that trail with information on repair or replacement needs. If the sign is leaning or on the ground, the volunteer should straighten the sign and attach it to the signpost or tree as appropriate.
  6. An official map should be reviewed to determine the type(s) of travel allowed on the adopted trail. We expect all volunteers to comply with travel restrictions when doing trail maintenance and patrols.

*\*Each trail has specific trail management objectives and an intended visitor experience. Know the standards to which the adopted trail is to be maintained. If you are unsure of the management objectives of your adopted trail or have questions about any term or concept outlined in this document, contact the volunteer coordinator. ([lisamellick@cmc.org](mailto:lisamellick@cmc.org) or 719-221-4326).*