

IDAHO STATE ATV ASSOCIATION, INC.
an Idaho nonprofit corporation

**GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING
TRAIL DIFFICULTY**

[adopted August 8, 2015]



The following represent the official guidelines for determining trail difficulty, adopted by a three-fourths majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Idaho State ATV Association, Inc., an Idaho nonprofit corporation (“ISATVA”), at its annual membership meeting held August 8, 2015. The guidelines set forth herein may be amended, modified and/or deleted from time to time by the members of the Board of Directors of ISATVA upon approval of three-fourths of its members. These guidelines are binding upon all members of ISATVA.

Drafting Committee

These guidelines were developed by a committee consisting of the following:

North Idaho Representative – Thomas Leo, Panhandle Riders (Committee Chair)

Southwest Idaho Representative – Steven Huffman, Boise ATV Trail Riders

Southeast Idaho Representative – none

UTV Representative – Haden Claiborne, Idaho UTV

IDPR Representative – Troy Elmore

Board Representatives – David P. Claiborne (President), Carl Bloomquist (Vice President of Membership), Rusty Faircloth (Treasurer)

Ultimately, these guidelines were deliberated among and approved by three-fourths of the members of the Board of Directors of ISATVA at the 2015 annual membership meeting. Every club member has one vote on the Board of Directors.

Applicable Policies

These guidelines are intended to implement and advance the following policies and positions of ISATVA, as duly adopted and approved by the members of ISATVA.

Policy 1.09. Support of “Tread Lightly”.

ISATVA supports the “Tread Lightly” program, which can be found at www.treadlightly.org. ISATVA encourages its clubs, members, sponsors and supporters to abide by the guidelines suggested by “Tread Lightly” with respect to OHV recreation.

Policy 1.10. Support of “Stay on Trails”.

ISATVA supports the “Stay on Trails” program, which can be found at www.stayontrails.com. ISATVA encourages its clubs, members, sponsors and supporters to abide by the guidelines suggested by “Stay on Trails” with respect to OHV recreation.

Policy 2.05. Trail Signing.

ISATVA supports the clear, obvious and apparent signing and marking of OHV trails on the ground. ISATVA encourages responsible authorities to create logical trail numbering systems to assist OHV users in finding and staying on designated trails, and including such trail numbers on signs posted in the field. ISATVA encourages responsible authorities to post trail system maps at trailheads that display to OHV users the trail system, mileage, points of interest and trail difficulty. ISATVA is dedicated to the advancement of OHV trail signing in the State of Idaho, and its surrounding areas, through volunteer assistance and support of sign placement. ISATVA encourages its clubs, members, sponsors and supporters to generously volunteer their time and effort toward the assistance and support of sign placement.

Policy 2.06. Trail Difficulty.

ISATVA supports the establishment of a national uniform system for indication of OHV trail difficulty. ISATVA encourages responsible authorities to support the same and use such a system in trail signing and mapping. ISATVA encourages its clubs, members, sponsors and supporters to support the development of a trail difficulty categorization system by riding OHV trails to determine difficulty and by advising OHV users of trail difficulty.

Trail difficulty classification should be determined by experienced riders who have been trained as trainers as part of the IDPR OHV education program. Trails should be classified according to the most difficult terrain expected on the route section.

Guidelines for Determining Trail Difficulty

Goal: Trail difficulty needs to be determined by implementation of objective criteria. Trail difficulty rating will assist riders as they travel and recreate throughout the State of Idaho. Riders will be able to look at trail difficulty ratings to provide predictions as to the conditions they might expect on the trail.

Criteria and Scoring: The following criteria and scoring shall be employed to determine the overall rating of trail difficulty:

Trail Rating Chart				
Characteristic	Least Difficult	More Difficult	Most Difficult	Comments
Point Value	(0 points each)	(5 points each)	(10 points each)	
<i>Purpose of Ride</i>	Fun	Sport	Challenge	
<i>Rider Experience Needed</i>	Novice	General/Sport	Technical	Control at high speed, side saddling, front/rear braking based on incline, etc.
<i>Ride Distance</i>	< 40 mi.	40-80 mi.	80 + mi.	Short trails may be difficult, but that is accounted for in other rating criteria
<i>Average Speed</i>	15 mph	20-25 mph	10-15 mph	Average speeds of 10-15 indicate technical challenges
<i>Maximum Speed</i>	25 mph	30 mph	35 + mph	
<i>Grades</i>	Mild (less than 15°)	Moderate (15°-30°)	Steep (over 30°)	
<i>Side-hills</i>	None (less than 5°)	Mild (5°-15°)	Moderate (over 15°)	
<i>Recommended Rider Age</i>	Family	16 +	Adult	
<i>Exposure</i>	Minimal	Expect a few Adversities	Higher than average potential for falling exists	Mud, rocks, boulders, snow, ice, water, loose surface, drop offs, narrow trails, potential for falling.
<i>2WD/4WD</i>	2WD	4WD Likely	4WD Required	
<i>Total Points</i>				<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>

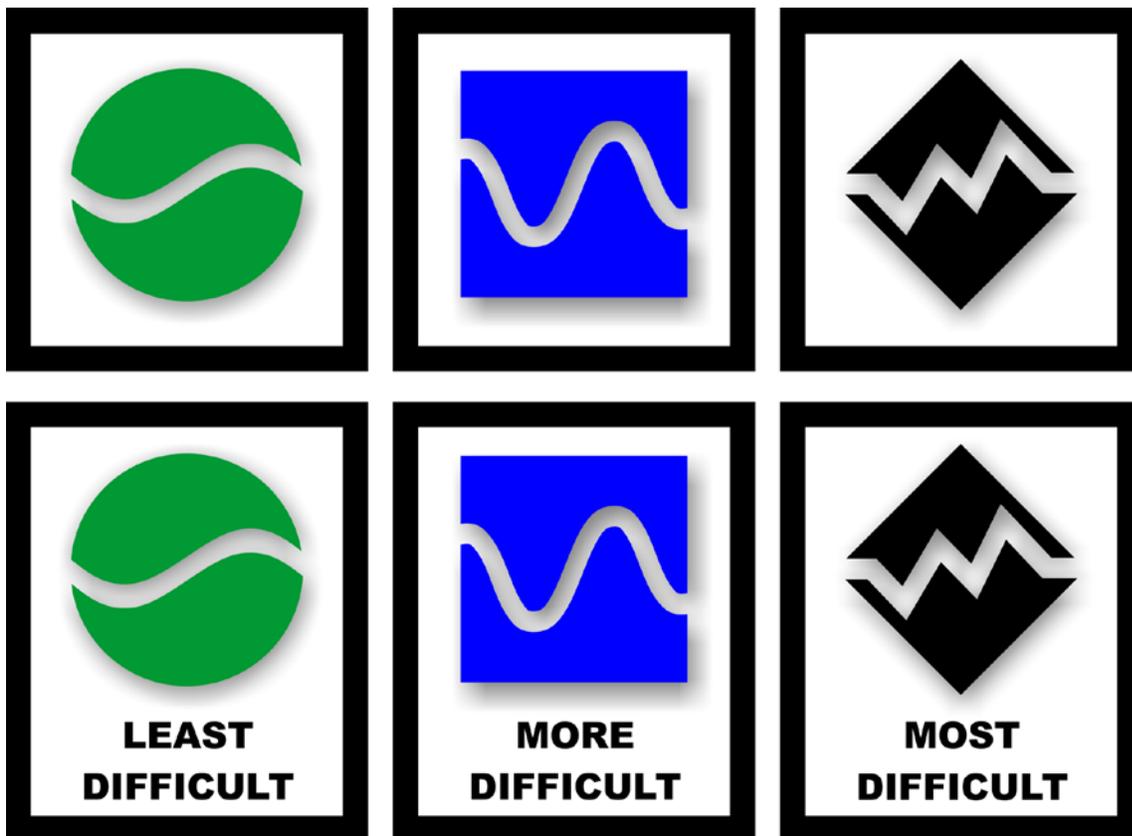
Determination of Difficulty: The grand total score using the above criteria and scoring will determine the trail's difficulty based on the following –

0-20 points, is a Least Difficult trail;

21-55 points, is a More Difficult trail; and

56+ points, is a Most Difficult trail.

The following symbols shall be used to designate a trail's difficulty:



Symbols: The above symbols describe the trail (as opposed to the rider's experience or machine). Members can use these symbols in their ride schedules so riders can quickly identify the type of ride being offered. Graphics for each symbol are available at ISATVA's website.

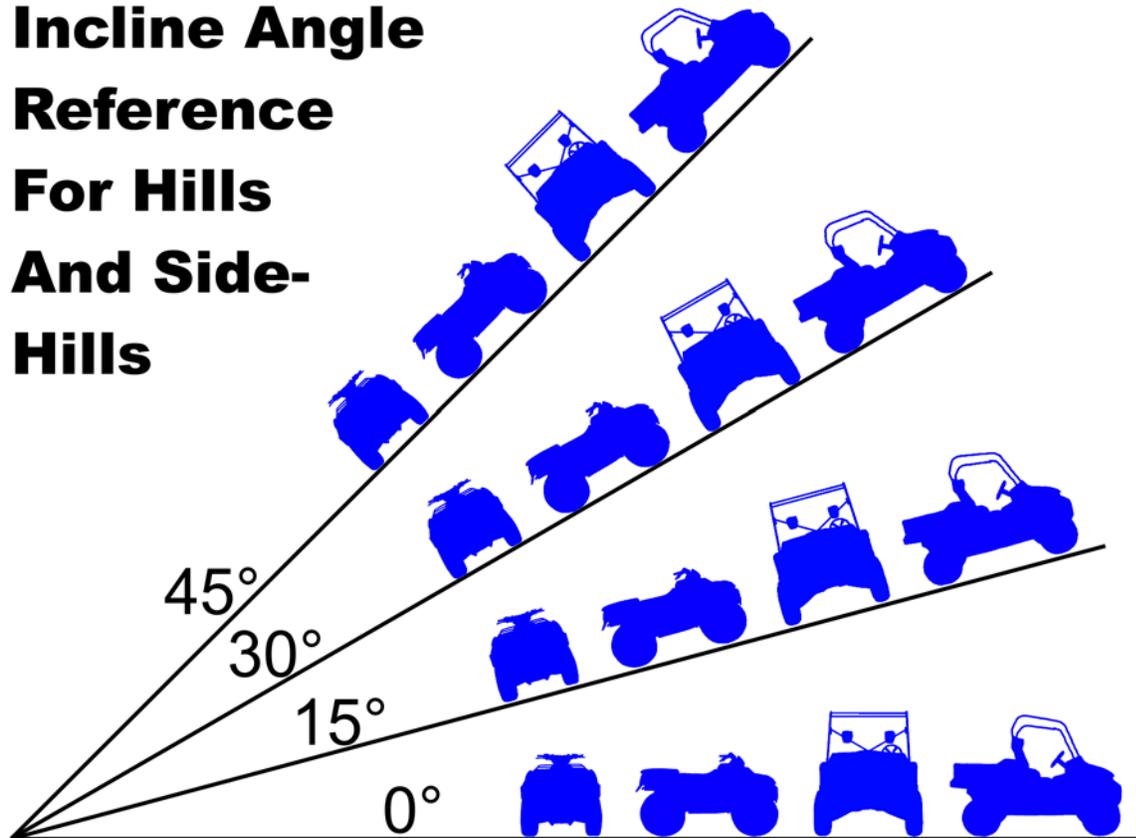
Who Determines a Trail Rating: Trail difficulty ratings shall be determined by local riding clubs that are members of ISATVA. The rating should be determined by the member club located closest to the subject trail, or whose members most often use the subject trail. Within the local member club, the local member club shall rely upon two or more expert riders to determine a trail's rating and the rating shall be approved by the local member club's board of directors. Common sense should be employed in rating a trail and if a trail rates as least difficult when the rating club knows it is not, a higher rating should be assigned.

Publication and Use of Trail Rating: Once a trail has been rated by a local club member, all club members who promote or inform riders of the use and/or availability of the trail shall also promote and inform riders of the trail's difficulty rating, including use of the symbols approved herein. Every member of ISATVA shall exclusively use these guidelines and ratings for trail difficulty rating purposes. No other system of ratings shall be used by any ISATVA member. If a trail has not been rated using these guidelines, the trail should be indicated as "Not Rated."

Implementation and Education: ISATVA encourages its members to immediately implement these guidelines. Effective January 1, 2016, every member of ISATVA should implement and abide by these guidelines on a trial basis for review and consideration at the 2016 annual membership meeting of ISATVA. The executive board of ISATVA, or its designees, shall endeavor to attend a meeting of each local club on or before the 2016 annual membership meeting to educate the local club of these guidelines and receive additional input.

Rely on these Guidelines at Your Own Risk: Use of the criteria in this guide provides no assurance of safety or trail conditions. Trail conditions, rider experience, and weather, among many other circumstances, are variables that can only be determined by actual riders while in the field on any given day. Ultimately, the rating and safety of a ride is the responsibility of each rider and operator.

Incline Angle Reference For Hills And Side- Hills



Document Updated: 9/9/2015