

TRAIL ASSESSMENT FORM

Explanation of fields

Trail Name: name (if any) as it appears on the DCR map

Trail Type: narrow, wide, or dirt road as labeled on DCR map. Usage type: foot traffic only (H), multi-use (M)

Trail Condition: good, fair, poor. This is a subjective assessment of the overall condition of the trail. A good trail would be one that has been maintained on a more or less regular basis – requires little or no brushing, waterbars are generally clean, few if any blow downs. A poor trail has had little if any maintenance – needs a lot of brushing, waterbar cleaning, may have numerous blow downs, lots of erosion. Fair falls somewhere in between these two extremes.

Route: include beginning and ending points, trail name (if it exists), 4-digit intersection markers

Document #: unique number for this assessment – suggest that numbering begin with the particular Blue Hills area being assessed, e.g. 1000, 1001, etc for the Blue Hills region. Document numbers provide an easy way to reference assessment forms.

Recent Weather: weather conditions, rain for the past several days, dryness of trail

Trail Landmarks: trails crossed, 4-digit marker intersections crossed, waterbars (wb), culverts (cv), rolling dips (rd), bridges (br), bog bridges (bb), rock stairs (rs), cribbing (cb), retaining walls (rw), ditches (dt). Include footnote numbers corresponding to problems in the sections below. In other words, include all man-made structures that require or may require maintenance along with trails crossed.

Minor Problem Areas: small blowdowns (sbd), culverts and ditches that need cleaning, brushing needed (bn), excessive erosion (ee), leaning tree (lt) that could be a problem (widow makers). In general work that can be done by one person or a group with minimal amount of training – often referred to as “basic maintenance”. Also note missing 4-digit markers and/or discrepancies between the DCR map and what actually exists in the field.

Major Problem Areas: work requiring a major effort and/or requiring special skills such as large blowdowns (lbd) requiring a chain saw, rock work (rkw), bridge building (bbd), culvert replacement (cr) or construction, trail relocation (tr), building new trail drainage (ntd).

Distances to Major Intersections. Use the odometer feature of a GPS to begin measuring the distance in miles from the start of a trail section to an intersection. Record cumulatively (see example form)

Use abbreviations above in the report. If possible include photo(s) of a major problem area.