



## Annual Trail Assessment: Instructions for SVT Trail Stewards

### What is the Annual Trail Assessment?

SVT Trail Stewards perform an Annual Trail Assessment each fall. The goal is to help SVT identify areas of concern and longer-term trail management and maintenance issues. The data from the assessments will inform SVT's maintenance and repair plan for the coming year.

### Trail Assessment Instructions

- **Perform the assessment in the fall**, prior to leaves falling and covering trails.
- **Walk your assigned trails/network**, documenting issues and concerns.
- Complete **one form per trail**.
- **Take photos of areas of concern**. Please use an object for scale in the photo. If the problem spot is a junction, a panorama photo may be helpful.
- **Mark the locations** of areas of concern on a paper map or take a waypoint in a mapping app.
- **Measure and document** areas of concern that are measurable in length and width. This includes: Eroded sections, washouts, wet areas, and trail widening.

### Equipment needed:

- Camera/Phone
- Clipboard & Writing Utensil
- Paper map (or mapping app)
- Measuring Tape
- Object for scale for photos

### Areas of Concern to Observe and Document:

| Trail Element                              | Potential Issues/Areas of Concern  |
|--|--|
| Blowdown (BD)                              | These are typically taken care of as they happen - but note any that were missed.                                      |
| Bridge/Puncheon (BP)                       | Erosion under sills; structural damage; excessive erosion at exit points   |
| Culverts (CU)                              | Clogs or debris build up; excessive erosion at culvert exit; insufficient soil covering culvert; failing stone headers |
| Water bars/Grade reversals (GR)            | Non-draining feature; excessive sediment/debris in low point; compacted high point; excessive erosion in low point     |
| Erosion (ER)                               | General tread erosion; steep areas channeling water; areas showing excessive skidding                                  |
| Insufficient Blazing (IB)                  | Blazes should be such that you can always see the next blaze   |
| Signage - Directional or Interpretive (SI) | Additional signage needed  |
| Trail Corridor/Vegetation (TC)             | Vegetation is typically managed during growing season - but note areas that were missed or insufficiently cut          |
| Washout (WO)                               | Sections of trail washed out by water coming from outside the trail corridor   |
| Wet Area/Standing Water (WA)               | Insufficiently drained area. Does it need to be dug out or for material to be added?                                   |
| Water Crossing (WC)                        | Eroded rock armoring; insufficient length of rock armoring   |
| Trail widening (TW)                        | Users are widening trail tread to avoid an obstacle or because location of true tread is unclear                       |
| Benchcut degradation (BC)                  | Excessive narrowing of tread caused by outslope erosion (i.e. riders going off trail) or excessive backslope erosion   |
| Other (OT)                                 | Other issues not listed above  |

# SVT TRAIL ASSESSMENT FORM

Trail Steward: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Name & Network: \_\_\_\_\_

| Issue Code | Location Description | Description of Issue/Area of Concern | Suggested Repair | Photo #(s) |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
|            |                      |                                      |                  |            |
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**Submitting Your Annual Trail Assessment:**

Submit the *Trail Assessment Form* to the Program Manager via email (scan or take a clear photo)

**Submitting Photos:**

1) Label *photos using this Format if possible*: File Name: #ofLocation\_TrailName\_Network\_Issue

2) Email photos to the Program Manager or organize them in a Photo Album and share the link.