




# Horse trail classifications Western Australia

	<b>Class 1 Easy - Green</b>	Wide, consistent surface and width of trail, gentle slope. Recommended for riders and horses with basic skills and fitness.
	<b>Class 2 Moderate - Blue</b>	Variable trail with narrow sections and uneven surfaces, moderate slope, some obstacles. Recommended for riders and horses with moderate skills and fitness.
	<b>Class 3 Difficult - Black</b>	Challenging trail, with extended sections of narrow and uneven surfaces, reduced corridor height, many obstacles and steep sections. Recommended for riders and horses with high skill and fitness level.

## Detailed descriptions as per WA Horse Trail Strategy – Taking the Reins.

	Easy (Class 1)	Moderate (Class 2)	Difficult (Class 3)
<b>Description</b>	<p>Most suitable for novices, social groups and others seeking a relatively short distance trail requiring a basic level of skill and horse and rider fitness.</p> <p>Most likely to be fire roads or wide single tracks (bridlepaths) with a gentle grade (not exceeding 10%) and a relatively obstacle free, hardened natural surface.</p> <p>Likely to be shared-use and frequent encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers and runners can be expected.</p>	<p>Most suitable for individuals and smaller social groups seeking a short to medium distance trail requiring a moderate level of skill and fitness.</p> <p>Most likely to be a combination single trail and/or fire road with obstacles, variable surfaces, and a moderate slope.</p> <p>Likely to be shared-use so encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders should be expected.</p>	<p>Suitable for individuals and small social groups seeking a very challenging trail requiring a high level of skill, fitness, and basic navigation skills.</p> <p>Most likely to consist of challenging single trail and/or fire road with many obstacles, variable surface, and steep sections. Some trail routes may not be marked at all.</p> <p>May possibly be shared-use so encounters with other users possibly including cyclists, walkers, vehicles and other stock should be expected, however, many of these trails may be located in remote areas and encounters with others is expected to be minimal.</p>
<b>Trail Surface</b>	<p>Generally a natural surface (topped with dolomite or compacted surface if desired)</p> <p>Hardened surfaces like concrete or asphalt to be avoided due to concussion on horse legs and poor traction with metal horse shoes.</p> <p>Hardened surfaces may be utilised on Rail Trails or other tracks where horses would generally only walk.</p>	<p>Generally a natural surface is desired and may include sections of rocky ground, sand, clay or gravel.</p> <p>Obstacles such as rocks, logs and gates that require dismounting are likely. Shallow ford crossings are acceptable. (Note: rainfall conditions vary widely - seasonal conditions may water depths significantly)</p>	<p>Usually a variable surface with sections of rock, sand, clay gravel, etc. Obstacles may include challenging rocks, logs, Fording creeks</p>
<b>Trail Width</b>	<p>Minimum Tread : 1500mm</p> <p>Note: Short sections of narrower tread (.60 m to 1.2 m) are acceptable at ground level, 1.5 metres is required at the height of the riders' stirrups.</p> <p>Minimum corridor width: 3000mm</p> <p>Minimum height: 3700mm</p>	<p>Minimum Tread : 1500mm</p> <p>Minimum clearing: 1500mm</p> <p>Minimum height: 3700mm</p>	<p>Minimum Tread : 300mm (1500mm recommended at the height of the riders' stirrups)</p> <p>Minimum clearing: 1500mm</p> <p>Minimum height: 2500mm</p>
<b>Trail Gradient</b>	<p>Desired gradient 0 – 10% Maximum 10%</p> <p>Maximum sustained gradient 5% Out slope 4% maximum</p>	<p>Maximum 15%</p> <p>Maximum sustained gradient 10% Out slope 4% maximum</p>	<p>Maximum 20% (Max. sustained gradient 10%.)</p>