

Riding Condition Matrix

Risk Factor	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Time to additional resources at road or lodge.	No more than 3 hrs.	Up to a day's ride.	More than 1-day riding
Technical Difficulty	Horse has negotiated this terrain (or more complex terrain) without any difficulty.	Terrain is difficult but known to the horse and leader.	Terrain that by its nature is difficult or unknown.
Negative encounters with other users	Encounters are infrequent, or easily managed, or all the horses are desensitized.	All horses may not be desensitized, and encounters are probable.	Horses are not desensitized, and encounters are certain.
Water	Flat water: firm bottom and riders keep their feet out of the water. Moving water: Below horse's knee.	Moving water: belly deep, clear and good bottom.	Water depth is unknown and requires additional mitigation strategies.
Weather Exposure	Generally sheltered or easy retreat to shelter.	May be exposed but can retreat to shelter within 45 minutes.	Exposed areas with difficult or no retreat.
Navigation	On trails, or untracked with natural boundaries and/or handrails.	Simple route choices. May require a map, compass and/or GPS.	Complicated navigation, difficult route finding with minimal landmarks.
Horse	Horses are calm, trustworthy and will handle a diversity of riders.	Some horses may be inexperienced in the challenges they will face on the trail.	Horses require experienced riders.