

SYVR TRAIL RATING SCALE OF DIFFICULTY

The following rating scale of difficulty for the SYVR rates the trail rides base upon trail type, topography, steepness, soil type, and water that may be encountered on a ride. The degree of trail difficulty is subjectively rated by the trail boss in terms of the average skilled rider and conditioned horse. What may appear quite easy or difficult to some, many not be so to others. The rider must judge their abilities and make the decision to ride for the benefit of the SYVR. We are all willing participants and desire a congenial and pleasant time.

It is the rider's responsibility to call the Trail Boss if additional information is needed in addition to what was announced. Keep in mind that you and your horse should be in good physical condition prior to participating in Club activities. The walking pace of the rides is 3 – 3.5 MPH with occasional 4 – 5 MPH rides.

On a scale of 1-5, 5 being the most difficult, riders may expect to encounter trail conditions as suggested in the table below. A ride cannot be placed in a strict rating description, since trails vary so much (i.e. steepness, water crossings, narrowness, etc.) and overlap in the classifications may be present.

1	2	3	4	5
Riding side by side	Riding single file & side by side	Riding single file & some side by side	Riding single file	Riding single file
Ranch/dozer road	Ranch/dozer road	Ranch/dozer road/some single-track trails	Ranch/dozer road/single-track trails	Ranch/dozer road/single-track trails
Flat terrain	Rolling hills	Rolling hills; mountainous, canyons	Mountainous; canyons	Mountainous; canyons/narrow ridges
Little to no climbing	Some climbing	Gradual climbing	Gradual climbing	Climbing
Rocks/gravel/shale	Sand/ rocks/gravel/shale	Rocks/gravel/shale/sand	Rocks/gravel/shale/sand	Rocks/gravel / Shale/sand
Puddles	Ankle deep stream	Ankle deep stream	Ankle deep stream /knee deep river	Knee deep river