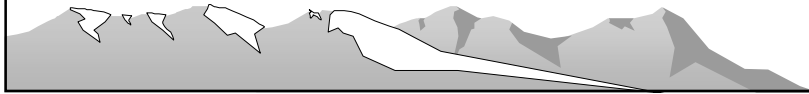




Oregon-California Trails Association

TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Dave Welch
Galva, KS
July 17-18, 2010

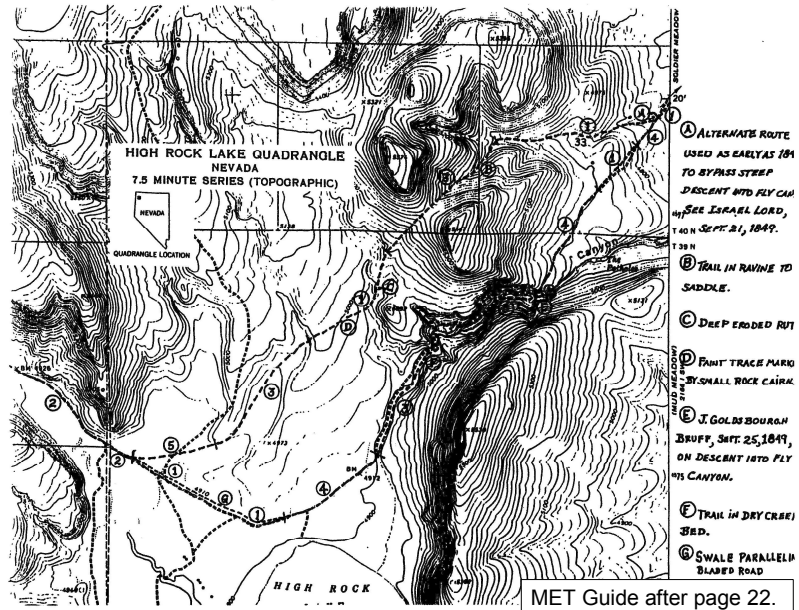


OVERVIEW

- Objective:
 - Prepare a map with sufficient detail and credibility to support interpretation and preservation of the trail.
- Requirements:
 - Locate the trail on a map at a scale of 1:24,000
 - Assess the condition of the trail



MET MAPPING TECHNIQUES



TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

- Class 1: Unaltered Trail
- Class 2: Used Trail
- Class 3: Verified Trail (but non-existent)
- Class 4: Altered Trail
- Class 5: Approximate Trail



TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Class 1: Unaltered Trail Symbol: ①

Description: The trail retains the essence of its original character and shows no evidence of having been either impacted by motor vehicles or altered by modern road improvements. There is visible evidence of the original trail in the form of depressions, ruts, swales, tracks, or other scars, including vegetative differences and hand-placed rock alignments along the trailside.



CLASS 1 TRAILS WEST OF DEVILS GATE, WY





Big Sandy Swales Class 1 (Class 2 within trail corridor)





TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Class 2: Used Trail

Symbol: ②

Description: The trail retains elements of its original character but shows use by motor vehicles, typically as a two-track road overlaying the original wagon trail. There is little or no evidence of having been altered permanently by modern road improvements, such as widening, blading, grading, crowning, or graveling. In forested areas the trail may have been used for logging but still retains elements of its original character.

MET Guide page 13.

SOUTH PASS (CLASS 2)



Note: Parallel trails in the area, some of which may be Class 1.



TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Class 3: Verified Trail

Symbol: ③

Description: The trail route is accurately located and verified from written, cartographic, artifact, topographical, and/or wagon wheel impact evidence (as rust, grooved, or polished rocks), but due to subsequent weathering, erosion, vegetative succession, or logging, trail traces will be nonexistent or insignificant what does remain is a verified trail corridor with no intrusive modern development. Typically this includes trails that once passed through forests and meadows, across excessively hard surfaces or bedrock (such as on ridges), over alkali flats and sandy soil, and through ravines or washes.

MET Guide page 14.



Class 3: ...but due to subsequent weathering, erosion, vegetative succession, or logging, trail traces will be nonexistent or insignificant what does remain is a verified trail corridor with no intrusive modern development.



TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Class 4: Altered Trail

Symbol: ④

Description: The trail location is verified but elements of its original condition have been permanently altered, primarily by road construction, such as widening, blading, grading, crowning, graveling, or paving. In some cases, the original trail has been permanently altered by underground cables and pipelines.

MET Guide page 14.

CLASS 4 (or 5?) – ALTERED (GRADED, CROWN AND DITCH)



CLASS 2 AND CLASS 4 (BEYOND FENCE)



TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Class 5: Approximate Trail

Symbol: ⑤

Description: The trail is either so obliterated or unverifiable that its location is known only approximately. In many cases, the trail has been destroyed entirely by development, such as highways, structures, agriculture, or utility corridors. In others, it has been inundated beneath reservoirs, in some, there is not enough historical or topographic evidence by which to locate the trail accurately. Thus, only the approximate route is known.

CLASS 5

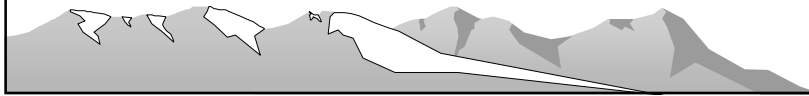


TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

- Class 1: Unaltered Trail (Swale, ruts or traces)
- Class 2: Used Trail (Modern use, typically a two track
- Class 3: Verified Trail (but non-existent)
- Class 4: Altered Trail (improved road)
- Class 5: Approximate Trail (general location known)

Trail classifications are subjective. We are attempting to designate something that is a continuum into discrete categories.

MORE EXAMPLES TRAIL CLASSIFICATION



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 1 Swale

Class 2 Two-track

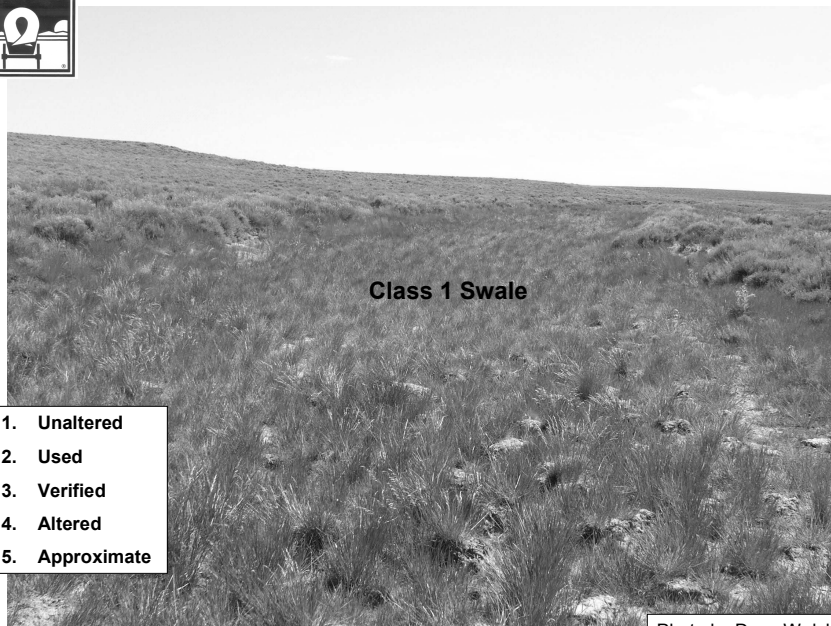
Photo by Randy Wagner



Class 2

1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

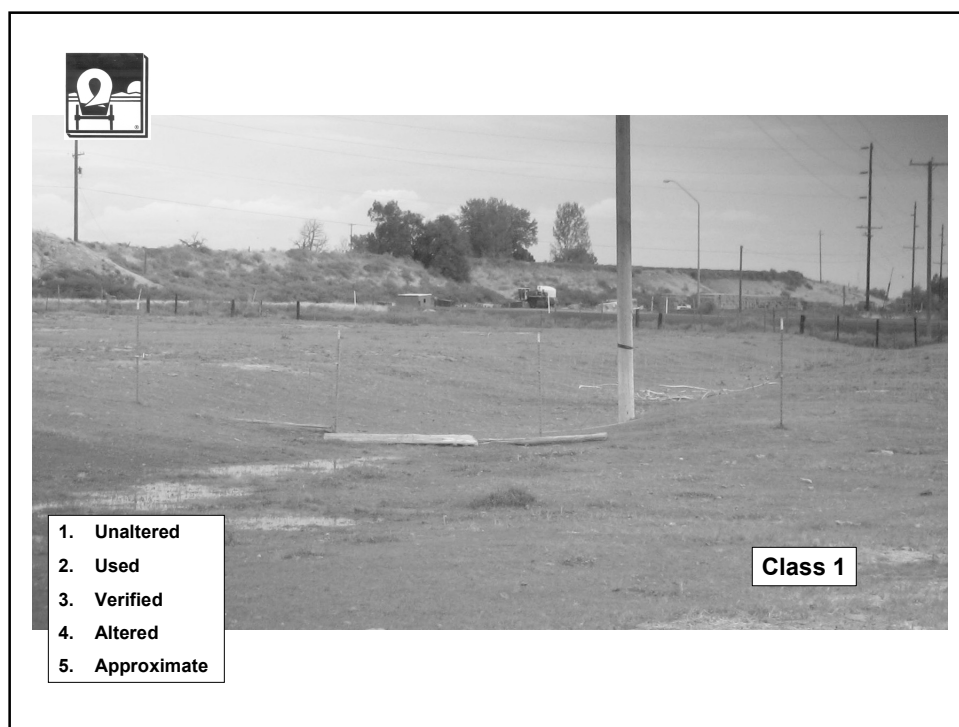
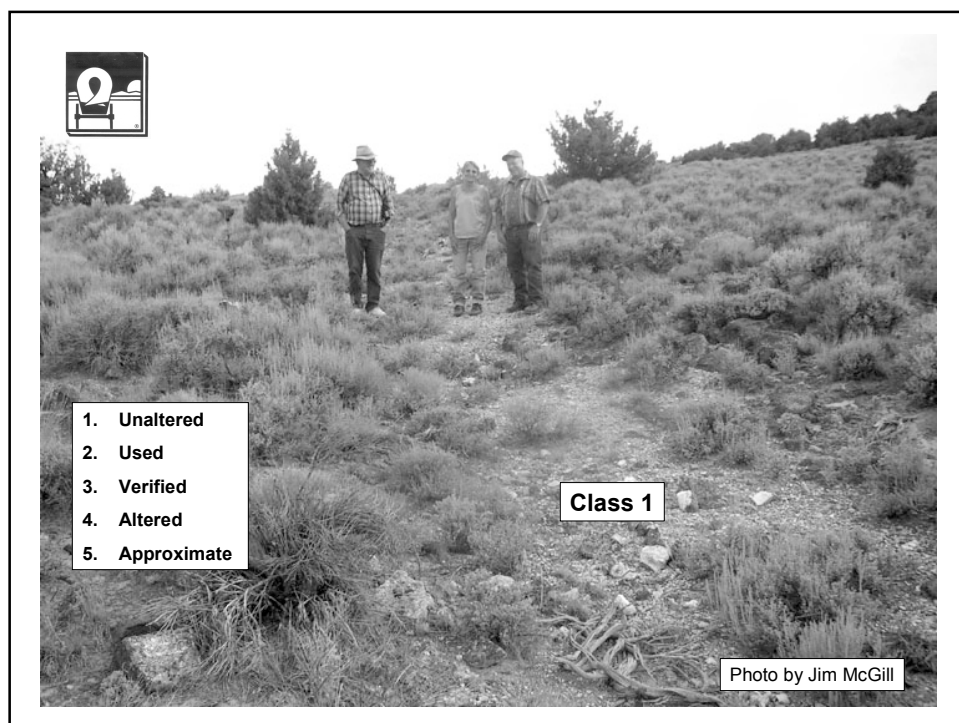
Photo by Dave Welch

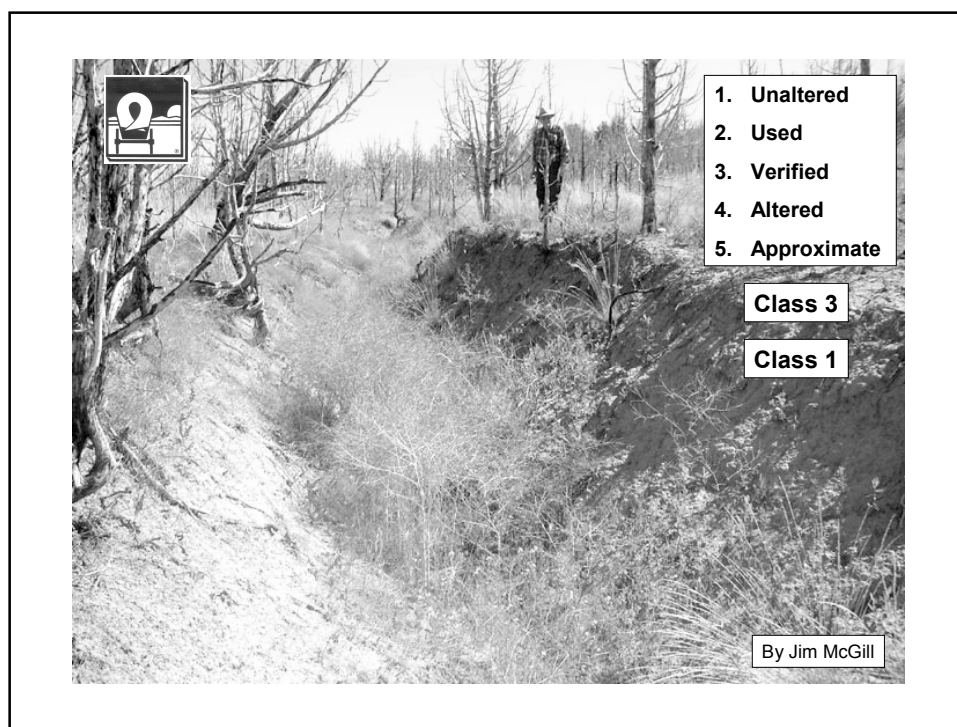
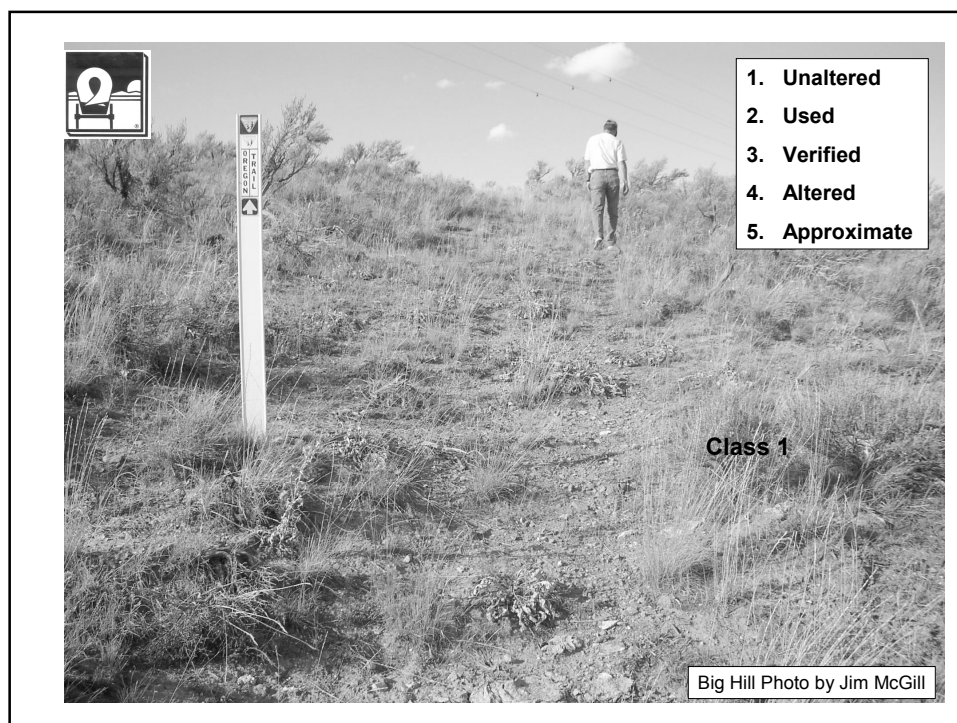


Class 1 Swale

1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Photo by Dave Welch







1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 3

By Jim McGill



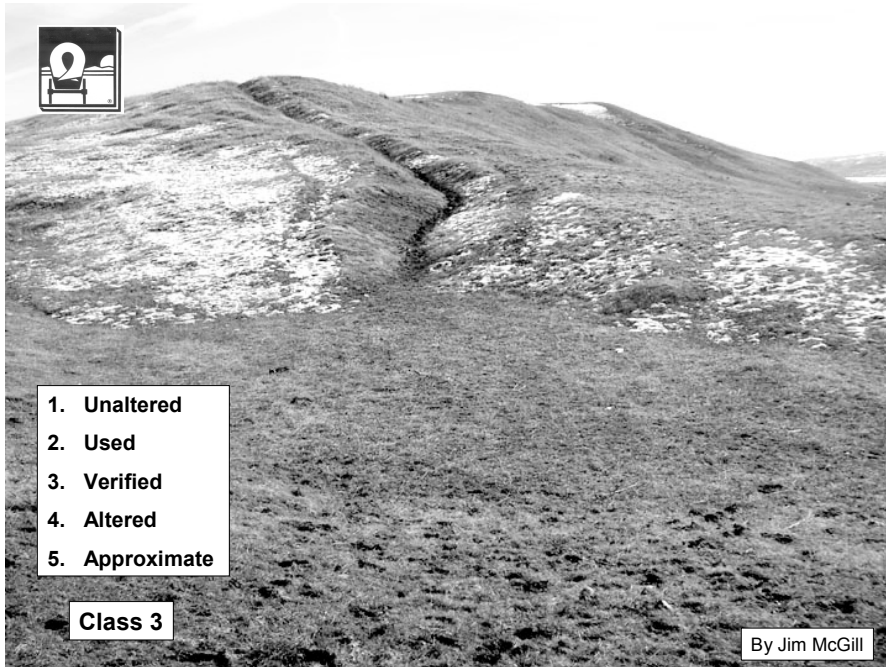
Goodale North Sand Hollow



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 1

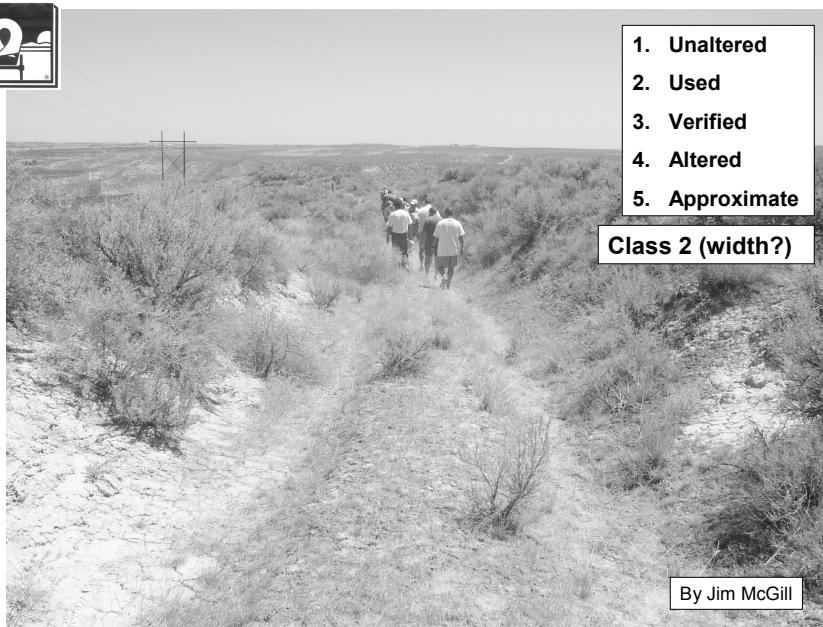
By Jim McGill



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 3

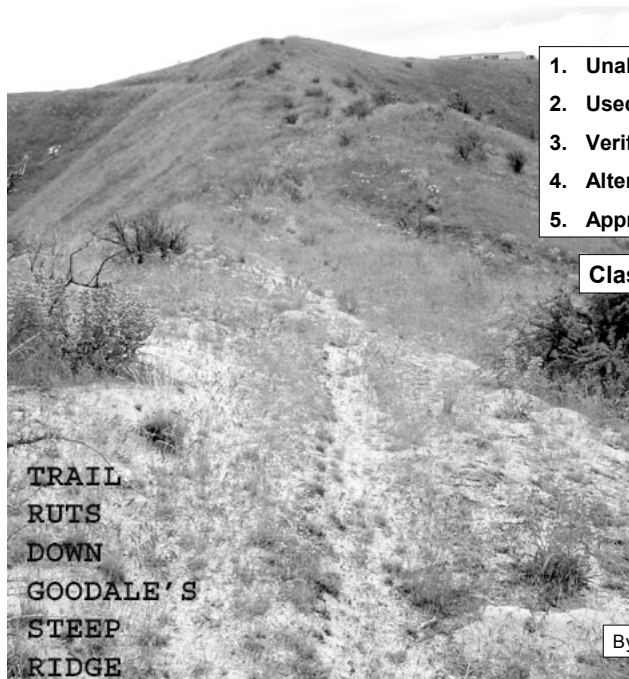
By Jim McGill



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 2 (width?)

By Jim McGill



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 1

TRAIL
RUTS
DOWN
GOODALE'S
STEEP
RIDGE

By Jim McGill



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 1

SWALE COMING
OUT OF BIG GULCH

By Jim McGill



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 1

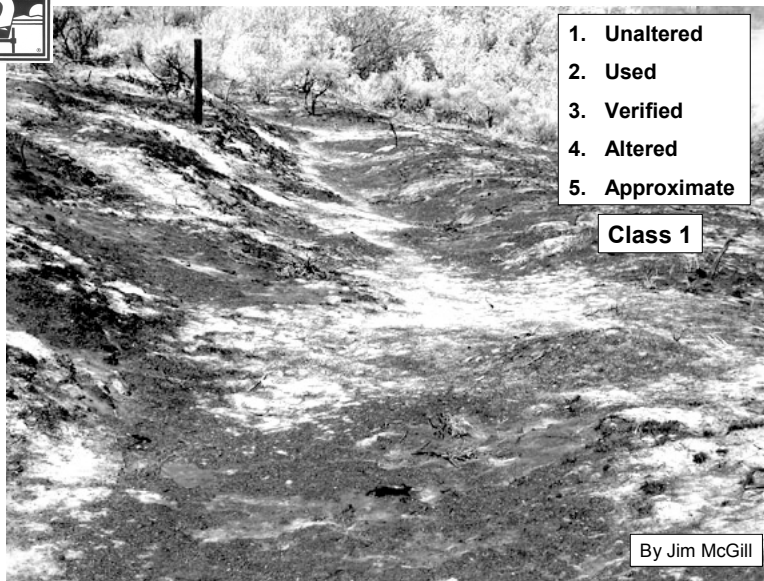


Hams Fork Plateau, WY Photo by Dave Welch

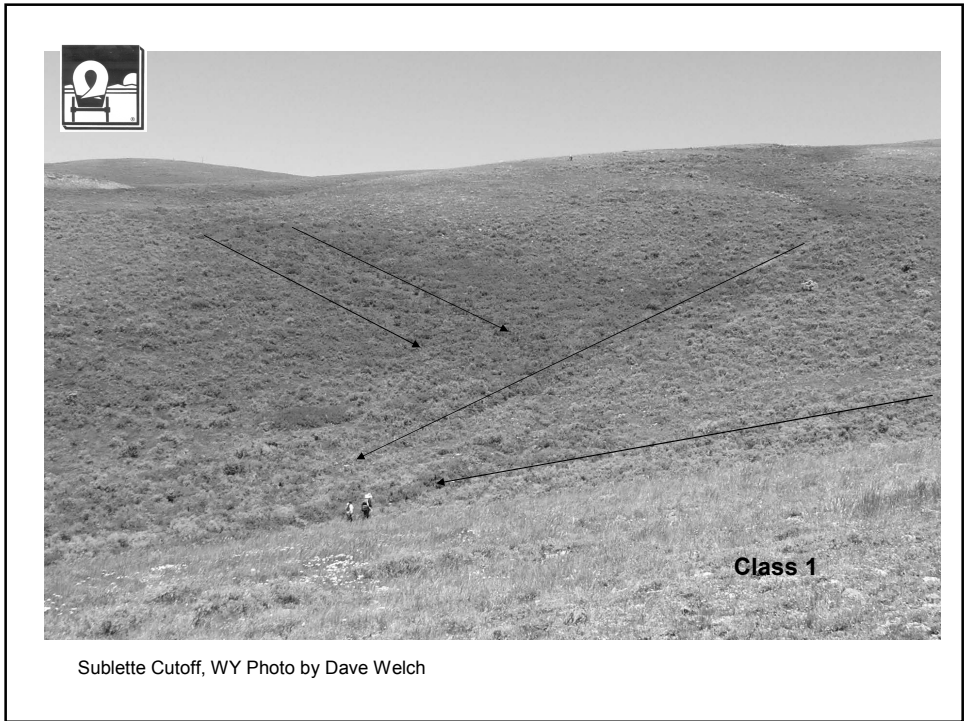
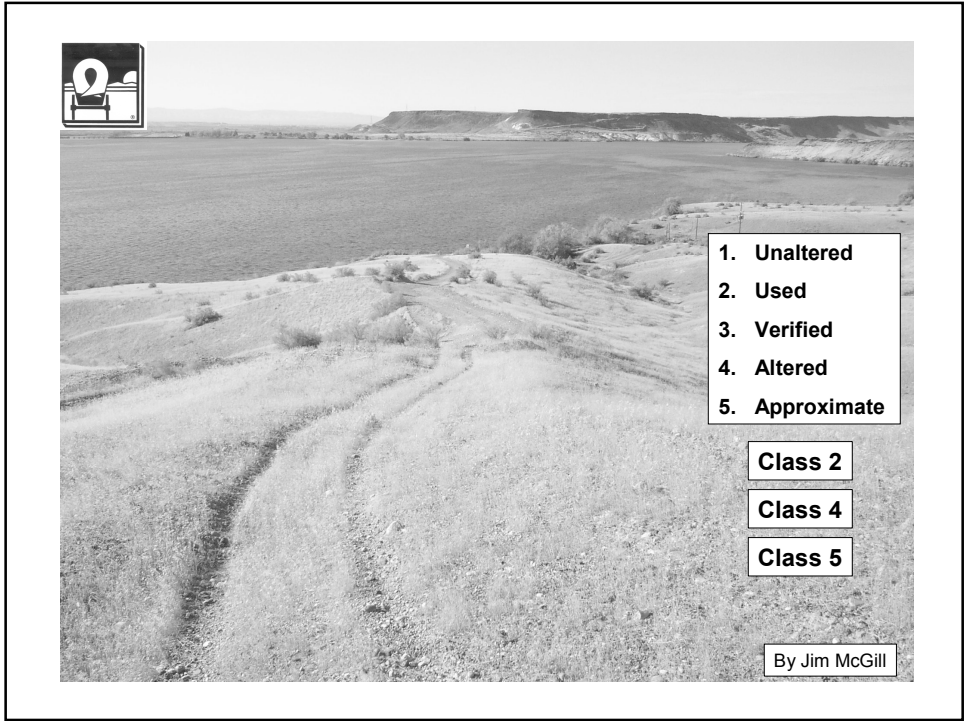


1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 1



By Jim McGill

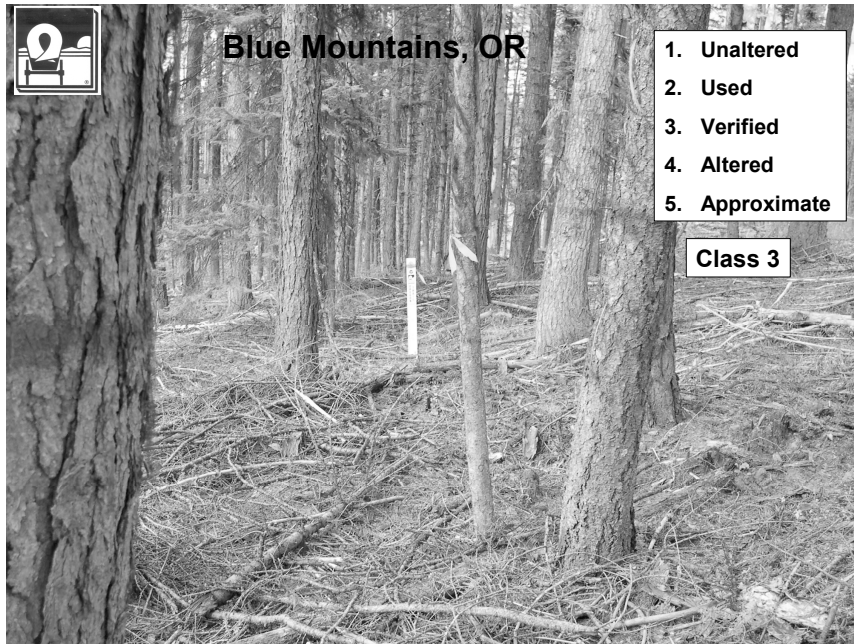




Blue Mountains, OR

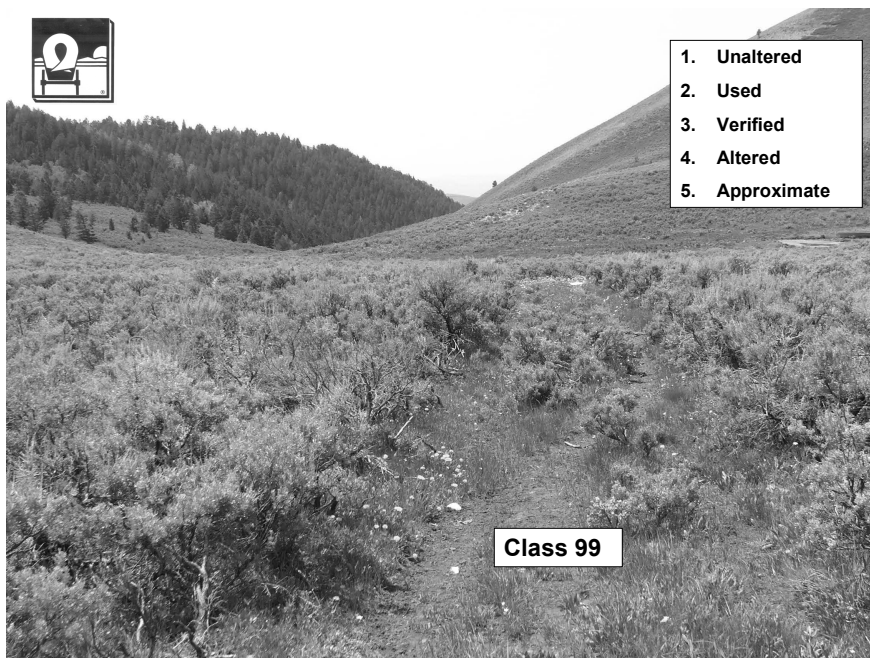
1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 3



1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 99





TRAIL CLASSIFICATION

- To a degree, classifications are subjective; the analysis and documentation are as important as the result.
- Class 1 and Class 2 easiest to rate
- Class 1 and 2 (and sometimes Class 3) should be subject to Section 106 considerations.
- Classifications can change yard-by-yard

