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
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.

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 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.

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.

MET Guide page 14.
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

Class 1 Swale

Class 2 Two-track

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

Photo by Randy Wagner
By Jim McGill

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

Class 1

Goodale North Sand Hollow

Class 3

By Jim McGill
1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate

Class 3

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

Class 2 (width?)
TRAIL RUTS DOWN GOODALE’S STEEP RIDGE

By Jim McGill

Class 1

SWALE COMING OUT OF BIG GULCH

By Jim McGill

Class 1
1. Unaltered
2. Used
3. Verified
4. Altered
5. Approximate
Sublette Cutoff, WY Photo by Dave Welch
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