

ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

The types of MCOSD road and trail operation management actions set forth below are subject to the provisions of the RTMP.

Routine operation and maintenance: Day-to-day upkeep that allows for the smooth and safe functioning of a trail. Includes grading, cleaning water bars and other drainage features, cleaning culverts, litter pick-up, trash and debris removal, vegetation management, sign replacement, and tree and shrub pruning to allow access. Routine maintenance also includes minor repairs and replacements such as repairing a broken handrail (source: American Trails website), and seasonal closure of trails.

Reconstruction: Refers to correcting significant defects as well as repairing, replacing, or restoring major components of a road or trail that have been destroyed, damaged, or significantly deteriorated during the life of the facility. Reconstruction includes re-surfacing, replacing, or restoring trail tread, and installing new water bars and other drainage features. Stabilizing a severely eroded hillside or replacing a bridge are examples of reconstruction (source: American Trails website). Re-opening a trail or road that has not been maintained would also be considered reconstruction.

Rerouting: Changing the alignment of a road or trail on any portion of its length.

Decommissioning: Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads or trails to a more natural state. Decommissioning involves activities ranging from blocking the entrance points and signing the roads or trails as closed; through permitting vegetation to naturally encroach along roads and trails, and allowing for road to trail conversions as defined in category 6; to full obliteration of the road or trail, including ripping the road bed, re-contouring, re-vegetating and restoring natural slopes (source: USDA Forest Service San Dimas Technology Center).

Change in recreation use: Changing the types of permitted recreation activities along a road or trail. Permitted activities could include any one or all of the following activities: natural area, pedestrian travel, equestrian use, or mountain biking. MCOSD decisions regarding administrative access by other agencies for maintenance or fuel control would be considered.

Road to trail conversion: Actions necessary to encourage the evolution of a road to a narrower trail. Actions may include re-vegetation, stabilizing, and restoration of the unused portions of the former roadbed.

New road or trail: Constructing new routes on undisturbed lands to connect previously unconnected points.

DECISION TOOL TERMS

Decision universe: the types of management actions that could be made for a road or trail in this RTMP. The decision universe for the proposed Road and Trail Evaluation Tool includes the types of actions defined above. The decision universe for the Project Priority Setting System would be different.

Decision tool: a spreadsheet-based model that permits assignment of scores to various decision criteria for a defined discrete length of road or trail. The tool allows weights to be assigned to those scores or groups of scores to reflect the importance of a particular decision criterion.

Decision criteria: Criteria are used to help make a decision concerning the disposition of roads or trails. Criteria can be based on quantifiable or qualitative information. An example of a quantitatively based criterion is “miles of roads/trails along the fall line.” Trails and roads with greater lengths located along a fall line would be scored higher than trails or roads with fewer or no mileages occurring along a fall line. An example of a qualitative criterion is a trail project that engages volunteers or raises awareness of the MCOSD’s benefits or mission. In both cases, scores are assigned that reflect the degree to which the factor has the underlying characteristics.

Pass/Fail decision criteria: A type of criteria; a pass/fail criterion is assigned a “pass” or “fail” rating. If a road or trail is assigned a fail (“fail”) rating on any decision criterion, it is automatically assigned to one of the seven decisions referenced above, without consideration of other decision criteria.

Decision metric: Process used to assign a numeric value to, or score, each decision criterion. Numeric values are based on the underlying characteristics of a road or trail segment with respect to a criterion, and will vary from criterion to criterion, depending on the range of values in the underlying data. Metrics can reflect a range (1-10, good/better/best, etc.), or “pass/fail” criteria (1/0).

Domain: A collection of unique data with a common underlying attribute, such as biological or physical resources.

Decision weighting: Assigning a relative importance to each decision criterion or group of criteria (domain) used in the decision tool. Weighting is useful for improving classification of roads and trails into one of the seven types of decisions described above.

Decision score: a numerical ranking for each road or trail segment being reviewed based on the sum of scores for all decision criteria. The scores are then used to classify a given segment of road or trail into one of seven decisions, described above.

PLANNING GLOSSARY

Goal: An expression of community values and desired outcomes. A sought after end state that is not quantifiable or time dependent (source: Marin Countywide Plan).

Policy: A statement derived from a goal that represents the jurisdiction’s adopted position and guides actions by decision-making bodies (source: Marin Countywide Plan).