

### Why have classification standards?

Most tracks in State Forest in Victoria have been classified to assist visitors in choosing a walk or track to suit their needs, ability and equipment. **Bushwalking** and **mountain bike** tracks have been classified according to the 'skill level' and 'fitness level' required to do the walk or ride. **4WD** tracks have been classified by surface type, vehicle type and the drivers experience required and **horse riding** tracks have been classified according to the difficulty in completing the trail and the fitness level required of the rider and horse.

Specific information on tracks and trails in State Forest can be obtained from the DSE office nearest to your destination.

### Bushwalking Track Classifications

For more information on bushwalking refer to the Forest Note 'FS0020 - Bushwalking in State Forest'.

#### Skill Level

- **Basic.** Users do not need any previous experience and are expected to exercise normal care regarding their personal safety.
- **Moderate.** Users do not need bushwalking experience. However they may encounter natural hazards such as steep slopes, unstable surfaces and minor water crossings. They are responsible for their own safety.
- **Intermediate.** Users require a moderate level of specialised skills such as navigation. Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.
- **Advanced.** Users require a high degree of specialised skills such as navigation. Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.
- **Expert.** Users require previous experience in the outdoors and a high level of specialised skills such as navigation. Users will generally require a map and navigation equipment to complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.

#### Fitness Level

- **Low.** A low level of fitness is required. Grade is mostly flat.

- **Average.** An average level of fitness is required. Grade has some moderate inclines.

- **High.** A good level of fitness is required. Some steep inclines which may be sustained.

- **Endurance.** A high level of fitness is required. Regular steep inclines which may be sustained.

### Mountain Bike Track Classifications

For more information on mountain biking refer to the Forest Note 'FS0005 - Mountain Bike Riding in State Forest'

#### Skill Level

- **Basic.** Transition from bike path and road riding to bush/unsealed track. Dirt roads and possibly sealed sections.
- **Moderate.** Good opportunity to gain confidence and experience. Relatively wide tracks such as fire trails, often gravel of mixed surfaces.
- **Intermediate.** Required confidence and intermediate technical skills. Single dirt based track of varying widths. Expect rocky surfaces and obstacles.
- **Advanced.** Requires advanced technical skills with the majority of the track single width. Track surface rocky, loose and slippery when wet. Walking may be required.

#### Fitness Level

- **Low.** Basic fitness required to ride flat and undulating surfaces for 1-2 hours.
- **Average.** Moderate endurance required to cope with hills and ride duration of at least 2 hours.
- **High.** Well developed riding fitness. Able to handle long mountain climbs over varying terrains for extended periods.
- **Endurance.** Highly trained, race fit or high endurance. Highly developed muscular and cardiovascular systems.

### 4WD Track Classifications

For more information on four wheel driving refer to the Forest Note 'FS0017 - 4WD Touring Code'.

- **Easy.** Mostly unsealed roads. Suitable for novice drivers. Vehicles can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.

- **Medium.** Includes some sections of steep and/or rocky/slippy/sandy track sections. Possible water crossings. Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres. Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training, recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.
- **Hard.** Includes frequent steep and/or rocky/slippy/sandy track sections. Possible water crossings. Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres. Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training, to be done in groups of vehicles.
- **Expert.** Frequent steep and/or rocky/slippy/sandy track sections. Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for terrain. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.

## Horse Riding Track Classifications

For more information on horse riding refer to the Forest Note 'FS0004 - Horseriding in State Forest'.

- **Basic.** Well defined track with easy navigation, width 2m or more. The majority of the terrain is flat to low steepness with minimal number of road crossings. Suitable for novice riders.
- **Moderate.** Majority of track is defined, width generally 1.5m. Some steep terrain likely. Expect road and/or bridge crossings. Suitable for riders and horses with general experience.
- **Intermediate.** The track is generally defined, width mostly 1m. Some navigation skills required and sections of steep terrain on various surfaces. Recommended to be done in groups with riders and horses having good experience and fitness.
- **Advanced.** Challenging riding with several steep sections in remote areas, track surface often varied and uneven. Track not well defined and width less than 1m wide. May involve stream crossings and the need to dismount in some sections. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more experienced riders with navigation skills. Horse and rider require a high level of fitness.

## For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact the DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



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