

## Bikepacking Roots Route Rating Scale

### Physical difficulty:

1-2 – Relatively level riding

3-4 – Regular rolling terrain with sustained climbing

5-6 – Rugged terrain with frequent climbs, some of which may be steep and unrelenting

7-8 – Very rugged terrain with abundant climbing, some of which is very steep and unrideable

9-10 – Numerous very steep, climbs requiring bike-pushing and/or carrying

### Technical difficulty:

1-2 – Smooth riding surface with few obstacles (e.g., graded dirt roads, rail trails); suitable for novice mountain bikers

3-4 – Track has occasional obstacles and steep sections (e.g., maintained forest roads, mellow singletrack); suitable for beginner mountain bikers

5-6 – Continuous sections of track may be rocky, loose, and steep; (e.g., 4×4 roads or singletrack in rugged/rocky terrain) suitable for intermediate mountain bikers

7-8 – Narrow trail with regular obstacles, sustained steep grades; suitable for intermediate to advanced mountain bikers

9-10 – Very challenging riding with frequent large obstacles, exposure, very steep grades; suitable for advanced mountain bikers

## Bikepacking Roots Route Surface Type Definitions

**Paved** – Roads or rec paths suitable for bikes with <35mm (1.4”) tires

**Smooth gravel** – Unpaved roads or paths that aren’t rocky, sandy, or soft and on which bikes with >35mm (1.4”) tires are most suitable

**Rough gravel** – Unpaved roads or paths characterized by coarse gravel, washboards, or softer sections for which >50mm (2”) tires are most suitable (some riders may prefer mountain bikes over gravel bikes)

**4×4 roads** – Rough, rocky, rutted, and more technically challenging “roads” on which mountain bikes with >2.2” (55mm) tires are generally preferred (see also the “technical difficulty” rating)

**Singletrack** – Narrow, technical trails on which mountain bikes with >2.2” (55mm) tires are best suited (see also the “technical difficulty” rating)