



**DESIGN TIP—  
What's "feasible?"**

Using heavy construction equipment, it may be possible to provide a trail with a maximum 1:20 (5 percent) grade up a 1,500-foot (460-meter) mountain (figure 104). However, the trail would be about three times as long as under a traditional backcountry layout (figure 105), which could cause inappropriate environmental and visual impacts and more than triple the amount of ground disturbed. It wouldn't be feasible to construct an accessible trail in this situation.

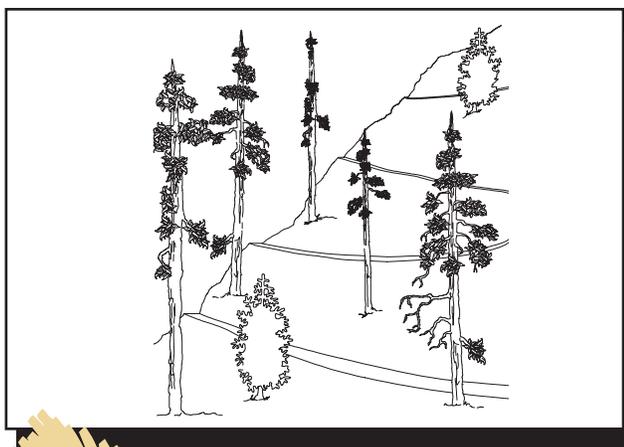


Figure 104—A 5-percent grade trail on a steep hill.

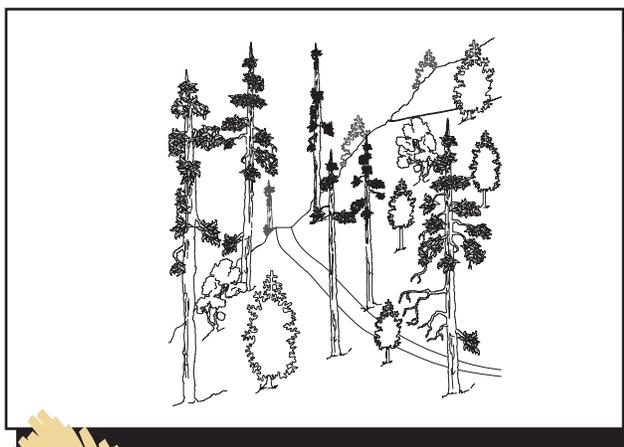


Figure 105—A traditional trail grade on a steep hill.

**Using the General Exceptions in the FSTAG**

Some public lands are reasonably well suited for hiking or pedestrian travel. Other public lands are rocky, soggy, excessively steep, or otherwise ill suited for foot traffic. Two general exceptions are provided in FSTAG section 7.1.2 to ensure that accessibility is provided where it will have the most benefit, be feasible, and provide a meaningful hiking opportunity. These general exceptions provide exemptions from the technical provisions for trails when environmental barriers are so severe or so numerous that a trail through an area can't be modified to meet the intent and objectives of an accessible hiking opportunity.

Where the general exceptions apply, the trail does not have to be accessible, except in two situations:

- A trail must always be accessible from either end to the first uncorrectable environmental barrier if the distance from the end of the trail to the barrier is more than 500 feet (152 meters) (figure 106).

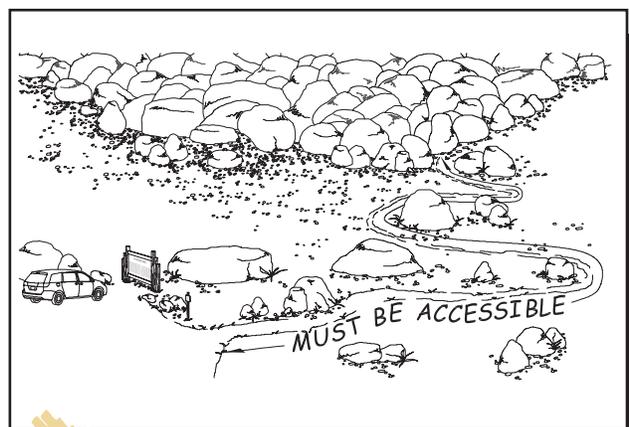


Figure 106—This trail section is over 500 feet (152 meters) long and must be accessible.