

USAFA – Manitou Experimental Forest (North) - Planner’s Notes for 28Aug Meet Use
Version Date: 2021.08.17

Course information:

- Red and Green are subsets of Blue plus some augmentation.
- Brown is +/- unique. At 115m climb over 3.7km, it is steeper than it should be, but just under ½ of the climb is gotten over with on the first leg. On the plus side, the first leg avoids a fence crossing.
- Orange is a little more challenging than in years past on this map, with some longer legs that will require good terrain reading. All controls on such legs, however, will have either clear backstops or very obvious attackpoints.
- Yellow is basically a slightly longer version of the White course. Both have taped sections to provide handrails on what would otherwise be Orange legs.
- Course specs:

Manitou North 2021

Course:	Length (km)	Climb (m)	Gradient	Num of Controls:	Water Controls	Fence Crossings
Blue	8.2	330	4.0%	20	3 plus mid-leg	0-2, per route choice
Red	6.6	255	3.9%	15	2 plus mid-leg	0-2, per route choice
Green	5.4	210	3.9%	12	1 plus mid-leg	1-2, per route choice
Brown	3.7	115	3.1%	9	1 plus mid-leg	none, per route choice
Orange	3.3	145	4.4%	9	2 (late in the course)	none, per route choice
Yellow	2.6	85	3.3%	9	1 mid leg	none
White	1.8	65	3.6%	7	1 mid leg	none

Other information:

- All maps will be printed in 1:10,000 scale, 5m contours.
- As mentioned in the Mappers Notes, a Green “X” denotes a standing dead or mostly dead tree. Groups of standing dead trees are not mapped except in cases where they are mapped in order to clarify 1-2 control locations on Blue, Red, and Green. Where a standing dead tree is the control feature, the clue sheet will show a tree symbol and the “ruined” symbol.
- There’s been a lot of rain on the map this year; the grass is high, the trees are healthy, and a lot of the bushy areas are pretty thick.
- The road in was graded in July and is in very good shape.
- There have been no cows on the course areas as of 16th Aug. If you do encounter cattle, however, please steer (?!) clear of them.
- Cell phone signal strength is so-so to nonexistent on this map. Carrying an emergency whistle will be required.

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IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTES:

- I have been told that there is one male black bear that resides on or visits this map. Making noise is the best way to not surprise wild animals and thereby avoid contact.
- Approximate or known locations of animal dens are mapped with a purple “X.” Keep an eye out for these on the map and do not linger nearby. A medium-sized example is very close to a Red/Blue control and enroute to a White/Yellow/Orange control.

FEEDBACK:

This is a brand-new map. I’ve added a lot of rock detail, a lot of veg detail (never complete or perfect...), and re-mapped trails and other man-made features. Feedback is anticipated and will be most welcome. Comments by email to galen.a.moore@gmail.com with an attached scan of your map marked to show where something needs to be tweaked is the preferred format. Verbal comments given during/right after the meet may not be well-remembered. 😊

100. Landforms

- Gullies with depth in the 0.5-1.0m range are mapped as 108 Erosion gully, small. Deeper gullies are now mapped as 107 Erosion gully.
- At the top end of some too-short-to-be-mapped erosion features there can be found what is a Small depression or Pit but for the open side where the erosion feature starts. Such cases are mapped as 111 Small depression or 112 Pit according to the steepness of the feature’s sides.
- The main E -> W streambeds (one near the north of the map, and one most of the way toward the bottom has sections that are difficult to cross or are uncrossable due to the steepness of the sides. The 104 Earth bank symbol (with or without tags) indicates impossible or very difficult to cross and 107 Erosion gully indicates difficult to cross. Sections of the streambed are complex and sometimes include Earth bank, Contour, Erosion Gully, Minor/seasonal water channel and veg features nearly atop each other. I have simplified through selective omission as much as possible.

200. Rocks

- Navigationally helpful, but sub-meter, boulders (technically not mappable), have been mapped with a slightly smaller boulder symbol.
- Groups of sub-meter boulders are mapped with a slightly smaller Boulder cluster symbol
- Two small instances of man-made rock wall have been mapped with Cliff (no tags) for legibility.

300. Water

- The E -> W streambed near the north edge of the map has recently had water flowing in sections of it, but it is small and easily crossable where vegetation allows.

400. Veg

- Prominent standing but dead or mostly dead trees are marked with 419 (green "X") Prominent veg feature.

- In some areas of the forest it is only 2m between trees and in other parts there is 10m or more between trees ('scattered,' practically). All such areas are mapped with 405 Forest. A few small areas of very dense forest have been marked using the 416 Distinct veg boundary symbol, has have some boundaries between tall, older forest and short, newer forest.

500. Man-made

- Features marked with the black "O" 530 Man-made feature include Culverts and other > +/- 1m water-related features.

- Features marked with the black "X" 531 Man-made feature symbol include: single fence post with a loop of wire, an old relic, and a utility box

- Lines of fence posts and lengths of downed fence wire are mapped with 517 Ruined fence.

- There are two trails that appear to have very little human use, but which are distinct in that they occupy a shelf cut decades ago the slope. These are mapped as 503 Small footpath.

- For some continuous, the symbols used changes to reflect the varying size and appearance of the trail. Several of the 'trails' are actually long abandoned and increasingly overgrown vehicle tracks.

- There is a length of 508 Narrow ride (overgrown, to degrees) near the north edge of the map that can be seen on some imagery and barely seen on the ground. There are several lengths of long abandoned and extremely faint roads mapped as 508 Narrow ride that are visible on imagery and barely visible on the ground (mostly only obvious by the linear deposition of wood laid down to discourage use). In both cases it might be better to omit them in future versions of the map.

- The several watersheds (low oblong buildings used in the past to measure runoff sediment) are mapped with the minimum-sized square for 521 Building.

600. Technical

- Magnetic North-south lines are shown in light blue.