***BCH Nevada, Bristlecone Chapter provided the following and I’ve made some New Mexican changes!***

***Here's the rating system I will use for trail rides that I schedule:(Based on Squaw Butte BCHM with a few changes to suit our terrain)***

1 = flat desert, sandy, wide open

2 = dirt roads or double track (surface conditions & traffic could be factors)

3 = single track with small stream crossing, rolling hills or small elevation changes, some short steeper slopes

4 = rocky areas, narrow spots, bridges, switchbacks, more elevation changes, physically challenging for horse

5 = step ups & downs, river crossing, steep hill siding, uneven surface, obstacles, rocky (some **Kodak** moments), steep switchbacks

6 = extreme trail, with route finding and hazards that could result in injury to rider or stock such as slick rock or shale. Lots of **Kodak** moments! (Leaders should never take you across an area that is not safe for horse and rider, but you do need to be able to listen and follow our direction)

 7 = We have a "Snowy River" and/or no whining allowed– These trails may not really be a trail and should be left out of group rides. Riders need to know the Basics as in...mounting and dismounting on the off' side, the horse should and needs to know to - stand quiet, possible front and/or hind quarter turns, side-pass, back up, maybe a small jump now and again, possible rollback here and there and more than likely 'Be prepared for all day fun 'cause usually there's - No Short cuts Out'.

Note: A “**Kodak** moment” is when a rider would rather look at the wild flowers up slope than keep their eyes on the trail where they are going, not because the flowers are so pretty but because doing the other makes them very uncomfortable. A good time to be riding a horse that is experienced and the rider trusts. Biggest thing is always be prepared for anything and be able to handle it. This goes for both rider and horse.