

TERRAIN

The desired vertical curve alignment for subdivision street design can be accommodated within most terrains. However, in very rugged areas where the terrain can be classified mountainous, some design exceptions may be allowed. Mountainous terrain is defined as terrain in which longitudinal and transverse changes in the elevation of the ground with respect to a roadway are abrupt, and where the roadbed is obtained by frequent benching or side hill excavation to obtain acceptable horizontal and vertical alignment. The slope, which means the rise and fall of the grade measured both parallel and perpendicular to the centerline of the roadway, generally ranges over 15%.

Geographical location should not be the determining factor in terrain classification. For example, a subdivision street in the Bristol District may or may not have land characteristics of mountainous terrain. Each subdivision should be reviewed individually. Mountainous terrain exceptions are noted on the Geometric Design Tables 1-3. The mountainous terrain classification may be used upon approval by the District Administrator's Designee.*

* Rev. 3/09