

SECTION 1: MASSACHUSETTS BORDER TO HARRIMAN DAM

SNAPSHOT:

One of the easiest portions of the CT to ski, most of this section follows an ungroomed old railroad bed. It runs along the scenic Deerfield River and includes a half-mile road walk. To reach the Massachusetts border, you must ski south from Harriman Station.

LENGTH: 8.0 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This is an easy section because it is flat. Allow extra time if you will be breaking trail after a significant snowfall. There is a short, steep climb up from the Deerfield River valley to the parking area at Harriman Dam, which can easily be walked.

NOTE: *Harriman Station and Harriman Dam are two different places. Rte. 100 is officially a north-south highway, but in this area it goes east-west.*

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north):

1. Harriman Station - Readsboro

From the village of Readsboro, take Rte. 100 North over a high bridge, and immediately turn right (south) on Depot St. To ski to Harriman Station, bear left just south of the houses (0.2 mi) on to Jarvis Hill Rd. Park at the hairpin turn near the bottom of Jarvis Hill Rd. This is the south end of the road walk; the CT south starts on an old road east of, and parallel to, Depot St. To drive to Harriman Station, head south on Depot St., which becomes Harriman Station Dr., to its end at a plowed parking area above Harriman Station, a hydroelectric plant. Park near the Catamount Trail Parking sign. Do not block buildings or gates.

2. Rte. 100- Readsboro

From the Rte. 100/Depot St. intersection in the village of Readsboro, take Rte. 100 North (toward Whitingham) 0.3 miles. The CT leaves the left (north) side of Rte. 100 (just past the southbound "Welcome to Readsboro" sign, on the right) at the far end of a 100' long break in the left guardrail. Look for the CT blazes. There is no winter parking here. You can park in Readsboro, or at a pullout (left) 0.1 miles north of Readsboro. The current homeowner discourages parking in front of the two houses just north of this access point.

3. Harriman Dam - Whitingham

From the village of Readsboro, take Rte. 100 North (toward Whitingham) 4.0 miles. Turn left (north) on Dam Rd. Or from the village of Whitingham, take Rte. 100 South (toward Readsboro) for 1.1 miles. Turn right (north) on Dam Rd. Follow Dam Rd. to the end of plowing and a parking lot adjacent to Harriman Dam. The Dam Rd. sign is often missing. Dam Rd. is just south of a crossing of the arm of Harriman Reservoir.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the Harriman Station parking lot (0.0), walk back a few hundred yards towards Readsboro to a trail entrance on the right. Ski to the roadbed and turn right to ski south along the old railroad bed. The railroad bed joins a private road, which may be plowed. Follow the road (you may need to walk this section) to the end of plowing, and through a gravel pit. Snowmobile traffic is possible here. When the snowmobile trails heads left up a hill, stay along the river on a skier-only railroad bed trail to the MA border (1.8) indicated by a granite marker on the river side of the trail. ***South of the Massachusetts state line is Private Property, not open to the public. Please do not proceed past this point.*** Heading north, from the border, retrace your route along the east side of the Deerfield River, then stay on the railroad bed when you come to the parking access side trail.

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The Trail crosses Harriman Station Drive twice, ending at the south end of the road walk at the hairpin turn on Jarvis Hill Road. Walk downhill (left) on Jarvis Hill Rd., north on Harriman Station Rd. and Depot St., and turn right (east, northbound) on Rte. 100. Walk 0.3 miles along Rte. 100 to the far end of a break in the guardrail on the left (5.1)(Access Point 2). Ski down an old road toward the Deerfield River, then ski along the riverbank on an old road, regaining the old railroad bed that follows the east bank of the river. There are two small gullies here that might require bushwhacking to the road to bypass in low snow conditions. Cross Tobey Brook (5.6) on a bridge built in 2002 for the CTA by US Generating Company (now TransCanada), the operator of the hydropower facilities along the Deerfield River.

Follow the CT on an ungroomed, skier-only railroad bed along the Deerfield River until you reach a power line clearing, and then follow a snowmobile trail up a steep slope for about 150 yards. (If southbound, the turnoff to the CT from the snowmobile trail under the power lines is easy to miss - watch for blazes.) The Trail turns sharply left at the top of the climb, following a logging road for a short distance through the gate to the Harriman Dam parking area (8.0) (Access Point 3).

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Harriman Station	8.0
1.8	MA Border	6.2
3.6	Harriman Station	4.4
5.1	Opening in guard rail	2.9
5.6	Tobey Brook	2.4
8.0	Harriman Dam parking	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

No side trails or loops have been identified for this section of the CT.