

CATAMOUNT TRAIL SECTION 26: ROUTE 15 TO WILEY BROOK

SNAPSHOT:

This section is characterized by gently hilly terrain. The southern half is mostly an ungroomed backcountry trail, while much of the northern half follows VAST snowmobile corridors. Traffic may be heavy on weekends.

LENGTH: 9.3 miles

NOTE: *Just north of Wiley Brook, where the northbound Trail turns east toward Craftsbury, a spur trail continues 1.6 miles north, terminating at East Hill Rd.*

DIFFICULTY:

This section requires an intermediate level of technical skills. Most of the hills are wide and moderate in slope, and snow is generally packed/groomed on the snowmobile corridors. A steep but wide-open hill 400 yards south of Sand Hill Rd is a scenic spot for telemark practice. Bail-out points are available at Sand Hill Rd., Garfield Rd., and East Hill Rd.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Route 15 – Wolcott

From the junction of Rte. 15 and 15A in Morrisville, go east 3 miles on Rte. 15. Parking is available at Cleveland Cedar Products on the north side of Rte. 15, about 0.75 miles west of the Corley Road/North Wolcott Rd. crossing of Route 15. Please check in at the office before parking to be sure the car isn't in the way. If no one is in the office, park at the west side of the parking lot, keeping your vehicle parallel to Rte. 15. This will keep the center of the lot clear for truck deliveries. The CT crosses Rte. 15 seventy-five yards east of this parking lot. To ski north follow a driveway between the Wadel family farmhouse and the Mennonite Church.

2. Stevens Lane/Garfield Rd. – Hyde Park

From Rte. 14 in Craftsbury, head southwest on North Wolcott Rd. After 0.7 miles, turn right (west) on Hatchbrook Rd. Go about 3.4 miles and turn left (southwest) on Garfield Rd. Go about 1.6 miles and turn right (north) on Stevens Lane. There is room for one or two cars to park in the first driveway on Stevens Lane. Avoid parking in front of the garage or blocking the rest of the driveway. If there is no room at Stevens Lane continue about .4 miles southwest on Garfield Road and park at a pull-off on the right (west) side of the road.

Alternatively, from the intersection of Rtes. 15 and 15A in Morristown go 0.2 miles east on Rte. 15 and turn left (north) on Garfield Rd. Go about 2.8 miles, then turn right (east) at an intersection, remaining on Garfield Rd. for another 2.5 miles. Turn left (north) on Stevens Lane.

3. East Hill (Eden Mountain) Rd. - Eden

From Rte. 14 in Craftsbury, head southwest on North Wolcott Rd. After 0.45 miles, take the first right on Merrill Loop, then immediately go right again on Collinsville Rd. From Merrill Loop, follow Collinsville Rd. 1.4 miles north and turn left (west) on Eden Mountain Rd. Follow Eden Mountain Rd. 2.5 miles to the CT spur trailhead where limited parking for two to three cars is available. (As you go west from Craftsbury to Eden, Eden Mountain Rd. becomes East Hill Rd.)

Alternatively, from the intersection of Rtes. 15 and 15A in Morristown go 3.9 miles east on Rte. 15 and turn left on North Wolcott Rd. Take North Wolcott Rd. about 8 miles north, almost to Rte. 14 in Craftsbury. Turn left on Merrill Loop, then immediate left on Collinsville Rd. Follow directions from Merrill Loop above.

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Alternatively, from Rte. 15 in Johnson or Hyde Park, take, respectively, Rte. 100C or Rte. 100 north for 10 miles to Eden Mills. Turn right (east) on East Hill Rd. Go about two miles until you see Square Rd. on the left. Continue past Square Rd. on East Hill Rd. for about 200 yards to the top of the hill and CT spur trailhead on the south side of the road.

**Limited parking is available along the side of East Hill Rd. near the CT spur trailhead.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From **Rte. 15 (0.0)** the Trail heads north on a driveway about seventy-five yards east of Cleveland Cedar Products and just east of a tall, cedar hedge between the Mennonite Church and the Wadel family farmhouse. (This is about three miles east of the intersection of Rtes. 15 and 15A, and about 0.75 miles west of the Corley Rd./N. Wolcott Rd. intersection with Rte. 15.) Ski north on the driveway and a farm road for about 300 yards to a gate.

From the gate, ski northeast uphill through evergreen woods, crossing a logging road. After the Trail levels out, turn left (northwest) at a T with a VAST snowmobile trail and continue northwest when the VAST trail splits to the northeast. Emerge on (plowed) **Jones Lane (2.2)** for 0.2 miles until turning left (west) uphill into woods. Rejoin the VAST trail briefly, and then exit right (north) into woods and emerge in a field. For the best view on this section detour 50 yards uphill to the right to the top of the field. To follow the Trail, ski northeast down a wide open telemark hill and across a stream in some trees. Ski to the left (west) of an abandoned schoolhouse and then north in a field toward a gate at the northeast corner of the field. Turn left (north) on unplowed Ledge Rd. Rejoin the VAST trail that bears right (north) and then goes steeply downhill to a T intersection with another VAST trail. Turn left (west-northwest), climb steeply, and then wind past a series of ponds to **Garfield Rd. (5.1)**.

Cross Garfield Rd onto Stevens Lane. Veer left (west) across an open field to an intersection with Patnoe Farm Rd. Follow Patnoe Farm Rd briefly, bearing right (north) on an old logging road at a small shed. Continue downhill to Green River Reservoir and then past a large beaver pond until you reach the VAST trail. Head left on the VAST trail and follow it to the north. At the next VAST fork continue to your right (northeast). Continue skiing north on the VAST trail to just past the **Wiley Brook Bridge (9.3)**, where this section of the CT ends. A spur (exit) trail continues 1.6 miles straight ahead (north), ending at East Hill (Eden Mountain) Rd. To continue northbound on the next section of the CT, turn right (east) off the snowmobile about 75 yards north of the Wiley Brook Bridge. Be attentive to the blazing, as the turn off to the right is subtle.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Rte. 15	9.3
2.2	Jones Lane	7.1
5.1	Garfield Rd.	4.2
6.3	First VAST fork	3.0
9.3	Wiley Brook Bridge	0.0
(10.9	East Hill (Eden Mountain) Rd.	-1.6)

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

The 1.6-mile spur trail from East Hill Rd. (Eden Mountain Rd.) provides access to the CT at Wiley Brook.