

## **SECTION 10: HEALDVILLE/BUTTERMILK FALLS TO PATCH BROOK ROAD/LAKE NINEVAH**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This tour was rerouted off VAST trails in summer 2011 and is now entirely a backcountry trail between Buttermilk Falls and Patch Brook Road. A steep, switch-backing ascent heading north from old Route 103 west of Buttermilk Falls turns to more rolling terrain through mixed hard and soft wood forests, much of it on old logging roads. The trail crosses a power line (great for southbound turns in the right conditions), skirts beautiful Tiny Pond, and then contours around Tiny Mountain en route to Patch Brook Road.

***NOTE: The connection between Healdville Station and Buttermilk Falls is currently a road walk along Station Road and Route 103. The CTA is scouting for an alternative to this roadwalk for through skiers. If you do not feel compelled to ski/walk every inch of the Trail, we recommend avoiding this walk and simply skiing between Buttermilk Falls and Patch Brook Road.***

**LENGTH:** 7.8 miles (5.8 miles from Buttermilk Falls to Ninevah/Patchbrook Road)

### **DIFFICULTY:**

This section is intermediate with a few difficult sections. Just north of old Route 103 there are a few steep slopes and sharp turns. Under icy or thin snow conditions, these steep sections require climbing skins or advanced descent skills. Otherwise the terrain is rolling. Northbound travel is recommended for those who prefer steep ascents to steep descents.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):**

#### **1. Healdville - Mt. Holly**

From the Rte. 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) take Rte. 103 northwest for 2.8 miles. Turn left (south) onto Station Rd and follow it for 0.6 miles to railroad tracks. Cross the tracks and the summer parking area is on your left. The southbound Section 9 trailhead at the far end of the unplowed parking area is just past a VT FPR bulletin Board. Parking is extremely limited here. If the road is plowed up to the closed bridge to your right, several cars can be stationed along the edge of the road.

#### **2. Buttermilk Falls Road - Ludlow**

From the Rte. 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) go approximately 0.3 miles northwest on Rte. 103. Take a right onto Buttermilk Falls Road, almost directly across from Okemo Ridge Road, the entrance to Jackson Gore. Follow Buttermilk Falls Road 1.5 miles to the end of plowing. Please park well up against one side of the road, in single file, to allow room for plows to maneuver.

#### **3. Patch Brook Road - Plymouth**

From the Rte. 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) go 3.4 miles northwest on Rte. 103. Just west of Harry's Cafe and Healdville Rd, turn right (north) onto Shunpike Rd. Shunpike Rd. turns sharply left almost immediately. Follow it 0.6 miles west to a fork in the road. Stay on Shunpike Rd. (right fork) another 0.7 miles to the junction with Lake Ninevah Rd. Turn right onto Lake Ninevah Rd. which, after about 2 miles, turns sharply right and becomes Patch Brook Rd. Follow it to the intersection with Townsend Barn/Sawyer Hill Road. Park efficiently to one side of Patch Brook Road leaving a clear lane of travel. Do not block the unplowed portion of Patch Brook Rd where it continues east, as it receives significant snowmobile use.

***NOTE: Patchbrook Road from Dublin Road to Lake Ninevah is not plowed in winter. Sawyer Hill Road is not plowed all the way through from Route 103 to Patch Brook Rd in winter.***

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### ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From **Healdville (0.0)** follow Station Road to Route 103 (0.8). Head east on Route 103 for 0.8 miles to an old highway pull out on the north side of the road. Continue 0.1 miles past the pullout to old Route 103 (unplowed, no longer in use by vehicles & skiable) heading north of the highway (1.7). Follow old Route 103 another 0.3 miles to where the CT turns north steeply uphill(2.0).

From the parking at the end of plowing on **Buttermilk Falls Road**, follow the unplowed road over a berm across an old bridge and along the old road until the CT turns right/north up a steep hill.

Head steeply uphill along an old logging road and follow the blazes to cross an open power line. Follow the CT blazes into the woods and up a series of switchbacks. At the top of the switchbacks, the CT joins another logging road and travels more gently to the east. At a T-intersection with a wider logging road, the trail turns sharply north/left and continues uphill to a second power line. Turn west/northwest on the power line and follow it uphill for approximately 0.25 miles. Keep an eye out for CT blazes on stakes so you don't miss the next turn on the opposite side of the power line. Turn north (right) off the **Second Power line (3.8)** and follow CT blazes into the woods. Continue through rolling hardwoods carefully following the blazes, as there are multiple logging roads leading in various directions. Make a sharp turn to the east (right) just south of **Forest Echo Farm (4.9)** and contour below the farm barn and fields. You will exit the woods into a small open meadow. Continue straight across the open area and back into the woods, eventually reaching another **Wide Logging Road (5.5)**. Tiny Pond is to your east/right. There is a trail that leads from the wide logging road southeast to the pond. It is marked by a small sign. Turn east/right and follow the logging road to begin the ski around the east side of Tiny Mountain. Once you reach the height of land, you will make a few quick turns and descents on a narrower trail before climbing gradually back to a broad logging road. Follow the logging road downhill/west to Sawyer Hill road. Turn north on Sawyer Hill Road and cross the bridge to the junction with **Patch Brook Road (7.8)**.

### DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Healdville Parking	7.8
2.0	Buttermilk Falls	5.8
3.8	Second Powerline	4.0
4.9	Forest Echo Farm	2.9
5.5	Wide Logging Road	2.3
7.8	Patch Brook Road	0.0

### SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

There is a short side trail from the **Wide Logging Road** to the very pretty northwestern shore of Tiny Pond.