

SECTION 11: NINEVAH FOUR CORNERS TO TIN SHANTY

SNAPSHOT:

This is a mostly wilderness section running over Round Top and Burnt Mountains through hardwood forest. There are many excellent views.

LENGTH: 11.5 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This is a challenging section with several short, difficult stretches, which are steep and narrow. Take climbing skins, particularly for the ascent (and possibly the descent) of Burnt Mountain and Round Top.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Ninevah Four Corners - Plymouth

From the Rte. 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) travel 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 its junction with Lake Ninevah Rd. Turn right onto Lake Ninevah Rd. (which, after about 2 miles, becomes Patch Brook Rd.) and follow it 2.2 miles to Ninevah Four Corners. Park on Patch Brook Rd. where it widens out 100 yards or so east of Ninevah Four Corners. From Ninevah Four Corners the CT heads north on a road that is sometimes plowed for a short distance.

2. Round Top Road - Plymouth

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 100A in Plymouth Union go north on Rte. 100 for 0.5 miles and turn left (west) on Round Top Rd., or from the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 4 in West Bridgewater go south 4.8 miles and turn right (west) on Round Top Rd. The junction of Round Top Rd. and unplowed Old Plymouth Rd. is 0.9 miles west of Route 100 at a hairpin turn. Ski west 0.5 miles on Old Plymouth Rd. to intersect the CT.

3. Old Plymouth Rd. - Plymouth

From North Shrewsbury, follow Old Plymouth Rd. east approximately 0.6 miles to the winter parking lot at the end of the plowing. Ski east another 1.9 miles on the unplowed portion of Old Plymouth Rd. (also a snowmobile corridor) to where the snowmobile trail bears left (north) through a large clearing and Old Plymouth Rd. continues straight into the woods. Follow Old Plymouth Rd. another 0.3 miles east to join the CT just west of Great Roaring Brook.

4. Tin Shanty - Shrewsbury

From the former W.E. Pierce Grocery Store in North Shrewsbury take the CCC Rd. north 1.1 miles to a fork in the road. Bear left on Tin Shanty Rd. and continue north another 0.5 miles to a small house on the left with a "Tin Shanty Camp" sign in the front window, where there is very limited parking. Ski north on the now unplowed road 0.3 miles to a trail junction. The CT and VAST Corridor 7 head both north and south from this trail junction.

NOTE: The CCC Rd. between Tin Shanty and Route 100 is not plowed in winter.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From **Ninevah Four Corners (0.0)** the CT heads north up a dirt road (sometimes plowed for a short distance). The Trail passes a sand pit on the left (west) and soon leaves the road turning left (west). It crosses a brook (bridge) then shortly joins the **Flying Cloud Trail (0.5)**, a blue-blazed hiking trail, which it follows mostly north toward **Round Top Mountain (3.8)**. This is the site of the former Round Top Ski Area, now known as the Bear Creek Mountain Club. Along the way, please pause to appreciate the two replacement bridges built with the help of UVM students in 2007. The descent from Round Top to **Old Plymouth Rd. (4.7)** is steep and narrow in places - use caution. Go left (west) on Old Plymouth Rd. to where it crosses **Great Roaring Brook (5.1)** on a bridge constructed with the help of University of Vermont students in 2001. (If you head east you will reach Round Top Rd., a good bail-out point, in about 0.5 miles.)

Just past the Great Roaring Brook bridge the Trail turns sharply right and heads north uphill through an old clear-cut. The Trail shortly enters woods on the right (east) side of the clear cut and soon joins a logging road, which it follows until it rejoins the **Flying Cloud Trail (5.6)** on the southeast slope of Burnt Mountain. The Trail climbs steeply up the east slope of Burnt Mt. (great views) and soon joins a logging road. It follows the logging road, descending steeply north and west to a **log landing (8.4)**. About a half mile west of the log landing, the CT joins VAST corridor #7 at a second log landing. At the second log landing, turn left (west), leaving VAST, and follow a reclaimed skid road uphill into the woods.

The CT continues west along a gentle grade through open hardwoods, keeping a broad wetland to the southwest. The Trail turns towards the north and gradually ascends about 150 feet. Pass through a stand of conifers and a small open meadow before reaching the **CCC road (10.0)**. The stone chimney of an old caretaker's cabin is a notable landmark. From the chimney, head east about a quarter mile on an old ski trail to VAST #7. Go left (north) on the snowmobile trail. At the next intersection, turn left (west) and climb steeply on the snowmobile trail. Then descend a **short hill to an intersection (10.8)**. Here, the CT leaves the VAST corridor and continues west through hardwoods towards Brewers Corner. To reach Tin Shanty parking area, go left (south) at the intersection and follow the VAST trail to **Tin Shanty Jct. (11.5)**. Continue South 0.3 miles to Tin Shanty Parking.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0	Ninevah Four Corners	11.5
0.5	Flying Cloud Trail	11.0
3.8	Round Top Mountain	7.7
4.7	Old Plymouth Rd.	6.8
5.1	Great Roaring Brook Bridge	6.4
5.6	Flying Cloud Trail	5.9
8.4	Log landing	3.1
10.0	CCC Rd.	1.5
10.8	Short Hill to Intersection	0.7
11.5	Tin Shanty Jct.	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

The unplowed portion of the CCC Rd. and the various snowmobile trails in this area provide opportunities for some loops and side trail exploration.