

SECTION 15: ROUTE 73 TO WIDOW'S CLEARING TRAIL

SNAPSHOT:

The old CT in Goshen on the power line right-of-way between Rte. 73 and Flora White Rd. is no longer maintained as CTA has identified a preferable route within the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF). This new route is well flagged with pink surveyor's tape but has not been cleared or marked with blue, paw-print blazes, pending US Forest Service approval of the route.

Between FR 224 and Widow's Clearing Trail, the CT follows the delightful, scenic, groomed trails of Blueberry Hill Inn and X-C Ski Center.

LENGTH: 9.9 miles

DIFFICULTY:

The first third of this section is difficult because it is narrow and winding. The trail is marked with pink flagging but has not yet been cleared. There are several un-bridged, tricky gullies. Ski this stretch only if you are confident of your skiing and way-finding abilities. The rest of the route, on the groomed Blueberry Hill trails, traverses gently rolling terrain and is easy skiing.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Rte. 73 - Goshen

From Goshen Four Corners go 1.3 miles east on Rte. 73 to a widening of the plowed shoulder of the road. There is enough room to parallel park several cars on the south side of the road. You can also park in the Long Trail parking area on the south side of Rte. 73 another 0.5 miles to the east. From the wide shoulder, walk back down (west) on Rte. 73 about 0.4 miles. The northbound CT climbs steeply up a log road from Rte. 73.

2. Blueberry Hill Ski Center - Goshen

Blueberry Hill Inn is located on the Goshen-Ripton Rd. (FR 32) between Rtes. 73 and 125. From the village of Goshen go north approximately three miles on Carlisle Hill Rd., which becomes the Goshen-Ripton Rd.

From the village of Ripton head east on Rte. 125 for approximately one mile. Turn right (south) on FR 32 and go approximately five miles.

3. Widow's Clearing Trail Parking Area - Ripton

From the village of Ripton head east on Rte. 125 for approximately one mile. Turn right (south) on FR 32 and go 1.8 miles. The parking area is on the left (east side) of the road. From the parking area, follow the Widow's Clearing Trail approximately 0.6 miles south and then east to join the CT.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the widened shoulder of Rte. 73, walk downhill (west) on Rte. 73 about 0.4 miles and look for CT blazes heading off to the right (northwest) on a steep logging road (0.0). Follow the winding logging road uphill to a power line right-of-way. Instead of following the power line ROW northwest, leave the power line at pole #180 (0.3) and veer right (north) uphill into the woods, following the pink flagging. This new route winds along the western edge of the GMNF, at times following old skid trails and log roads to reach Flora White Rd. There are two tricky stream gullies to cross and a few other minor stream crossings.

Emerge from the GMNF onto Flora White Rd. (2.7). Turn right (north) on Flora White Road to the intersection with FR 224 (2.9). Turn right (northeast) on FR 224 and ski gently uphill to the intersection with Blueberry Hill X-C Ski Center's Trail #25, the Hogback Trail (3.4). Turn left (north) and follow Blueberry Hill Trails 25, 29, 15, 11, 7, and 3 to the Inn. Cross the Goshen-Ripton Rd. to reach the Blueberry Hill X-C Ski Center (4.9) and parking area. Check in to pick up a map, buy a snack, and pay the appropriate trail fee.

To continue north on the CT from the Blueberry Hill Ski Center, follow trails 5, 9, 35, 37, 39, 41, and 43 on Blueberry Hill's X-C map. Start by crossing to the east side of the Goshen-Ripton Rd. and picking up the Stewart Trail behind the Inn. Follow the Stewart Trail until it meets the Sucker Brook Trail at a T intersection. Turn left (west) on Sucker Brook Trail. At the next T turn right (north) onto the Horseshoe Trail (6.9), which is shared with snowmobiles. Ski along the west side of Sugar Hill Reservoir and then, after crossing the dam, turn left (northwest), continuing on Horseshoe Trail, but leaving the snowmobile trail. Horseshoe Trail makes a hairpin turn in the "Horseshoe Clearing" and then heads west toward FR 32 (8.6). Do not continue out onto FR 32, but turn right (north) to follow the Dave and Carol Smith Trail to the end of Blueberry Hill's groomed trail network and the Widow's Clearing Trail (9.3). Turn left and ski approximately 0.6 miles west and then north to the Widow's Clearing Trail Parking Area on FR32.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Rte. 73/ logging road junction	9.9
0.3	Power Pole #180	9.6
2.7	Flora White Rd.	7.2
2.9	FR 224	7.0
3.4	Hogback Trail	6.5
4.9	Blueberry Hill X-C Ski Center	5.0
6.9	Horseshoe Trail	3.0
8.6	FR 32/ Smith Trail	1.3
9.9	Widow's Clearing Trail	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

Blueberry Hill Inn and X-C Ski Center maintains an extensive network of groomed ski trails. Stop in at the ski center for a map and pay the appropriate fee. Churchill House Inn (802- 247-3078) in Goshen maintains a network of ski trails that connect to the Blueberry Hill trails. Either inn can provide more information on this connection and can facilitate an inn-to-inn ski.