

SECTION 15: ROUTE 73 TO WIDOW'S CLEARING TRAIL

SNAPSHOT:

The CT in Goshen between Rte. 73 and Flora White Rd now follows a rolling backcountry route within the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF). 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: 10.1 miles

DIFFICULTY:

The first third of this section has a few intermittent streams/gullies to cross that require good ski control. It is recommended for intermediate and advanced skiers. 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. Turn left (northwest) and follow the ROW a short distance north before crossing to the east (right) side of the powerline and entering the woods. The CT follows gentle grades through these hardwoods, linking in places with old skid roads. Take a sharp turn to the west (left), leave the logging road and descend to a **Steep Sided Stream Crossing (1.7)**. From here you begin a meandering descent to **Flora White Road (3.0)**. Exit the woods and walk or ski north along Flora White Road to **FR 224 (3.2)**.

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 (3.7)**. 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 (5.1)** 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 (7.1)**, 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

SECTION 15: ROUTE 73 TO WIDOW'S CLEARING TRAIL

then heads west toward FR 32. 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 (10.1)**. 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 Jct	10.1
1.7	Steep Sided Stream Crossing	8.4
3.0	Flora White Rd.	7.1
3.2	FR 224	6.9
3.7	Hogback Trail	6.4
5.1	Blueberry Hill X-C Ski Center	5.0
7.1	Horseshoe Trail	3.0
10.1	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.