

## **SECTION 2: HARRIMAN DAM TO ROUTE 9**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This section offers a very beautiful and almost entirely level ski along the shore of Harriman Reservoir and the Deerfield River.

**LENGTH:** 10.1 miles

### **DIFFICULTY:**

This is an easy, nearly level ski, with a few short climbs that can be walked if needed. The first mile is shared with snowmobiles. There are no intermediate access points for the first seven miles along this section, so allow plenty of time to ski this section.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL**

#### **ACCESS POINTS (south to north):**

##### **1. Harriman Dam - Whitingham**

From the village of Readsboro, take Rte. 100 North (toward Whitingham) 4.0 miles. Turn left (north) on Dam Rd. Or from the village of Whitingham, take Rte. 100 South (toward Readsboro) for 1.1 miles. Turn right (north) on Dam Rd. Follow Dam Rd. to the end of plowing and a parking lot adjacent to Harriman Dam. The Dam Rd. sign is often missing. Dam Rd. is just south of a crossing of the arm of Harriman Reservoir.

##### **2. Medburyville South - Wilmington**

From Wilmington, take Rte. 9 approximately 3 miles west. Turn left (south) on Woods Rd. and take the bridge over the river. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left (east) at the T, and follow the road to the end of plowing. Look for a Catamount Trail caution sign on the river side of the road. Do not block driveways or park in signed "No Parking" areas. Park here at your own risk, especially when plow trucks might be working.

##### **3. Medburyville North - Wilmington**

From Wilmington, take Rte. 9 approximately 3 miles west. Turn left (south) on Woods Rd. and take the bridge over the river. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right (west) at the T on New England Power Rd. and follow it to a small parking area near a small white barn and a substation. Do not block gates or driveways. The CT crosses the road here near a large pine tree. The trail on the barn side (north side) of the road is southbound, and vice versa.

##### **4. Rte. 9 - Searsburg**

Approximately 4 miles west of Wilmington turn right off Rte. 9 onto Lund Lane, a paved, "No Outlet" road. Drive in 0.5 mile and park in a plowed cul-de-sac. To ski south on the CT, climb up the bank and cross Rte. 9, walk eastbound, cross the Deerfield River on the highway bridge and then start skiing in the clearing on the right side of the road. The state does not allow blazes along the highway, so look along the edge of the woods for blazes.

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From the Harriman Dam parking area (0.0) the CT goes through a gate in the fence, crosses the dam and follows an old railroad bed along the west side of Harriman Reservoir. Initially it shares a snowmobile trail. At a four-way junction (1.8) the CT continues straight ahead, leaving the snowmobile trail. The Trail winds along the shore and crosses several streams including Graves (3.1) and Wilder Brooks (4.0) on bridges. At both stream crossings the Trail leaves the old railroad grade briefly. The grades here are steeper than the railroad bed, but the steep parts are

short and can be walked if needed.

After Wilder Brook Bridge (narrow, with high railings), the Trail turns right and gradually climbs an old logging road. After approximately 100 yards the CT turns right (east) off of the logging road into the woods. Soon the Trail regains the railroad grade and turns left (north). After skiing through a large rock cut, the Trail comes to a log landing and rejoins an unplowed road that is also used by snowmobiles. Follow the unplowed road north, eventually passing several camps (6.3), and then make the long gradual descent to the north end of the reservoir. Ski through the TransCanada picnic area (7.3) and continue north on the picnic area access road until you reach the end of plowing (7.8) south of Medburyville (Access Point 2).

Just north of end of plowing on Woods Rd. turn right to go down a steep bank (CAUTION!). Immediately turn left to cross a small, unbridged stream. Climb and follow a gravel spine beside a beaver pond. Cross another unbridged stream to a hayfield. (This stream is about two feet deep, and is not crossable if not frozen. Walk Woods Rd. from the end of plowing to the Woods Rd./Deerfield River bridge instead.) Ski the hayfield to the far (northwest) end, going up a farm road to return to Woods Rd. Turn right (north) and walk 50 yards along Woods Rd., and take New England Power Rd. at the intersection (8.2). Do not cross the bridge over the river.

Walk 50 yards to the top of a short hill on New England Power Rd. Begin skiing again on the right with a short descent to the riverbank. The Trail crosses two small, unbridged streams into an abandoned orchard. Follow a power line clearing west to the Searsburg Barn (8.5)(Access Point 3), cross New England Power Rd., and climb an old logging road to another power line.

Turn right and ski above Searsburg Station on a terrace provided by the power company. Then descend to a service road. (This terrace is narrow and steep in one place, and is not advisable under icy conditions. The only way around is via Rte. 9 to the Lund Lane cul-de-sac.) Ski the service road (unplowed) about 0.25 miles to a clearing and junction. Go straight to a bridge across Medbury Brook. Follow the transmission line and railroad grade west along the river. At a large boulder on the left, turn left to follow the Trail to a bridge over an unnamed brook. Follow the CT back to Rte. 9 (9.9). Then follow the clearing along the edge of the highway westbound (keeping Rte. 9 on your right). Walk westbound along Rte. 9, crossing the Deerfield River on a highway bridge (the middle of three bridges here). After the bridge, cross to the north side of Rte. 9 and climb over the snowbank and down to the Lund Lane cul-de-sac (10.1).

#### **DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Harriman Dam parking	10.1
1.8	Four-way junction	8.3
3.1	Graves Brook Bridge	7.0
4.0	Wilder Brook Bridge	6.1
6.3	Camps	3.8
7.3	Picnic area	2.8
7.8	End of plowing	2.3
8.2	New England Power Rd.	1.9
8.5	Searsburg Barn	1.6
9.9	Rte. 9	0.2
10.1	Lund Lane cul-de-sac	0.0

**SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:**

Several snowmobile trails lead east from the Trail to the shore of the reservoir. As you travel north, these side trails get progressively steeper and narrower, but all provide interesting shoreline access.