

SECTION 29: LOWELL VILLAGE TO ROUTE 58 (MONTGOMERY)

SNAPSHOT:

This section of the CT features a gradual climb from Lowell Village through fields and forest to the strikingly scenic Hazen's Notch, followed by a long, gradual descent to the end of plowing on Rte. 58 in Montgomery. Much of this section has been rerouted off of snowmobile trails. Several portions follow the historic Bayley-Hazen Military Road. For roughly a mile on the Lowell side of the Notch, the Trail is located on the unplowed shoulder of Rte. 58. In Hazen's Notch itself, the CT shares the VAST corridor but it is very wide (unplowed Rte. 58) so avoiding snowmobiles is not a problem.

LENGTH: 9.0 miles

DIFFICULTY:

Most of this section is easy to intermediate. For the most part the terrain is gentle and much of the Trail is located on old roads, the unplowed shoulder of current roads, or a groomed VAST corridor. However, the first portion of the route - the descent to the Missisquoi River bridge - is narrow, twisty, and steep and is shared with snowmobiles. If it is at all icy take off your skis and walk down to the bridge. Snowmobile traffic is much heavier on weekends than on weekdays but stay alert for snowmobiles and be prepared to get out of their way.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS: (south to north)

***NOTE:** Rte. 58 through Hazen's Notch (between Lowell and Montgomery) is closed to cars in winter.*

1. Rte. 100 - Lowell

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell go 1.0 mile north to the Lowell town office on the left (west) side of Rte. 100. Park at the town office or at the Lowell Elementary School, which is immediately south of the town office. To ski north follow the CT blazes north along the west side of Rte. 100 to join a snowmobile trail heading left (west) and downhill to cross the Missisquoi River.

2. Rte. 58/Mines Rd. - Lowell

From the intersections of Rtes. 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell go 1.25 miles west on Rte. 58 to the intersection with Mines Road. Park carefully along the snow bank near the intersection, making sure your vehicle is visible from all directions. Walk a few hundred yards south on Mines Rd. or a few hundred yards east on Rte. 58 to access the CT.

3. Hazen's Notch - Lowell

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell, go 4.2 miles northwest on Rte. 58 to the end of plowing at the intersection with Monteith Rd. Park so as not to block snowplows or snowmobiles. The CT heads northwest into Hazen's Notch and southeast back toward the village of Lowell along the shoulder of Rte. 58.

4. Rte. 58 - Montgomery

From the intersection of Rtes. 118 and 58 in the village of Montgomery Center, go 3.8 miles east on Rte. 58 past the Hazen's Notch Association (HNA) Nordic Ski Center and past the intersection with Amidon Rd. to the end of plowing. Park on the side of the logging road, which is also a

snowmobile trail and the CT. DO NOT PARK IN THE SNOW PLOW TURN-AROUND. DO NOT BLOCK ACCESS FOR THE LOGGING TRUCKS. To head south on the CT, ski east on the unplowed portion of Rte. 58 (also a snowmobile corridor) toward Hazen's Notch.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From the Lowell Town Office (0.0) on Rte. 100, the Trail follows VAST Corridor #100C north through a field and then west into the woods to a bridge over the Missisquoi River (0.9). This stretch of Trail is winding and steep so be on the alert for snowmobiles and be prepared to get out of their way. Cross the river and immediately turn left (south) off the snowmobile trail. The CT follows a logging road that parallels the river and then enters an open field. Continue straight across the field and then re-enter the woods heading west and climbing gradually on another logging road. The Trail crosses a stream (CAUTION!) and continues a gradual, winding climb to the west. After a short steep climb, the Trail reaches a large field. Turn left and follow the edge of the field and cross Rte. 58. Go down an embankment and through evergreen woods to come out into a field and a power line. Turn right and follow the power line west to Mines Rd. (2.2).

Cross Mines Rd. onto a driveway that leads uphill to the old Bayley-Hazen Military Road. Climb gradually with stonewalls on either side to an intersection with a VAST trail (2.7). Just beyond this intersection, the CT leaves the snowmobile trail, going left (south) over a stonewall, and into the woods. Continue south through evergreen woods, cross another power line right of way, and re-enter the woods as the Trail begins to climb and turn to the west and south. After a climb through a hardwood forest the Trail turns right (north) to follow a logging road (3.6). The logging road gradually turns west and then southwest as it climbs. After about a half a mile the Trail abruptly leaves the logging road, turning right (northwest) through dense saplings. Descend slightly to cross a small stream and then ascend slightly to pick up another wide logging road heading west. Follow this logging road for approximately 0.75 miles, crossing another stream, and descending out of the woods into a large log landing. Head north across the log landing and follow Brookside Rd. north to Rte. 58 (5.4).

Turn left (northwest) on Rte. 58 and ski along the shoulder of the road to the intersection with Monteith Rd. (5.9). This is the end of plowing on Rte. 58. Join the snowmobiles to enjoy the wide, unplowed expanse of Rte. 58 as it climbs gradually to the top of Hazen's Notch and then descends gradually to the where the plowing resumes again on the west side of the Notch in Montgomery (9.0). A historic marker commemorating the Bayley-Hazen Rd. is located on the south side of Rte. 58 near the height of land in the Notch. Near here you will also see the white blazes of the Long Trail crossing the Notch. There is a Long Trail shelter about a mile north of this intersection.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Rte. 100, Lowell Town Office	9.0
0.9	Missisquoi River Bridge	8.1
2.2	Mines Rd.	6.8
2.7	Bayley-Hazen Rd./VAST trail	6.3
3.6	Logging road	5.4
5.4	Brookside Rd./Rte. 58	3.6
5.9	Monteith Rd./Rte. 58	3.1
9.0	Plowing resumes (Montgomery)	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

At present the CT does not connect directly to the extensive and very scenic trail network of the Hazen's Notch Association located on Rte. 58 between the end of plowing and the village of Montgomery Center. However, CT skiers are very much encouraged to visit HNA, pay their trail fee, and enjoy their forty miles of groomed and ungroomed ski trails, which offer loops and excursions for skiers of all ability levels.