

## **SECTION 30: HAZEN'S NOTCH TO JAY PASS**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This section of the CT offers a variety of conditions and terrain from nearly level groomed snowmobile trail and logging roads, to steep, narrow, twisting trail. Snow is usually reliably deep due to a northwest exposure. The ridge below Buchanan Mountain offers fine views of Jay Peak to the north and Burnt Mountain to the south. Possible bail out points are to Fisher Road and Rte. 242 to the west.

**LENGTH:** 6.5 miles

### **DIFFICULTY:**

With its combination of a dead-flat middle portion and steep, twisting, ascents/descents at the north end and about two miles in from the south end, this section requires an intermediate to advanced level of skill. Metal-edged backcountry skis are essential. Bring skins in case conditions are icy. This section is rugged and remote, with no road crossings. Make sure you are well equipped and have plenty of daylight.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL**

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

##### **1. Rte. 58 - Montgomery**

From the intersection of Rtes. 118 and 58 just south of 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.** The CT heads north off of Rte. 58 on the snowmobile trail.

##### **2. Jay Pass (Rte. 242) - Westfield**

From the village of Jay, go about 5.0 miles west on Rte. 242 to Jay Pass. From the village of Montgomery Center, go about 6.5 miles north and east on Rte. 242 to Jay Pass. Trail head parking for the CT and Long Trail are on the east side of the road. From the parking area, skiers can head north (toward Jay Village and Canada) or south (toward Hazen's Notch and Lowell) on the CT. The southbound CT leaves the parking area with the southbound Long Trail but immediately veers off the LT downhill and to the right (south).

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From the trailhead on Rte. 58 (0.0), head north on the combined CT/snowmobile trail. Enjoy the wide, well-maintained logging road on this private land. At a trail intersection (0.7 miles) the snowmobile trail turns left (west) while the logging road and CT continue north and to the east. The CT and logging road swing north and then west to cross a large stream (1.8) over culverts and fill. Ski through an old log landing (clearing), cross a small stream, and begin the climb to a ridge (2.8) extending west from the peak of Buchanan Mountain. The logging road ends before you reach the ridge.

From the ridge, the CT heads east and north along the contour, and then climbs again through beech trees to a knoll (3.6). The CT continues north, descending from the knoll on an old skid trail to join a major logging road (4.2). Be alert for logging trucks and skidders as this parcel is logged intermittently. At a major intersection (5.1) turn right (east) onto a new logging road heading up hill through evergreens. (To bail out to Rte. 242, turn left here and follow the logging

road west for about 0.5 miles.) After passing through another log landing (5.4) begin the long, mostly gradual, climb to Jay Pass. The first half-mile of this climb is on an active skid trail. Ski cautiously and be prepared to get out of the way of skidders and other logging machinery as the operators will not hear you and may not see you. Eventually the CT veers left off the skid trail. After leaving the skid trail, the Trail heads steeply down, levels out briefly, and then climbs steeply via switchbacks among large boulders for about 0.25 miles. The Trail then resumes its gradual climb. Just before reaching the trailhead parking area at Jay Pass (6.5), the CT joins the Long Trail descending from Gilpin Mountain.

**DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Rte. 58	6.5
0.7	VAST/CT Intersection	5.8
1.8	Stream culverts	4.7
2.8	Buchanan Mountain Ridge	3.7
3.6	Beech tree knoll	2.9
4.2	Major logging road	2.3
5.1	Logging road intersection	1.4
5.4	Log landing	1.1
6.5	Jay Pass	0.0

**SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:**

Hazen's Notch Association (HNA) maintains forty miles of groomed and ungroomed ski trails, offering loops and side trail excursions for skiers of all ability levels. The HNA trails can be accessed from the HNA welcome center on Rte. 58 east of Montgomery Center. Be sure to pay the appropriate trail fee.