

CATAMOUNT TRAIL SECTION 26: ROUTE 15 TO EDEN/CRAFTSBURY TOWNLINE

SNAPSHOT:

This section is characterized by gently hilly terrain. The trail is predominantly an ungroomed backcountry trail, with short portions following low traffic snowmobile corridors.

LENGTH: 12.3 miles

DIFFICULTY:

This section requires an intermediate level of technical skills. Most of the hills are wide and moderate in slope, and snow is generally packed/groomed on the snowmobile corridors. A steep but wide-open hill 400 yards south of Sand Hill Rd is a scenic spot for telemark practice. Bailout points are available at Sand Hill Rd., Garfield Rd., and East Hill Rd.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL

ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):

1. Route 15 – Wolcott

From the junction of Rte. 15 and 15A in Morrisville, go east 3 miles on Rte. 15. Parking is available at Cleveland Cedar Products on the north side of Rte. 15, about 0.75 miles west of the Corley Road/North Wolcott Rd. crossing of Route 15. Please check in at the office before parking to be sure the car isn't in the way. If no one is in the office, park at the west side of the parking lot, keeping your vehicle parallel to Rte. 15. This will keep the center of the lot clear for truck deliveries. The CT crosses Rte. 15 seventy-five yards east of this parking lot. To ski north follow a driveway between the Wadel family farmhouse and the Mennonite Church.

2. Stevens Lane/Garfield Rd. – Hyde Park

From Rte. 14 in Craftsbury, head southwest on North Wolcott Rd. After 0.7 miles, turn right (west) on Hatchbrook Rd. Go about 3.4 miles and turn left (southwest) on Garfield Rd. Go about 1.6 miles and turn right (north) on Stevens Lane. There is room for one or two cars to park in the first driveway on Stevens Lane. Avoid parking in front of the garage or blocking the rest of the driveway. If there is no room at Stevens Lane continue about .4 miles southwest on Garfield Road and park at a pull-off on the right (west) side of the road.

Alternatively, from the intersection of Rtes. 15 and 15A in Morristown go 0.2 miles east on Rte. 15 and turn left (north) on Garfield Rd. Go about 2.8 miles, then turn right (east) at an intersection, remaining on Garfield Rd. for another 2.5 miles. Turn left (north) on Stevens Lane.

3. East Hill (Eden Mountain) Rd. - Eden

From Eden Mills on Route 100, turn east onto East Hill Road and go 4 miles.

From Route 14 in Craftsbury, head southwest on North Wolcott Road. After 0.45 miles, take the first right onto Merrill Loop, then go immediately right again onto Collinsville Road. From Merrill Loop, go 1.4 miles north and turn right (west) onto Eden Mountain Road. Park single file on one side of road and not in the snowplow turn around. (As you go west from Craftsbury to Eden, Eden Mountain Rd. becomes East Hill Rd.)

Alternatively, from the intersection of Rtes. 15 and 15A in Morristown go 3.9 miles east on Rte. 15 and turn left on North Wolcott Rd. Take North Wolcott Rd. about 8 miles north, almost to Rte. 14 in Craftsbury. Turn left on Merrill Loop, then immediate left on Collinsville Rd. Follow directions from Merrill Loop above.

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ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

From **Rte. 15 (0.0)** the Trail heads north on a driveway about seventy-five yards east of Cleveland Cedar Products and just east of a tall, cedar hedge between the Mennonite Church and the Wadel family farmhouse. (This is about three miles east of the intersection of Rtes. 15 and 15A, and about 0.75 miles west of the Corley Rd./N. Wolcott Rd. intersection with Rte. 15.) Ski north on the driveway and a farm road for about 300 yards to a gate.

From the gate, ski northeast uphill through evergreen woods, crossing a logging road. After the Trail levels out, turn left (northwest) at a T with a VAST snowmobile trail and continue northwest when the VAST trail splits to the northeast. Emerge on (plowed) **Jones Lane (2.1)** for 0.2 miles until turning left (west) uphill into woods. Rejoin the VAST trail briefly, and then exit right (north) into woods and emerge in a field. For the best view on this section detour 50 yards uphill to the right to the top of the field. To follow the Trail, ski northeast down a wide open telemark hill and across a stream in some trees. Ski to the left (west) of an abandoned schoolhouse and then north in a field toward a gate at the northeast corner of the field. Turn left (north) on unplowed Ledge Rd. Rejoin the VAST trail that bears right (north) and then goes steeply downhill to a T intersection with another VAST trail. Turn left (west-northwest), climb steeply, and then wind past a series of ponds to **Garfield Rd. (5.0)**.

Cross Garfield Rd onto Stevens Lane. Veer left (west) across an open field to an intersection with Patnoe Farm Rd. Follow Patnoe Farm Rd briefly, bearing right (north) on an old logging road at a small shed. Continue downhill to Green River Reservoir and then past a large beaver pond until you reach the **VAST trail (6.2)**. Head left on the VAST trail and follow it to the north. At the next VAST fork continue to your right (northeast). Continue skiing north on the VAST trail to just past the **Wiley Brook Bridge (9.5)**. *A spur (exit) trail continues 1.6 miles straight ahead (north), ending at East Hill (Eden Mountain) Rd.*

To continue northbound on the CT, turn right (east) off the old snowmobile trail about 75 yards north of the Wiley Brook Bridge. Climb gradually through the woods for 0.4 mi to where the woods open onto a wetland. Turn right (south) to skirt the wetland and go 0.2 mi., crossing a stream, to join a logging trace. Follow the logging trace east-southeast for 0.5 miles, first on the level and then gently downhill, until the slope bottoms out. Keep heading roughly east another 0.3 miles to the crest of a ridge. Ski down off the ridge to the left (east then northeast) through the woods for about 0.8 mi. emerging briefly into a field. Follow the right (east) edge of the field about 150 yards, then turn right (east) into woods, winding northeasterly for about 0.6 mi., emerging first onto a new logging road then a **large field (12.3)**. Travel north across the field to the town line parking lot on Eden Mountain Rd.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Rte. 15	12.3
2.1	Jones Lane	10.2
5.0	Garfield Rd.	7.3
6.2	Rejoin VAST trail	6.1
9.5	Wiley Brook Bridge	2.8
12.3	Large Field	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:

A 1.6-mile spur trail from East Hill Rd. (Eden Mountain Rd.) provides access to the CT at Wiley Brook.