

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 Rte. 58 near where the plowing ends. **DO NOT PARK IN THE SNOW PLOW TURN-AROUND.** Make sure you leave access for the snowplow to turn around. The CT heads north off of Rte. 58 about a quarter of a mile from the snow plow turnaround.

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 well-marked CT trail. The trail follows a logging road off of Rte. 58 past a house, which is the landowner for this first part of the section. Enjoy the wide, well-maintained logging road on this private land. The trail briefly joins up with a snowmobile trail and 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. 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:

Mileage	Landmark	Mileage
Northbound		Southbound
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.