



Section 10: Healdville to Ninevah Four Corners

SNAPSHOT

This tour is entirely a backcountry trail between Buttermilk Falls and Patch Brook Road. A steep, switch-backing ascent heading north from old Route 103 west of Buttermilk Falls turns to more rolling terrain through mixed hard and soft wood forests, much of it on old logging roads. The trail crosses a powerline (great for southbound turns in the right conditions), skirts beautiful Tiny Pond, and then contours around Tiny Mountain en route to Patch Brook Road.

LENGTH

7.8 miles (12.55 km)

DIFFICULTY

This section is intermediate with a few difficult portions. Just north of old Route 103 there are a few steep slopes and sharp turns. Under icy or thin snow conditions, these steep sections require climbing skins or advanced descent skills. Otherwise the terrain is rolling. Northbound travel is recommended for those who prefer steep ascents to steep descents.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

NOTE: Patchbrook Road from Dublin Road to Lake Ninevah is not plowed in winter. Sawyer Hill Road is not plowed all the way through from Route 103 to Patch Brook Road in winter.

1. Healdville - Mt. Holly

From the Route 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) take Route 103 northwest for 2.8 miles. Turn left (south) onto Station Road and follow it for 0.6 miles to railroad tracks. Cross the tracks and the summer parking area is on your left. The southbound Section 9 trailhead at the far end of the unplowed parking area is just past a VT FPR bulletin Board. Parking is extremely limited here. If the road is plowed up to the closed bridge to your right, several cars can be stationed along the edge of the road.

2. Buttermilk Falls Road - Ludlow

From the Route 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) go approximately 0.3 miles northwest on Route 103. Take a right onto Buttermilk Falls Road, almost directly across from Okemo Ridge Road (the entrance to Jackson Gore). Follow Buttermilk Falls Road 1.5 miles to the end of plowing. Please park well up against one side of the road, in single file, to allow room for plows to maneuver. To go northbound on the CT, follow the unplowed road over a berm across an old bridge and along the old road until the CT turns right/north up a steep hill.

3. Patch Brook Road - Plymouth

From the Route 103/100N junction (northwest of Ludlow) go 3.4 miles northwest on Route 103. Just west of Harry's Cafe and Healdville Road, turn right (north) onto Shunpike Road. Shunpike Road turns sharply left almost immediately. Follow it 0.6 miles west to a fork in the road. Stay on Shunpike Road (right fork) another 0.7 miles to the junction with Lake Ninevah Road. Turn right onto Lake Ninevah Road which, after about 2 miles, turns sharply right and becomes Patch Brook Road. Follow it to the intersection with Townsend Barn/Sawyer Hill Road. Park efficiently to one side of Patch Brook Road, leaving a clear lane of travel. Do not block the unplowed portion of Patch Brook Road where it continues east, as it receives significant snowmobile use.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

NOTE: The connection between Healdville Station and Buttermilk Falls is currently a road walk along Station Road and Route 103. The CTA is scouting for an alternative to this roadwalk for through skiers. If you do not plan to ski the entirety of the CT, we recommend avoiding this walk and simply skiing between Buttermilk Falls and Patch Brook Road.

From **Healdville (0.0)** follow Station Road to **Route 103 (0.8)**. Turn right (east) on Route 103 for 0.8 miles to an old highway pull out on the north side of the road. Continue 0.1 miles past the pullout to old Route 103 heading north of the highway. This road is unplowed and no longer in use by vehicles. Follow old Route 103 another 0.3 miles to **Buttermilk Falls (2.0)** where the CT turns north steeply uphill.

Head steeply uphill along an old logging road and follow the blazes to cross an open powerline. Follow the CT blazes into the woods and up a series of switchbacks. At the top of the switchbacks, the CT joins another logging road and travels more gently to the east.

At a T-intersection with a wider logging road, the trail turns sharply left (north) and continues uphill to a second powerline. Turn west/northwest on the power line and follow it uphill for approximately 0.25 miles. Keep an eye out for CT blazes on stakes so you don't miss the next turn on the opposite side of the power line.

Turn right (north) off the **second power line (3.8)** and follow CT blazes into the woods. Continue through rolling hardwoods carefully following the blazes, as there are multiple logging roads leading in various directions.

Make a sharp turn to the right (east) just south of **Forest Echo Farm (4.9)** and contour below the farm barn and fields. You will exit the woods into a small open meadow. Continue straight across the open area and back into the woods, eventually reaching another **wide logging road (5.5)**. Tiny Pond is to your right (east).

Turn right (east) and follow the logging road to begin the ski around the east side of Tiny Mountain. Once you reach the height of land, you will make a few quick turns and descents on a narrower trail before climbing gradually back to a broad logging road. Follow the logging road downhill (west) to Sawyer Hill Road. Turn north on Sawyer Hill Road and cross the bridge to the junction with **Patch Brook Road (7.8)**.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Healdville Parking	7.8
0.8	Route 103	7.0
2.0	Buttermilk Falls	5.8
3.8	Second power line	4.0
4.9	Forest Echo Farm	2.9
5.5	Wide logging road	2.3
7.8	Patch Brook Road	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

There is a short side trail from the wide logging road that leads to the very scenic northwestern shore of Tiny Pond.

SHUTTLE DIRECTIONS

Please use caution and common sense when using these directions. Some roads may not have signs. After a heavy snow it may be difficult to locate the trailhead or end-of-plowing. Your GPS will not replicate all of these routes and may direct you to a road that is not plowed, closed and impassable. When in doubt, follow someone familiar with the local area.

Look for blue blazes (Catamount Trail), yellow blazes (Catamount Trail Side Trail) or CT parking signs which may be present. If the road seems impassible, park and explore on foot. Always park clear of access roads and gates. Leave room for others to park including snowmobile trailers. Do not park in snowplow turnarounds.

The location of the Catamount Trail on these maps is approximate. Temporary reroutes are not displayed. Always visit the Catamount Trail Association website for the latest trail information and maps. www.catamounttrail.org

Drive to Healdville (north to south)

1. From the parking area at Patch Brook Rd. (S10 access <3>), drive northeast for 0.6 miles, then take a left onto Patch Brook/Lake Ninevah Rd.
2. Continue straight for 2.2 miles as Patchbrook Rd. turns to Lake Ninevah Rd.
3. Turn left onto Shunpike Rd. and drive 1.3 miles to the intersection with Rte. 103.
4. Turn left onto Rte. 100 for 0.1 miles, then take a right onto Healdville Rd. The Healdville parking area (S10 access <1>) is just past the railroad tracks after 0.5 miles.

Drive to Patch Brook Road (south to north)

1. From the Healdville parking area (S10 access <1>) head northeast on Healdville Rd. for 0.5 miles.
2. Turn left onto Rte. 103 for 0.1 miles, then take a right onto Shunpike Rd. and continue for 1.3 miles.
3. Take a left onto Lake Ninevah Rd. and go 2.2 miles to a 4-way intersection, then turn right on Patch Brook Rd.
4. Continue for 0.6 miles to Townsend Farm Rd./Sawyer Hill Rd. (S10 access <3>). Park at this intersection out of the way of traffic.