



## Section 15: Route 73 to Widow's Clearing Trail

### SNAPSHOT

The CT in Goshen between Route 73 and Flora White Road now follows a rolling backcountry route within the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF). Between FR 224 and Widow's Clearing Trail, the CT follows the delightful, scenic, ungroomed trails of Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center.

*NOTE: Note: Please remember that Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center relies on donations for trail use in this section. They offer soup and snacks and welcome you to stop in to warm up. Donations are appreciated.*

### LENGTH

10.1 miles (16.25 km)

### DIFFICULTY

The first third of this section has a few intermittent streams/gullies to cross that require good ski control. It is recommended for intermediate and advanced skiers. The rest of the route, on the groomed Blueberry Hill trails, traverses gently rolling terrain and is easy skiing.

As of winter 2018 a sugaring operation has been established slightly north of the powerline at the southern end of Section 15. Please pass through with care.

### TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

#### 1. Route 73 - Goshen

From Goshen Four Corners go 1.3 miles east on Route 73 to a widening of the plowed shoulder of the road. There is enough room to parallel park several cars on the south side of the road. You can also park in the Long Trail parking area on the south side of Route 73 another 0.5 miles to the east. From the wide shoulder, walk back down (west) on Route 73 about 0.3 miles. The northbound CT climbs steeply up a log road from Route 73, just downhill of where the CT intersects Route 73 from the south.

#### 2. Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center - Goshen

Blueberry Hill Inn is located on the Goshen-Ripton Road (FR 32) between Routes 73 and 125. From the village of Goshen go north approximately three miles on Carlisle Hill Road, which becomes the Goshen-Ripton Road. From the village of Ripton head east on Route 125 for approximately one mile. Turn right (south) on FR 32 and go approximately five miles.

### 3. Widow's Clearing Trail Parking Area - Ripton

From the village of Ripton head east on Route 125 for approximately one mile. Turn right (south) on FR 32 and go 1.8 miles. The parking area is on the left (east side) of the road. From the parking area, follow the Widow's Clearing Trail approximately 0.6 miles south and then east to join the CT.

#### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)**

From the widened shoulder and parking area on Route 73, walk downhill (west on Route 73) about 0.3 mile, and look for steep bank and CT blazes to the right (north), just downhill of where the CT intersects **Route 73 (0.0)** from the south. Proceed up the steep bank and turn left (west).

Parallel Route 73 to a **steep logging road (0.2)**. Follow the logging road a short distance to a powerline, then turn left and follow the powerline northwest a short distance to POLE #180.

Veer right (northeasterly) into the woods and follow CT blazes. The CT follows gentle grades through these hardwoods, linking in places with old skid roads. Take a sharp turn to the left (west), leave the logging road and descend to a **steep sided stream crossing (1.7)**. From here you begin a meandering descent to **Flora White Road (3.0)**. Exit the woods and walk or ski north along Flora White Road to **FR 224 (3.2)**.

Turn right (northeast) on FR 224 and ski gently uphill to the intersection with Blueberry Hill X-C Ski Center's Trail #25, the **Hogback Trail (3.7)**. Turn left (north) and follow Blueberry Hill trails 25, 29, 15, 11, 7, and 3 to the Inn.

Cross the Goshen-Ripton Road to reach the **Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center (5.1)** and parking area. Check in to pick up a Blueberry Hill trail map, warm up, and buy a snack or soup. There are no associated trail fees, but trail use donations are greatly appreciated.

To continue north on the CT from the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, you will follow trails 5, 9, 35, 37, 39, 41, and 43 on Blueberry Hill's trail map.

Start by crossing to the east side of the Goshen-Ripton Road and picking up the Stewart Trail behind the Inn. Follow the Stewart Trail until it meets the Sucker Brook Trail at a T-intersection. Turn left (west) on Sucker Brook Trail. At the next T-intersection turn right (north) onto the **Horseshoe Trail (7.1)**, which is shared with snowmobiles.

Ski along the west side of Sugar Hill Reservoir and after crossing the dam, turn left (northwest), continuing on the Horseshoe Trail, but leaving the snowmobile trail. Horseshoe Trail makes a hairpin turn in the "Horseshoe Clearing" and then heads west toward FR 32. Do not continue out onto FR 32, but turn right (north) to follow the Dave and Carol Smith Trail to the end of Blueberry Hill's groomed trail network and the **Widow's Clearing Trail (10.1)**. Turn left and ski approximately 0.6 miles west and then north to the Widow's Clearing Trail parking area on FR 32.

## DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Route 73	10.1
1.7	Steep Sided Stream Crossing	8.4
3.0	Flora White Road	7.1
3.2	FR 224	6.9
3.7	Hogback Trail	6.4
5.1	Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center	5.0
7.1	Horseshoe Trail	3.0
10.1	Widow's Clearing Trail	0.0

## SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center maintains an extensive network of ungroomed ski trails. Please remember that Blueberry Hill relies on donations to provide year round trails in this section. Call the inn for more information on how they can help facilitate an inn-to-inn ski to the north or south, or visit <https://www.blueberryhilltrails.com/winter>.

## **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](http://www.catamounttrail.org)

### **Drive to Widow's Clearing (south to north)**

1. From the plowed shoulder on Rte. 73 (2881-2983 Gap Rd.) (S15 access <1>), head west on Rte. 73 for 1.2 miles.
2. Turn right onto Hathaway Road and continue for 1.4 miles.
3. Turn right onto Flora White Road and drive for 1.4 miles.
4. At a four-way intersection, turn right onto Goshen-Ripton Road and continue for 4.8 miles. The Widow's Clearing Trail parking area (2127 Goshen-Ripton Road,) (S15 access <3>) will be on your right.

### **Drive to Route 73 (north to south)**

1. From the Widows Clearing Trail parking area (2127 Goshen-Ripton Road) (S15 access <3>) drive south on Goshen/Ripton Road for 4.8 miles.
2. Turn left on Flora White Road and go 1.4 miles.
3. Turn left on Hathaway Road and go 1.4 miles.
4. Turn left on Gap Road and go 1.2 mi to the plowed shoulder on Rte. 73 (2881-2983 Gap Rd.) (S15 access <1>) on your right.