



Section 29: Lowell Village to Hazen's Notch

SNAPSHOT

This section features a gradual climb from Lowell Village through fields and forests to the scenic Hazen's Notch. The CT traverses a mix of hardwood stands and open fields, eventually following the unplowed portion of Route 58. Through the notch the CT shares terrain with snowmobiles, but it is groomed and wide so they can be easily avoided. From the top, there is a long, fun descent that leads to the plowed section of Route 58 on the west side of the notch.

A historic marker commemorating the Bayley-Hazen Road is located on the south side of Route 58 near the height of land in the notch. Near here you will also see the white blazes of the Long Trail crossing the notch. There is a Long Trail shelter about a mile north of this intersection.

LENGTH

9.0 miles (14.48 km)

DIFFICULTY

Most of this section is easy to intermediate on gentle terrain. Much of it is located on old roads, the unplowed shoulder of current roads, or a groomed VAST corridor. However, the first portion of the route, the descent to the Missisquoi River bridge, is narrow, twisty, steep, and is shared with snowmobiles. If it is at all icy, take off your skis and walk down to the bridge.

NOTE: Snowmobile traffic is much heavier on weekends than on weekdays. Always stay alert for snowmobiles and be prepared to get out of their way. The ski over the Notch can be spectacular but be prepared for heavy snowmobile traffic, particularly on weekends.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

NOTE: Route 58 through Hazen's Notch (between Lowell and Montgomery) is closed to cars in winter.

1. Lowell Town Office (Route 100) - Lowell

From the intersection of Routes 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell, go 1.0 mile north to the Lowell town office on the left (west) side of Route 100. Park at the town office or at the Lowell Elementary School, which is immediately south of the town office. To ski north follow the CT blazes north along the west side of Route 100 to join a snowmobile trail heading left (west) and downhill to cross the Missisquoi River.

2. Route 58/Mines Road - Lowell

From the intersections of Routes 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell go 1.25 miles west on Route 58 to the intersection with Mines Road. Park carefully along the snow bank near the intersection, making sure your vehicle is visible from all directions. Walk a few hundred yards south on Mines Road to access the CT northbound.

3. Hazen's Notch - Lowell

From the intersection of Routes 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell, go 4.2 miles northwest on Route 58 to the end of plowing at the intersection with Montieth Road. Park so as not to block snowplows or snowmobiles. The CT heads northwest into Hazen's Notch and southeast back toward the village of Lowell along the shoulder of Route 58.

4. Route 58 - Montgomery

From the intersection of Routes 118 and 58 in the village of Montgomery Center, go 3.8 miles east on Route 58 past the Hazen's Notch Association (HNA) Nordic Ski Center and past the intersection with Amidon Road 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 snowplow turn-around. To head south on the CT, ski east on the unplowed portion of Route 58 (also a snowmobile corridor) toward Hazen's Notch.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the **Lowell Town Office (0.0)**, the CT follows VAST #100C north through a field and then left into the woods. The trail descends via a steep and windy woods road to a VAST bridge over the **Missisquoi River (0.9)**. After crossing the bridge, the snowmobile trail turns sharply left and then, before the VAST trail turns right up a steep hill, the CT exits left (south) on a logging road that parallels the river.

The trail then opens into a field, which it passes through before crossing over a stream using a newly constructed bridge. After the bridge, the trail turns right and follows an old logging road west, then southwest, until climbing to another open field next to Route 58. Cross the field paralleling Route 58 for a very short distance, and then go left to parallel Mines Road, which intersects with Route 58. After about .25 miles the trail turns right (west) onto a driveway that leads to the Old **Bayley-Hazen Military Road (2.2)**.

Climb gradually on the Bayley-Hazen Road, flanked with stone walls on both sides, until reaching the top of the hill where the trail turns sharply left (south) to cross a stone wall and **enter the woods (2.7)**. If you intersect with the VAST trail you have missed the turnoff!!

Continue south through evergreen woods, cross a power line right of way, and re-enter the woods as the CT turns right (west). The CT continues west through a swampy area and then climbs south and west through a hardwood stand. Cross a small field and turn right (west) to start a climb on an old **logging road (3.6)**.

The logging road climbs west and then south before the trail turns off sharply to the right to pass through some dense saplings. The trail then crosses a small creek, and joins another logging road heading west. Follow this logging road for approximately .75 miles, then cross another new bridge and enter an open field. Cross the field to join Brookside Drive which leads to an intersection with **Route 58 (5.4)**. Proceed left (west) on Route 58 and ski along the shoulder of the road to the intersection with **Montieth Road (5.9)**. This is the end of plowing on Route 58.

BAIL OUT POINT: *The end of plowing on Route 58 offers a parking area for a few vehicles, and can serve as an intermediate bail out point, or start/end point for those who don't wish to shuttle from Montgomery to Lowell.*

To continue on the CT, join the snowmobile trail to enjoy the wide, unplowed expanse of Route 58 as it climbs gradually to the top of Hazen's Notch and then descends to where the **plowing resumes (9.0)** on the west side of the notch in Montgomery. As you descend towards Montgomery, the VAST trail leaves the unplowed portion of Route 58 heading north before the CT does. There is a very short road walk to where the next section of the CT begins.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Route 100; Lowell Town Office	9.0
0.9	Missisquoi River Bridge	8.1
2.2	Bayley-Hazen Military Road	6.8
2.7	Enter Woods	6.3
3.6	Logging road	5.4
5.4	Brookside Drive	3.6
5.9	Monteith Road	3.1
9.0	Plowing resumes	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

At present the CT does not connect directly to the extensive and very scenic trail network of the Hazen's Notch Association located on Route 58 between the end of plowing and the village of Montgomery Center. However, CT skiers are very much encouraged to visit HNA, pay their trail fee, and enjoy their forty miles of groomed and ungroomed ski trails, which offer loops and excursions for skiers of all ability levels.

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

NOTE: Route 58 through Hazen's Notch (between Lowell and Montgomery) is closed to cars in winter. To shuttle from access point 1 to 4, you must detour around Hazen's Notch.

Drive to Lowell Town Office (north to south)

1. From the end of plowing at 3700 Hazen's Notch Rd. (S29 access <4>), head north on Rte. 58/Hazen's Notch Rd. for 3.8 miles.
2. Turn left on Rte. 118 and go 7.9 miles, then turn left to stay on Rte. 118 for another 6.6 miles.
3. Turn left on Rte. 100 and drive 9.6 miles to the Lowell Town Office (S29 access <1>).

Drive to Hazen's Notch (south to north)

1. From the Lowell Town Office at 2170 Rte. 100 (S29 access <1>), go south 9.6 miles to Rte. 118.
2. Turn right to go north on Rte. 118 and continue for 6.6 miles, then turn right to stay on Rte. 118 for another 7.9 miles.
3. Turn right onto Rte. 58/Hazen's Notch Rd. Continue for 3.8 miles to the end of plowing (S29 access <4>). Park on the side of the road and not in the snowplow turn around.