



## Section 2: Harriman Dam to Route 9

### SNAPSHOT

This section offers a very beautiful and almost entirely level ski along the shore of Harriman Reservoir and the Deerfield River. The first mile is shared with snowmobiles.

### LENGTH

10.1 miles (16.25 km)

### DIFFICULTY

This is an easy ski, with a few short climbs that can be walked if needed. There are no intermediate access points for the first seven miles along this section, so allow plenty of time to ski this portion.

### TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

#### 1. Harriman Dam - Whitingham

From the village of Readsboro, take Route 100 North (toward Whitingham) 4.0 miles. Turn left (north) on Dam Road. If starting from the village of Whitingham, take Route 100 South (toward Readsboro) for 1.1 miles. Turn right (north) on Dam Road. Follow Dam Road to the end of plowing and a parking lot adjacent to Harriman Dam. The Dam Road sign is often missing. Dam Road is just south of a crossing of the arm of Harriman Reservoir.

#### 2. Medburyville South - Wilmington

From Wilmington, take Route 9 approximately 3 miles west. Turn left (south) on Woods Road and take the bridge over the river. (Woods Road does not currently have a road sign.) Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left (east) at the T, and follow the road to the end of plowing. Look for a Catamount Trail caution sign on the river side of the road. Do not block driveways or park in signed "No Parking" areas. Park here at your own risk, especially when plow trucks might be working.

#### 3. Medburyville North - Wilmington

From Wilmington, take Route 9 approximately 3 miles west. Turn left (south) on Woods Road and take the bridge over the river. (Woods Road does not currently have a road sign.) Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right (west) at the T on New England Power Road and follow it to a small parking area beyond a substation. Do not block gates or driveways. The CT crosses the road here and the trail on the substation (north) side of the road is southbound.

#### 4. Lind Lane - Searsburg

Approximately 4 miles west of Wilmington, turn right off Route 9 onto Lind Lane, a paved, "No Outlet" road. Drive in 0.5 miles and park in a plowed cul-de-sac. To ski south on the CT, climb up the bank

and cross Route 9, walk eastbound, cross the Deerfield River on the highway bridge, and then start skiing in the clearing on the right side of the road. The state does not allow blazes along the highway, so look along the edge of the woods for blazes.

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

From the **Harriman Dam parking area (0.0)** the CT goes through a gate in the fence and follows along the dam. It then crosses the face of the dam and switchbacks sharply on the west end of the dam gate. Here it joins a snowmobile trail and follows an old railroad bed along the west side of Harriman Reservoir.

At a **four-way junction (1.8)** the CT continues straight ahead, leaving the snowmobile trail. The trail winds along the shore and crosses several streams, including **Graves Brook (3.1)** and **Wilder Brook (4.0)** on bridges. At both stream crossings the CT leaves the old railroad grade briefly. The grades here are steeper than the railroad bed, but the steep parts are short and can be walked if needed.

After Wilder Brook Bridge, the CT turns right and gradually climbs an old logging road. After approximately 100 yards, the CT turns right (east) off of the logging road into the woods.

Soon the CT regains the railroad grade and turns left (north). After skiing through a large rock cut, the CT comes to a log landing and rejoins an unplowed road that is also used by snowmobiles.

Follow the unplowed road north (right), eventually passing several **camp (6.3)**, and then make the long gradual descent to the north end of the reservoir. Ski through the **Great River Hydro picnic area (7.3)** and continue north on the picnic area access road. Watch for blazes immediately on your left after leaving the picnic area. The trail winds through the woods on logging roads, crossing an unbridged stream. Shortly after it leaves the logging road to reach the **end of plowing (7.8)** south of Medburyville.

Just north of the end of plowing on Woods Road, turn right to go down a steep bank (CAUTION!). Immediately turn left to cross a small, unbridged stream. Climb and follow a gravel spine beside a beaver pond. Cross another unbridged stream to a hayfield.

*NOTE: This stream is about two feet deep, and is not crossable if not frozen. Walk Woods Road from the end of plowing to the Woods Road/Deerfield River bridge instead.*

Ski the hayfield to the far (northwest) end, going up a farm road to return to Woods Road. Turn right (north) and walk 50 yards along Woods Road to the intersection with **New England Power Road (8.2)**. Do not cross the bridge over the river. Walk 50 yards to the top of a short hill on New England Power Road.

**BAIL OUT POINT:** *Just after the substation, you can bail out to the small parking area on New England power road.*

To continue on the CT, begin skiing again on the right with a short descent to the riverbank. The CT crosses two small, unbridged streams into an abandoned orchard. Follow a power line clearing west to a **power substation (8.5)**, cross New England Power Road, and climb through woods to another power line. Turn right and ski above Searsburg Station on a terrace provided by the power company, then descend to a service road.

*NOTE: This terrace is narrow and steep in one place, and is not advisable under icy conditions. It can be avoided via a roadwalk on Route 9 to the Lind Lane cul-de-sac.*

Ski the service road (unplowed) about 0.25 miles to a clearing and junction. Go straight to a bridge across Medbury Brook. Follow the transmission line and railroad grade west along the river. At a large boulder on the left, turn left to follow the CT to a bridge over an unnamed brook.

Follow the CT back to **Route 9 (9.9)**. Then follow the clearing along the edge of the highway westbound (keeping Route 9 on your right). Walk westbound along Route 9, crossing the Deerfield River on a highway bridge. After the bridge, cross to the north side of Route 9 and climb over the snowbank and down to the **Lind Lane cul-de-sac (10.1)**.

#### **DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Harriman Dam Parking	10.1
1.8	Four-way Junction	8.3
3.1	Graves Brook Bridge	7.0
4.0	Wilder Brook Bridge	6.1
6.3	Camps	3.8
7.3	Picnic Area	2.8
7.8	End of plowing	2.3
8.2	New England Power Road	1.9
8.5	Power Substation	1.6
9.9	Route 9	0.2
10.1	Lind Lane Cul-de-sac	0.0

## **SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS**

Several snowmobile trails lead east from the CT to the shore of the reservoir. As you travel north, these side trails get progressively steeper and narrower, but all provide interesting shoreline access. Please be cautious and stay alert for snowmobilers if you choose to utilize these trails.

## **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 Harriman Dam (north to south)**

1. From the end of plowing on Lind Ln. (S2 access point <4>), go 0.5 miles, then turn left on Rte. 9 and travel 4.1 miles.
2. Turn right on Rte. 100 and continue for 4.9 miles.
3. Turn right on Wilmington Cross Rd. and go 2.1 miles.
4. Turn right on Rte. 100 and go 2.8 miles
5. Turn right on Dam Rd. and go 1.8 miles to the end of plowing at 1891 Dam Rd., Whitingham (S2 access point <1>).

### **Drive to Lind Lane (south to north)**

1. From the end of plowing at 1891 Dam Rd., Whitingham (S2 access point <1>) travel 1.8 miles to Rte. 100.
2. Turn left on Rte. 100 and go 2.8 miles.
3. Turn left on Wilmington Cross Rd. and go 2.1 miles.
4. Turn left on Rte. 100 and go 4.9 miles.
5. Turn left on Rte. 9 and go 4.1 miles.
6. Turn right on Lind Ln. (S2 access point <4>) and go 0.5 miles to the end of plowing.  
Do not block access to the propane tanks.