



## Section 30: Hazen's Notch (West Side) to Jay Pass

### SNAPSHOT

This section offers a variety of conditions and terrain, including nearly level groomed snowmobile trails, logging roads, and steep, narrow, twisting hills. Snow is usually reliable and 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.

### LENGTH

6.5 miles (10.46 km)

### DIFFICULTY

With a flat middle portion, and steep, twisting, ascents/descents at the north and south ends, this section requires an intermediate to advanced level of skill. Metal-edged backcountry skis are essential. Bring skins in case conditions are icy.

### TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

#### 1. Route 58 - Montgomery

From the intersection of Route 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 Road to the end of plowing. Park on the side of Route 58 near where the plowing ends. Do NOT park in the snowplow turnaround. The CT heads northwest into Hazen's Notch and southeast back toward the village of Lowell along the shoulder of Route 58.

*NOTE: On the Montgomery side of Route 58, park before the end of the plowing to avoid a roadwalk if traveling northbound. Park near the last house on the north side of the road before the plowing ends. The trail runs on the uphill side of the house, and should be visible from the road.*

#### 2. Jay Pass (Route 242) - Westfield

From the village of Jay, go about 5.0 miles west on Route 242 to Jay Pass. From the village of Montgomery Center, go about 6.5 miles north and east on Route 242 to Jay Pass. Trailhead 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.

### ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the trailhead on **Route 58 (0.0)**, head north following the blue CT blazes. The trail follows a logging road off of Route 58 and past a house. Enjoy the wide, well-maintained logging road on this private land.

The trail briefly joins up with a **VAST snowmobile trail (0.7)**. At an intersection, 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, cross a small stream, and begin the climb to **Buchanan Mountain 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 a **beech tree 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 head uphill through evergreens.

**BAIL OUT POINT** *To bail out to Route 242, turn left at this intersection and follow the logging road west for about 0.5 miles.*

To continue north on the CT, pass through another **log landing (5.4)** and begin the long, mostly gradual, climb to Jay Pass. Eventually the CT veers left off the skid trail, then heads steeply down, levels out briefly, and climbs steeply via switchbacks among large boulders for about 0.25 miles. The CT then resumes its gradual climb.

The CT joins the Long Trail, descending from Gilpin Mountain. just before reaching the trailhead parking area at **Jay Pass (6.5)**.

**DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Route 58	6.5
0.7	VAST/CT Intersection	5.8
1.8	Large Stream	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 Route 58 east of Montgomery Center. Be sure to pay the appropriate trail fee. Visit <http://www.hazensnotch.org/hazens-notch-trails.php> for trail maps and more information.

## **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 Hazen's Notch (north to south)**

1. From the parking area at Jay Pass (S30 access <2>), head turn left to head southwest on Rte. 242 for 4.1 miles.
2. Turn left onto Amidon Rd. and go 2.9 miles.
3. Turn left onto Hazen's Notch Rd./Rte. 58 and drive 1.0 mile to the end of plowing (S30 access <1>). Park on the side of the road and not in the snowplow turnaround.

### **Drive to Jay Pass (south to north)**

1. From the end of plowing on Hazen's Notch Rd./Rte. 58 (S30 access <1>), head west on Hazen's Notch Rd. 1.0 miles to Amidon Road.
2. Turn right on Amidon Rd. and follow it for 2.9 miles to Rte. 242/Mountain Rd.
3. Turn right on Rte. 242 and go 4.1 miles to the small parking area at Jay Pass (S30 access <2>).