

Trails and Routes in Green Mountain Wilderness

Exploring Vermont's Proposed Wilderness Areas



Vermont's Green Mountains offer wild beauty, habitat for native wildlife, and the opportunity for exploration in some surprisingly remote places. On the Green Mountain National Forest, about 60,000 acres currently enjoy lasting protection as designated wilderness.

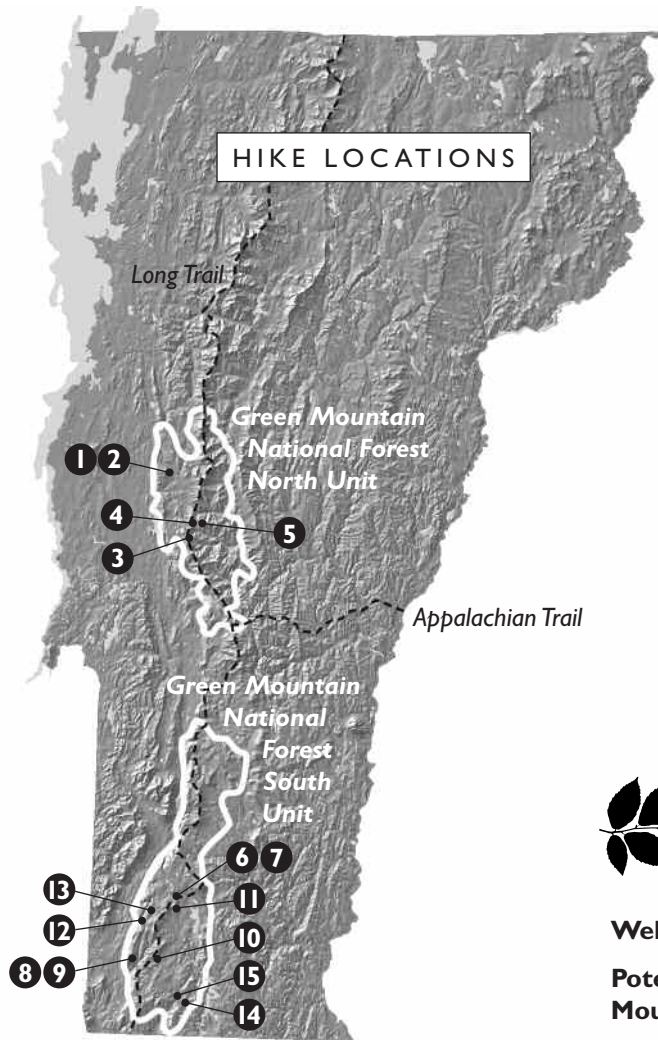
Many more acres—about 100,000—deserve such protection, but do not have it. These wilderness-quality lands will remain vulnerable to future encroachment by roads, logging, motorized recreation, and other development until they are granted the enduring status of congressionally-designated wilderness.

This booklet offers an introduction to the Green Mountain National Forest lands that Forest Watch, along with other state and national conservation groups, hope to see officially protected as federal wilderness. We hope you will get outdoors and experience the wonder, refreshment, and grace of these precious places.



*Protecting and Restoring
Wilderness and Wildlife*

P.O. Box 188
Richmond, Vermont 05477
(802) 434-2388
contact@forestwatch.org



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WELCOME TO GREEN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

The Green Mountains of Vermont harbor surprising pockets of wilderness, unexpected so close to the major cities of the Northeast. They are especially valuable to those who know them, and we invite you to become acquainted with them, too.

This brief guide describes some of the trails and routes you can use to visit areas of wild backcountry in the Green Mountain National Forest which are not yet protected against roads, logging, development, and the noise and damage of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel-drives and snowmobiles. Forest Watch hopes you will visit them, and support our effort to establish lasting legal protection as designated wilderness for these largely untrammelled acres (see page 8 about joining our campaign for wilderness).

What is a Wilderness Area?

When Congress designates wilderness on federal land, natural processes are allowed free rein in perpetuity. In effect, nature is in charge. Recreation and scientific research are both permitted and encouraged, but the quality of remoteness is protected against fast and mechanized transportation, including off-road vehicles as well as mountain bikes. Virtually all kinds of primitive recreation are permitted: camping, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking, mushrooming—the list is long. Travel with the help of animals, including horses, llamas, and dogsleds, is possible on designated trails. Trails, footbridges and other related structures are permitted, but developed campgrounds are not.

Wilderness for Vermont

Thanks to the work of conservation and recreation organizations, and to past leadership by Vermont's members of Congress, Vermont has about 60,000 acres of designated wilderness in six places on the Green Mountain National Forest. This is an excellent start, but it constitutes only one percent of the land in Vermont. Many states have much more. For example, 12 percent of California is federally protected wilderness. Closer to home, two percent of New Hampshire is wilderness, and seven percent of New York's land base is in state-protected wilderness areas.

The Green Mountain National Forest has about 200,000 acres of roadless land, and Forest Watch has determined that at least 100,000 of these roadless acres are eminently suitable for wilderness designation. This guide will lead you to some of the most attractive and interesting places within these as-yet unprotected areas.

Using this Guide

We provide enough information to allow you to choose a particular hike, and enough direction to get you to the trailhead. However, this guide does not provide point-by-point route descriptions. In most cases, you will want to take a topographic map. For off-trail outings, you will definitely need such a map. Other guidebooks may be helpful for some of the more established trail routes. (See Resources on page 8 for information on maps and guidebooks.)

Travel on unmarked routes—whether old logging roads or completely off-trail—should not be attempted without hiking experience using maps, and either a compass or GPS unit. But, if you feel capable, off-trail travel can be especially rewarding. It is slower going than hiking on a maintained trail, requires careful attention, and is occasionally risky. But it offers the best chance of finding many extraordinarily beautiful and peaceful spots, and provides almost a guarantee of solitude.

When to Hike

Some of the access roads mentioned in this guide are not maintained in winter or spring, so they may be impassable from late October to late May. Furthermore, Vermont's trail associations want you to refrain from using hiking trails when they are particularly wet, muddy and vulnerable to boot damage. This occurs particularly just after snow-melt in the spring, but also after prolonged rainy spells. Please respect the work that these groups do to maintain trails that all of us use.

Send Your Own Hike Descriptions

Please send us information you feel might be useful for future, expanded editions of this guide, including additional hike descriptions. Contact us via:

website www.forestwatch.org
e-mail contact@forestwatch.org
phone (802) 434-2388

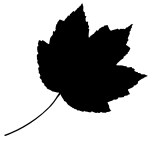
Happy hiking!



POTENTIAL WILDERNESS FOR THE GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Watch's proposal for new wilderness in Vermont totals about 100,000 acres. A Vermont wilderness bill, introduced by the state's congressional delegation in April 2006, would provide wilderness protection for about 48,000 acres. This table provides a side-by-side comparison of conservationists' proposal for new wilderness (Potential Wilderness) with the wilderness areas and acreages in the delegation's current wilderness bill (Vermont Wilderness Act).

AREA NAME	POTENTIAL WILDERNESS (TOTAL ACRES)	VERMONT WILDERNESS ACT (TOTAL ACRES)
Lincoln Ridge	6,776	0
Bristol Cliffs additions	200	0
Abbey Pond	5,364	0
Breadloaf additions	9,321	4,223
Joseph Battell	15,323	12,437
Big Branch additions	2,268	42
Peru Peak additions	4,056	797
Lye Brook additions	13,191	2,171
Glastenbury	42,051	28,491
George D. Aiken additions	1,882	0
Lamb Brook	4,740	0



Abbey Pond Wilderness

The proposed Abbey Pond Wilderness features Abbey Pond, Beaver Meadows, and Robert Frost Mountain. It adjoins Middlebury College's extraordinary Battell Preserve, a stand of beautiful old-growth forest. Together, the proposed wilderness and Battell Preserve include one of the richest assemblages of natural communities in the state.

Abbey Pond

LOCATION East Middlebury
DISTANCE 4 miles (round trip)
RATING Easy
FEATURES Pond, wildlife
SEASON Year-round

Look for the brown Forest Service sign for Abbey Pond on the east side of VT 116, about halfway between Bristol and East Middlebury. Follow the dirt road in for about 100 yards to a parking area.

The trail begins on an old woods road, crossing the lovely, cascading outlet of Abbey Pond three times. Initially somewhat steep, the trail moderates eventually, crossing through wet areas and reaching the pond near its outlet. Abbey Pond supports a community of marsh plants and animals. This trail is sometimes closed to protect nesting great blue herons.

Robert Frost Mountain

LOCATION Ripton
DISTANCE 3 miles (round trip)
RATING Moderate
FEATURES Mountain summit
SEASON Summer, fall

From East Middlebury, take VT 125 east for about two miles. Look for North Branch Road on your left. The road climbs through a residential area in a series of switchbacks. Continue on North Branch Road for a few miles until you reach FS 294. Park at the gate, but do not block it.

Follow trail FS 259 as it steadily climbs to the northwest. After approximately one mile, the trail forks to the right and ascends to the summit of Robert Frost Mountain. Continue down the other side for about 0.2 mile until you come to a junction on your left. Turn left here and follow this about 0.2 mile farther until you come to another junction on your left. Turn here and follow this trail back to the parking area.

Joseph Battell Wilderness

The proposed Joseph Battell Wilderness is a rare ecological gem that includes places easily reached by the Long Trail, as well as remote

mountains heavily traveled and foraged by moose but rarely visited by people. Located in the townships of Hancock, Ripton, and Rochester, it harbors patches of large, mature northern hardwoods, the longest trail-less ridge on the Green Mountain National Forest, five mountains higher than 3,000 feet, and the headwaters of Bingo Brook, one of the most pristine, high-quality trout streams in Vermont.

Gillespie Peak

LOCATION Goshen and Rochester
DISTANCE 6.6 miles (round trip)
RATING Moderate
FEATURES Views, wildlife
SEASON Summer, fall

From either east or west, take VT 73 to Brandon Gap. Park on the south side of the road, where VT 73 intersects the Long Trail.

Follow the LT north up an old road and ascend steadily to the top of an old rock staircase. From here, a short spur leads east to the Great Cliff of Mt. Horrid. The cliff top is 600 feet above the road and provides a beautiful view of the gap and the mountains to the south. If you are lucky, you may see peregrine falcons. The spur trail may be closed from March 15 to August 1 to protect nesting falcons. Continue west of the ridge to the summit of Mt. Horrid and then along the wooded ridge to Cape Lookoff Mountain and Gillespie Peak. There are many vistas along this ridge.

Worth Mountain and Monastery Gap

LOCATION Hancock
DISTANCE 6.2 miles (loop; 2.2 miles off-trail)
RATING Difficult, partly off-trail. Do not attempt without a topo map, compass, and the ability to use them.
FEATURES Views, high elevation wetlands
SEASON Summer, fall, winter

Take VT 125 east from East Middlebury for about 15 miles and park where the road intersects the Long Trail.

Follow the Long Trail south up through the Middlebury Snow Bowl. Continue ascending until you reach a clearing for the upper chair lift. There are great views of the Breadloaf Wilderness to the north and east. About a half mile more, and you reach the national forest boundary and the boundary of the proposed wilderness area. Continue ascending over a couple minor summits to a lookout that provides views to the east. Follow the ridge to the wooded summit of Worth Mountain. A short way beyond the summit, views south can be obtained.

In winter, the bushwhack on to Monastery Gap is not recommended due to potentially dangerous stream crossings. However, in summer, you can go on from the summit of Worth Mountain, bushwhacking magnetic east down the slope. The remote gap lies between Worth Mountain and Monastery Mountain. The upper part of the slope is thick with conifers and may be slow going, but the forest opens at lower elevations. Skirt the wet ground in the gap that feeds water north and south into unnamed headwaters tributaries of Robbins Branch and Bingo Brook. Turn north and follow the unnamed

tributary of Robbins Branch to Bailey Falls. Cross Robbins Branch, climb the bank to VT 125, and return westward on the road to your car.

An alternative return route from the gap is to contour along the slope, bearing generally magnetic north, to the Long Trail, and follow the trail north to your car. However, this route crosses several ravines, it adds about 0.5 mile of bushwhack, and the routefinding is more difficult.

Grindstone Brook and Monastery Mountain

LOCATION Hancock

DISTANCE 5.8 miles (round trip), 5.5 miles (loop)

RATING Difficult, off-trail. Do not attempt without a topo map, compass, and the ability to use them.

FEATURES Crystal-clear mountain brook; extensive moose sign; remote, untracked forest and high mountain ridge

SEASON Summer, fall

Park at the roomy parking area on the north side of VT 125, about 0.9 miles west of the intersection of the Texas Falls Road and just west of the highway bridge over Robbins Branch. Walk a short distance east along VT 125, crossing the highway bridge over Robbins Branch. At a private camp on the south side of the road, turn south through the camp dooryard. Please be quiet and respect the camp property as you cross it to reach the red-blazed national forest property line.

Cross Grindstone Brook to its west bank as soon as possible. There an old skid road parallels the brook, offering easier walking. As it climbs, though, the skid road becomes rather wet, and you may be better off in the woods.

At higher elevations the sides of the Grindstone Brook ravine become very steep, and it is easier to find your own route up the fall line than to follow the brook. Heading due south from the highest flowing portion of the brook, arrival at the ridge is obvious. Note your point of arrival and use that as your point to turn north on your return—unless you want to take a different route back to VT 125.

Follow the ridge generally westward to the summit of Monastery Mountain. There is usually a clear and well-beaten moose trail along the ridge, but it seldom persists all the way to the summit. The ridge becomes less well-defined as it rises, and toward the summit it can be tricky to follow. The summit of the mountain is forested and broad, and it may take some casting about to find the glass jar containing the summit register. On and near the summit you will usually find moose tracks and droppings, and many of the bushes and small fir trees are heavily browsed.

To return the same way, backtrack.

An alternative return route is to follow the ridge which first bears northwest by north, and then north. Be careful to stay on the ridge until you reach the lower slopes of the mountain. The west side of the ridge is very steep and interspersed with small cliffs, while much of the east side is obstructed by old logging debris. At Robbins Branch, cross the brook and climb the far bank to VT 125, which will lead you eastward back to your car.

It is inadvisable to head directly down the fall line from Monastery Mountain toward the highway. Tree tops remaining from logging many years ago, combined with dense new growth, make the area directly north of the summit still difficult, and in some places even dangerous, to negotiate.

Lye Brook Wilderness additions

The proposed additions to the Lye Brook Wilderness encompass the headwaters of the Deerfield and Winhall Rivers, and extensive wetland complexes featuring enormous biological diversity. The high elevation, mostly flat to rolling terrain, is ideal for remote winter adventuring on skis and snowshoes.

Branch Pond Trail to Bourn Pond

LOCATION Sunderland

DISTANCE 8.6 miles (round trip)

RATING Moderate

FEATURES Pond, loons, traces of abandoned logging railroad

SEASON Summer, fall, winter

From the west: Leave US 7 at the Arlington exit and follow VT 313 west 0.1 mile toward Arlington. Turn right onto South Road, and follow it 0.6 mile to its end at a "T" intersection; this is the hamlet of Kansas. Turn right; go 0.7 mile to the concrete bridge across Roaring Branch at East Kansas. At the far end of the bridge, turn right onto the gravel Kelley Stand Road. Follow the road to its intersection with FS 70 (on the left). Continue about another 1.8 miles to the trailhead, which is about 8.7 miles from the start of the Kelley Stand Road.

From the east: From VT 100 in West Wardsboro (0.5 mile south of the post office, 8.5 miles south of VT 30 in East Jamaica, and 13.6 miles north of Wilmington), follow the road west 3.4 miles to Stratton and another 3.4 miles to the Long Trail parking lot. The Branch Pond trailhead is 2.1 miles west of this parking lot.

The Branch Pond Trail leaves from the north side of the road at a height of land; it is marked by a somewhat obscure sign in the woods some distance from the road. There is space for one car on the north side of the road at the trailhead, and space for four more cars on the north side of the road further west of the trailhead.

As soon as you leave the road, you are in the proposed addition to Lye Brook Wilderness. The trail traverses hilly ground, and at 1.8 miles reaches a spur trail on the left, which leads to the north end of FS 70. At the end of this road there is a boat access leading 0.2 mile to Branch Pond. The trail continues northward, east of Branch Pond. At 2.1 miles another spur leads 0.1 mile to Branch Pond, whose shore offers interesting exploring. Loons are sometimes spotted here.

At 2.5 miles the trail enters the existing Lye Brook Wilderness, where brushing and blazing may be at a lower standard, making the trail more challenging to follow. It traverses a glacial esker, winding along the ridge of glacial debris, now forested with conifers. As it approaches Bourn Pond it follows the grade of

a logging railroad abandoned about a century ago; a few ties remain, and depressions from decomposed ties are evident. The trail reaches its junction with the Lye Brook Trail at Bourn Pond, at 4.3 miles. Bourn Pond is a frequent haunt of loons.

Stratton Pond Trail

LOCATION Stratton
DISTANCE 7.6 miles (round trip)
RATING Moderate
FEATURES Wildlife, pond
SEASON Summer, fall, winter

See directions for preceding hike, "Branch Pond Trail to Bourn Pond."

From the west: From the end of the bridge at East Kansas, follow the Kelley Stand Road about 9.9 miles to its intersection with FS 71 (on the right).

From the east: From the Long Trail parking lot, continue 0.9 miles farther to the intersection with FS 71 (on the left).

Parking for the trail is opposite FS 71, on the north side of the Kelley Stand Road.

As soon as you leave the road, you are in the proposed addition to Lye Brook Wilderness. The trail gradually climbs, crossing wet areas on puncheon, until it crosses a disused gravel road at 2.2 miles. This was a primary logging road before the Green Mountain National Forest bought the land from International Paper Co.; it is now the Catamount Trail (the Nordic ski trail that spans the length of Vermont).

From the Catamount Trail the Stratton Pond Trail continues northeast over more puncheon to the spur to the Stratton Pond Shelter, and just beyond, the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail at 3.7 miles. Stratton Pond is 0.1 mile farther on.

Glastenbury Mountain Wilderness

The proposed Glastenbury Mountain Wilderness would be the largest wilderness area in Vermont, if the Vermont Wilderness Act were passed. If conservationists' proposal for the area were enacted, this wilderness would dwarf all others in the state. The Glastenbury area is beautiful and varied, from Little Pond to the ancient beaver ponds in the headwaters of the Black Brook ravine, to the thick spruce forests on the summit dome of Glastenbury Mountain itself.

Bald Mountain

LOCATION Woodford
DISTANCE 4 miles (round trip)
RATING Moderate
FEATURES Views, high elevation spruce-fir forest
SEASON Summer, fall, winter

From Bennington, follow VT 9 four miles east to the Woodford Hollow town office. Just east of the town office, follow the gravel Harbor Road north 0.8 mile to limited parking in the field next to the water tower on the left. Take care not to block

any of the woods roads.

The blue-blazed trail follows an old woods road to the left of the private driveway. Red blazes mark the national forest boundary. The footpath ascends moderately steeply through a series of switchbacks, which lead out of the hardwood forest and up into the distinctive spruce-fir forest typical of higher elevations in southern Vermont. Keep an eye out for occasional pleasant views to the east of Glastenbury Mountain and Hell Hollow.

The trail then climbs to a short spur trail, which leads to a seasonal spring. Beyond the spur, the Bald Mountain Trail reaches a junction with the West Ridge Trail on the right, which leads to the summit. Return as you came.

Bald Mountain is so named because a forest fire in the 1920s burned off the trees and much of the soil. Since then the forest has begun to recover, and the mountaintop has a sparse growth of stunted conifers.

Bolles Brook

LOCATION Woodford
DISTANCE 4 miles (round trip)
RATING Easy
FEATURES Streamside
SEASON Summer, fall

Follow the same directions as for Bald Mountain, but continue past the water tower to the end of Harbor Road. From the end of Harbor Road, drive carefully past the gate on the somewhat rough FS 278. Within 0.2 mile are several wide places where cars can be left. (Cars left at the end of Harbor Road may be towed.)

Hike north along Bolles Brook on FS 288, which follows the bed of a logging railroad. The entire Glastenbury area was heavily logged in the 19th century. The railroad washed out in the late 1800s. The route is used by 4-wheel-drive vehicles (and sometimes—illegally—by ATVs); otherwise the area is very pleasant. You can follow Bolles Brook for approximately two miles before it divides into its headwater tributaries.

Beyond this point, ambitious walkers can follow an old logging road that climbs, sometimes steeply, another 2.4 miles as it follows the westernmost tributary to Bolles Brook.

Little Pond

LOCATION Woodford
DISTANCE 5 miles (round trip); 1.4–3 miles longer with optional side trips
RATING Easy
FEATURES Pond
SEASON Summer, fall, winter (cross-country ski)

On VT 9 between Bennington and Brattleboro, find the Forest Service parking lot on the north side of the highway, about two miles east of Prospect Mountain cross-country ski area.

In winter, FS 275 is a snowmobile trail. You gradually ascend on this old road. About a half mile in, a power line corridor allows views to the west and east, including the distant wind

turbines in Searsburg that border the proposed Lamb Brook Wilderness. From here on, FS 275 is the boundary of the proposed Glastenbury Wilderness, and all of the land on its west side is in the proposed wilderness. At about two miles, the snowmobile trail makes a sharp right turn to the east, and you cross into the proposed wilderness. Several hundred yards on FS 275 ends at an intersection with an old skid road bearing southwest. Continue straight down a slope about 200 yards to the pond. Little Pond Mountain rises to the north. You may return as you came, or continue on to the Appalachian Trail/Long Trail.

To get to the AT/LT, head southwest on an old skid road that eventually becomes a narrow footpath, less traveled. It connects to the AT/LT in about 0.5 mile. (Note that the USGS "Woodford" quadrangle topographic map does not show this route correctly. The route intersects the AT/LT at the bottom of a sag, not on the slope the map indicates.) From the intersection, the AT/LT heads south (left) to Porcupine Lookout in about 0.2 mile, or heads north (right) to Little Pond Lookout in about one mile. Nice views are attained at these vantage points.

Story Spring Shelter

LOCATION Stratton
DISTANCE 3.2 miles (round trip)
RATING Easy
FEATURES Beaver ponds, sense of remoteness
SEASON Summer, fall

From Kelley Stand Road, turn south onto FS 71 and follow it to the Appalachian Trail/Long Trail crossing.

From here, hike southbound 1.6 miles on the Long Trail to Story Spring Shelter. This frame lean-to with space for eight was built by the Forest Service in 1963. It is named in honor of George F. Story, for many years an active trail worker in the Worcester Section. The spring beside the trail 135 feet north of the shelter provides water. Story Spring Shelter is on the northeastern edge of Glastenbury Wilderness. To penetrate more deeply into the wilderness, you can hike south on the AT/LT as far as you like.

Black Brook Ravine and Ponds

LOCATION Glastenbury
DISTANCE 6.4 miles (round trip)
RATING Moderate; 1.4 miles are off-trail
FEATURES Brook, ponds, wildlife, logging village foundations
SEASON Year-round; can be skied

From the Arlington exit on US 7 go about 1.3 miles toward Arlington. At the crossroads with a yellow blinking light, turn left onto Warm Brook Road. Go about 0.4 mile and take the first left. In about 0.3 mile, bend hard right onto Maple Hill Road. Follow this generally south (taking the left leg at a fork) just over three miles; turn left onto Glastenbury Road. Follow this uphill about 1.7 miles, passing beneath US 7, to its end at a "T" intersection. Park at the intersection, taking care not to block traffic.

Follow the left leg of the "T", which is FS 307. It shortly bends

sharp right at the driveway of a large house. From here the road is used by snowmobiles in winter, but traffic is light. As the road ascends a rise, a town sign on the right announces it as an unmaintained route. The grade eases, and the narrow road continues to an opening in the forest at Fayville, the site of a long-abandoned logging camp or village where persistent explorers will discover the foundation of mills and other structures. If you had a high-center, four-wheel-drive vehicle, you could have driven it this far, and probably farther, but that would add unnecessary disturbance to the route.

FS 307 spans Fayville Branch on a sturdy bridge, nevertheless marked with a sign warning drivers that they cross at their own risk, and climbs the flank of the ravine of Black Brook. About a quarter mile beyond Fayville you enter the Green Mountain National Forest, which is marked by a large sign. At this point you are inside the proposed Glastenbury Wilderness. The rest of the hike is inside the proposed wilderness.

Look for unmarked FS 307A on the left, about 0.8 mile from the bridge. Little traveled, it descends steeply down to Black Brook, which it crosses via a ford in about 200 yards. At the crossing, follow Black Brook upstream.

Most of this length of Black Brook is occupied by a series of long, narrow abandoned beaver ponds that are so old there are no dead trees standing in them, and the dams are overgrown with moss, ferns and other plants. Yet as of this writing the dams still hold water, apparently because the watershed is so small that the brook never carries a large volume of water, so it does not develop floods strong enough to destroy the dams. The ravine escaped logging, so its lower slopes are still timbered, and the ponds and brook are hauntingly beautiful.

The highest pond, about 0.7 mile above the brook crossing, is dammed by beavers at both its north and south ends. Most people will want to turn around here, especially skiers. However, if you are ambitious, following the outlet of the north end will bring you down a steep ravine that joins the canyon of South Fork of Roaring Branch (see next hike). This interesting but tricky scramble is rewarded by the vigorous and noisy flow of a seldom-visited mountain stream.

South Fork Canyon

LOCATION Sunderland
DISTANCE 2 miles more or less (round trip)
RATING Difficult, off-trail
FEATURES Majestic, isolated forest canyon
SEASON Summer

Leave US 7 at the Arlington exit and follow VT 313 west 0.1 mile toward Arlington. Turn right onto South Road, and follow it 0.6 mile to its end at a "T" intersection; this is the hamlet of Kansas. Turn right; go 0.7 mile to the concrete bridge across Roaring Branch at East Kansas. At the far end of the bridge, turn right onto the gravel Kelley Stand Road. Follow the road 2.8 miles along the north side of Roaring Branch to a pull-off on the south (right) side of Kelley Stand Road, where South Fork joins Roaring Branch.

Do not attempt this hike except during the low water periods

of summer. It requires stream crossings that become dangerous at high water.

With appropriate footwear and a staff or trekking poles for stability, wade across to the south side of Roaring Branch, to the east side of South Fork. You are now inside the proposed Glastenbury Wilderness. Then cross to the west bank of South Fork. At the top of the bank is an abandoned and somewhat overgrown road along South Fork.

It is possible to follow the abandoned road south along South Fork, wading back and forth along the stream as the road goes. However, at some points the road has been completely washed out, forcing you to find your own route through the woods. Follow the stream along the bottom of the deep, steep-sided ravine as far as you wish before retracing your steps.

Lamb Brook Wilderness

The proposed Lamb Brook Wilderness is an isolated mountain headwaters area on the border between the towns of Searsburg and Readsboro. Ringed by ridges, the wilderness feeds four streams that thread their way through gaps to the outside world. The area is the wildest part of a 27-square-mile undeveloped tract bounded by VT 9 to the north, VT 100 to the south, and Harriman Reservoir to the east.

Old Stage Road

LOCATION Readsboro
DISTANCE 6.6 miles (round trip)
RATING Moderate
FEATURES Historic travel route
SEASON Summer, fall

From the junction of VT 100 and VT 8 in Heartwellville, take VT 100 north (you'll actually be heading southeast by the compass) for about 0.4 miles. Look for FS 266, on the left (east) side of the highway. Park without blocking the locked gate.

Hike up the road, which climbs steeply 0.8 mile to a second gate, also normally locked. Here FS 266 meets the Old Stage Road, which now serves as a section of the Corridor 9 VAST snowmobile trail. Old Stage Road was built in 1793 as a connector between Boston and Albany. Go right (east), turning off of FS 266. Follow Old Stage Road/Corridor 9 about 2.5 miles until you pass a large, log hunting camp on your left and reach a red-blazed national forest property line on your right. At this point, you have hiked through the proposed Lamb Brook Wilderness. Return as you came.

Corridor 9 from VT 8

LOCATION Readsboro
DISTANCE 3–5 miles (round trip)
RATING Easy
FEATURES Wildlife
SEASON Summer, fall

From the junction of VT 100 and VT 8 at Heartwellville, take VT 8 north for about 1.3 miles to a parking area on the west

side of the road.

Across from the parking area, the Corridor 9 snowmobile trail heads east toward the Lamb Brook Wilderness. Hike uphill for about one mile before descending to cross a stream and coming to an old logging road (FS 266). You can return as you came.

For a longer hike, turn left on the old logging road and follow it almost a mile to its end, near the center of the wilderness. The area traversed by this hike could be affected by a proposed expansion onto national forest land of the existing Searsburg wind turbine array.

RESOURCES

You may obtain topographic maps for the Green Mountain National Forest from its website (www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl) or from the Supervisor's Office (31 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701).

The following guidebooks offer more information about some of the hikes described in this booklet:

- Long Trail Guide: Hiking Vermont's High Ridge*, Green Mountain Club, 2003
- Day Hiker's Guide to Vermont: Trips Beyond the Long Trail*, Green Mountain Club, 2002
- Hiking Green Mountain National Forest: Southern Section*, Bruce Scofield, New England Cartographics, 2000

PLEASE JOIN US IN PROTECTING WILDERNESS

Forest Watch was established in 1994 as a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of wilderness and wildlife.

Please join our effort to protect wilderness on the Green Mountain National Forest by becoming a member of Forest Watch (see enclosed envelope and member form). You may also join on our website, where you can learn much more about our organization, wilderness protection, and what you can do to help.

If you would like more copies of this booklet, please contact us. We also welcome your suggestions, corrections, and more hike descriptions, to post on our website and for future editions of this publication.

Forest Watch (802) 434-2388
P.O. Box 188 contact@forestwatch.org
Richmond, VT 05477 www.forestwatch.org

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Contributors: Ryan Talbott, Mollie Matteson, Dick Andrews, Kevin Cross, Robert Long
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