

Northern Blue Hills Segment (Atlas Map 11f)

SNAPSHOT

9.3 miles: Bucks Lake Road at CTH-F to CTH-F Southern Trail Access

Note: It is anticipated that volunteers will build a new section of Trail in 2014 north of Bucks Lake Road. The new route is shown as "Future Trail" on the accompanying map. Check with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (800-227-0046, iceagetrail.org) for more details.

This remote and rugged segment crossing through the Blue Hills features a number of scenic stream crossings and several beautiful wetland areas.



At the nearby Murphy Flowage Picnic Area and Murphy Flowage Campground.

From Devil's Creek and other small streams/creeks and lakes/wetland areas. Primitive camping on county forest lands.



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Nearby campgrounds at Rusk County Remote Campsite 6 and Murphy Flowage Recreation Area and at Audie Flowage-Perch Lake Recreation Area, ~5 mi east (see Area Services).

Portions overlap with logging/forest roads and gravel Bucks Lake Rd.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F: From Birchwood at the intersection of Main St. and STH-48, take STH-48 east 2.3 mi. At CTH-F turn right and go south 8.5 mi. Roadside parking on Bucks Lake Rd. Alternatively, park at the Murphy Flowage Picnic Area located on CTH-F 0.5 mi north of the Bucks Lake Rd./ CTH-F intersection on the west side of the road. Follow access road around to the picnic area.

CTH-F Southern Trail Access: From Weyerhaeuser on USH-8 take CTH-F north then west 6.6 mi. Roadside parking.

Additional Parking: (i) Bucks Lake Rd. where the Trail goes off-road (**RU8**). Roadside parking. (ii) Stout Rd. Trail access parking area (**RU6**).

THE HIKE

The segment starts at the intersection of Bucks Lake Road and CTH-F. Hikers should head east on Bucks Lake Road for 0.6 mi. *This distance will be shorter once volunteers construct a new section of Trail north of Bucks Lake Road. Watch for signage at approximately 0.2 mi east of CTH-F that will direct hikers to the new route.* The current segment route leaves (RU8) Bucks Lake Road and heads south on a logging/forest road. The segment traverses rolling hills through a mixed hardwood forest in an area showing evidence of extensive beaver activity.

Reaching the wide, grassy road/spur trail to the Stout Road parking area, the segment continues southward through rolling, hummocky glacial topography in a mix of hardwood forest. This portion of the segment is mostly on a two-track footpath, occasionally mixing in short sections of current and old logging roads. Hikers should pay close attention to Trail signage at intersecting logging/forest roads. After reaching the outlet of a large wetland (**RU5**), the Trail follows a branch of Devil's Creek through a scenic and peaceful shallow valley, crossing a series of bridges.

The segment continues its southward course through hummocky terrain. Eventually the segment makes its way to a ridge overlooking Devil's Creek. The Murphy Flowage Recreation Area

0.5-mi CR to Hemlock Creek Segment. North on CTH-F.

Trail descends to the creek, crosses on a bridge, then climbs 80 feet up another ridge on the opposite side. The segment then follows the ridge through birch and pine forest before reaching the segment's terminus at the CTH-F southern Trail access. Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2013,

Lake RU8

Rd.

2014

Bucks Lake

Rd.

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Perch Lake Rd

AREA SERVICES

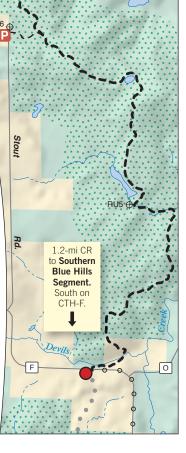
Audie Flowage-Perch Lake Recreation Area: Camping. From Bucks Lake Rd. and CTH-F go east 4.8 mi on Bucks Lake Rd. For more information contact Rusk County Forestry Department (715-532-2113, ruskcounty.org/departments/forestry/camping-information).

Murphy Flowage Recreation Area: See Hemlock Creek Segment, p. 42. From Bucks Lake Road at CTH-F Trail access go north 0.7 mi.

Birchwood: See Blueberry Segment, p. 40. From Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F Trail access go north ~10.5 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

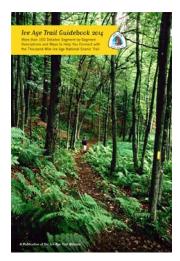
Rusk County Remote Campsite 6: Camping. See Hemlock Creek Segment, p. 42. From Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F Trail access go west on primitive Bucks Lake Rd. to the end of the road.

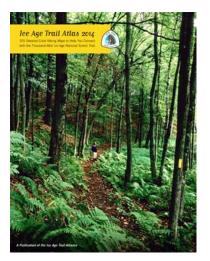
Weyerhaeuser: See Southern Blue Hills Segment, p. 48. From CTH-F southern Trail access go east and south 6.6 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.



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Must-Have Ice Age Trail Books!





The Ice Age Trail Guidebook 2014 features more than 100 detailed segment-by-segment descriptions and maps to help you connect with the thousand-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Written for those seeking a wide range of adventures on the Ice Age Trail, the softcover Guidebook includes these items and more:

- A detailed written description of each segment along the Ice Age Trail's thousand-mile route.
- A helpful map excerpt for each segment from the Ice Age Trail Alliance's popular Ice Age Trail Atlas.
- Ratings for each segment on a variety of criteria to help hikers find the Ice Age Trail excursion that's right for them.

The **Ice Age Trail Atlas 2014** is a set of 105 color, shaded relief-style maps at 1:48,000 scale. In contrast to the smaller map excerpts in the Ice Age Trail Guidebook 2014, each map in this package is printed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet and includes not just the Ice Age Trail route but also a wider snapshot of the area around the Trail.

Both books were written and published by the Ice Age Trail Alliance. All proceeds for each book help build and maintain the Ice Age Trail. Please call the IATA at (800) 227-0046 with any questions.

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