Lincoln County

Map of Lincoln County with various trail segments and landmarks labeled. The map includes segments such as Council Grounds State Park, Merrill, Camp New Wood County Park, Rapids Wildlife Area, Tug Lake Recreation Area, Underdown Recreation Area, Tomahawk, Harrison Hills Segment, Grandfather Falls Segment, Underdown Segment, Tule Rock Segment, Averill-Kelly Creek Wilderness Segment, and Camp 27 Segment. The existing Ice Age Trail is depicted, subject to change as it evolves toward completion.
Lincoln County

Grandfather Falls Segment
Trail Access

STH-107 (LI10)

Tug Lake Recreation Area:
On Route on Tug Lake Ave.

Horn Lake Rd. access (LI7):
From Horn Lake Rd. Trail access (LI7), take Horn Lake Rd. south and then west at the T-intersection 0.4 mi to the walk-in campsites on the south end of Horn Lake. Lincoln County Forestry, Lands & Parks Department (715-539-1034, co.lincoln.wi.us/departments). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.


Underdown Recreation Area:
Main entrance is on Cooper Lake Ave., 1.1 mi west of the Cooper Lake Ave. Trail access (LI4). Lincoln County Forestry, Lands & Parks Department (715-539-1034, co.lincoln.wi.us/departments). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.

Walk-in campsite (LI39): Located halfway between Mist Lake and Dog Lake, the site is high above the surrounding forest.


Main entrance camping: Has water hand-pump and pit toilets. Also has a large parking area for additional parking for the segment. Eight pull-in campsites (fee).

Copper Lake Ave. access (LI4):
From Merrill at I-39 & USH-51/CTH-K, take CTH-K north 7.3 mi. At CTH-H turn right and go east then north 1.0 mi to Copper Lake Ave. At Copper Lake Ave. turn right and go east 3.7 mi. Pass the Underdown Recreation Area main parking area and continue an additional 1.1 mi east to reach the Trail access. Roadside parking.

Note: Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.
## Lincoln County

### 348.4 Alta Junction Segment Trail Access  ➤➤
CTH-J (LI45)

**Note:** Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>348.7</td>
<td>CTH-J DNR parking area (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>349.0</td>
<td>Access to North Branch Prairie River</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CTH-J southern access (LI45):** From Merrill at I-39 & USH-51/STH-64, take USH-51 north 13.0 mi to Irma. At CTH-J turn right and go east then south 6.9 mi passing two DNR parking areas on the west side of CTH-J. No parking. Instead, park at either of the DNR parking areas to the north on CTH-J.

### 349.6 Alta Junction Segment and Harrison Hills Segment Trail Access  ➤➤
CTH-J (LI13) (P)

**Note:** Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>349.8</td>
<td>Primitive Alta Springs Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353.4</td>
<td>Beaver Trail Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353.6</td>
<td>Turtle Lake Rd. (LI42) (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354.8</td>
<td>Spur trail to Bus Lake walk-in campsite (LI47)  ➤➤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356.1</td>
<td>Bridge on east side of unnamed lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>357.6</td>
<td>Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358.1</td>
<td>Top of Lookout Mountain (LI1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359.9</td>
<td>CTH-B, with nearby ATV parking area (P)  ➤➤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361.7</td>
<td>Spur trail to Chain Lake west angler campsite (LI48)  ➤➤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361.9</td>
<td>Spur trail to Chain Lake east angler campsite (LI49)  ➤➤</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CTH-J northern access (LI13):** From Merrill at I-39 & USH-51/STH-64, take USH-51 north 13.0 mi to Irma. At CTH-J turn right and go east 5.1 mi. Roadside parking. **Additional parking:** Alta Springs Rd. parking area ~0.1 mi north of CTH-J on Alta Springs Rd. A blue-blazed spur trail leads to the IAT.

**Lincoln County Forest primitive camping:** Indicated as green dotted area on Atlas maps 30f, 31f and Guidebook p. 108, 109. Lincoln County Forestry, Lands & Parks Department (715-539-1034, co.lincoln.wi.us/departments). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.

- **Bus Lake campsite:** Along the western shore of Bus Lake. A spur trail leads from the IAT (LI47). Car accessible via a gravel access road from Turtle Lake Rd. Large enough for a group.
- **Chain Lake west angler campsite:** Between the west and center lobes ~100 ft off the Trail.
- **Chain Lake east angler campsite:** Between the east and center lobes ~400 ft off the Trail. It may be flooded when water levels are high.

**CTH-B ATV parking area:** On Trail. Adjacent to the main Lincoln County ATV trail system parking area and building on the west side of the road. Do not block ATV trail access. Parking is open to all trail users.

### 364.1 Harrison Hills Segment and Parrish Hills Segment Trail Access  ➤➤
First Lake Rd. (LI43) (P)

**First Lake Rd. access (LI43):** From Merrill at USH-51/STH-64, take STH-64 east 0.3 mi. At STH-17 turn left and go northeast for 21.9 mi. At First Lake Rd. turn left and go north then west 1.5 mi to parking area on the north side of First Lake Rd., just before the intersection of First Lake Rd., Parrish Rd. and Fish Lake Rd. Additional roadside parking is available on Parrish Rd. just north of this intersection.
### Langlade County

**Atlas maps 31f–39f; Guidebook pages 112–133**

**Total miles:** 83.0 (Trail 54.3; Connecting Route 28.6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Harrison Hills Segment and Parrish Hills Segment Trail Access ➤➤</th>
<th>783.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>364.1</td>
<td>First Lake Rd. (LI43)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times. A reroute is planned between Five Cent Rd. and Parrish Game Trail. Check with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (800-227-0046, iceagetrail.org) for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Parrish Hills Segment 12.0 mi • Atlas Maps 31f, 32f</th>
<th>771.3</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>364.3</td>
<td>Depart First Lake Rd. (LA31)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>365.6</td>
<td>STH-17 [150 ft west of CTH-HI] Caution—dangerous road crossing ➤➤</td>
<td>781.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>366.6</td>
<td>Pine Rd. (join for 0.1 mi) ➤➤</td>
<td>780.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>366.9</td>
<td>Prairie River ford (LA19) Caution ➤➤</td>
<td>780.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>368.2</td>
<td>Small wooden shelter (LA18) at logging road/ATV trail</td>
<td>779.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>369.2</td>
<td>Primitive logging road/ATV trail—access to ATV shelter south 0.3 mi ➤➤</td>
<td>778.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>369.9</td>
<td>Join primitive Five Cent Rd. (LA35) ➤➤</td>
<td>777.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>370.2</td>
<td>Five Cent Rd./join primitive Parrish Game Trail (road)</td>
<td>777.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>370.9</td>
<td>Depart Parrish Game Trail (road)</td>
<td>776.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371.6</td>
<td>Primitive Nelson Firelane (LA36)</td>
<td>775.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>375.1</td>
<td>Footbridge</td>
<td>772.3</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Parrish Hills Segment and Highland Lakes Segment Trail Access ➤➤</th>
<th>771.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>376.1</td>
<td>CTH-T (LA33)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First Lake Rd. access (LI43): From Merrill at I-39 & USH-51/STH-64, take STH-64 east 0.3 mi. At STH-17 turn left and go northeast for 21.9 mi. At First Lake Rd. turn left and go north then west 1.5 mi to the parking area on the north side of First Lake Rd. just before the intersection of First Lake Rd., Parrish Rd. and Fish Lake Rd.

Langlade County Forest primitive camping: Indicated as green dotted area on Atlas maps 31f, 32f and Guidebook p. 116, 117. Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Department (715-627-6300, co.langlade.wi.us/forestrydepartment.htm). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.

### First Lake Rd. access (LI43):

- **Parrish:** (Tavern) From the STH-17 Trail access go north 0.1 mi.
- **Rhinelander (54501):**
  - At STH-17 go north 15.5 mi.
  - **Area information:** Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce (715-365-7464, explorerhinelander.com).
- **Gleason (54435):**
  - At STH-17 go south 10.5 mi.
  - **Pine Rd. parking:** DNR parking area is 0.1 mi south from where Trail departs Pine Rd. to the east.

**Caution—Prairie River ford (LA19):** The Prairie River is wide but usually ankle- to knee-deep. The rocky and vegetative river bottom can be slippery.

**ATV shelter:** Off Trail. At primitive logging road/ATV trail, go south 0.3 mi, or at Five Cent Road, go west 0.3 mi then north on a logging road 0.2 mi. Refer to Atlas maps 31f, 32f and Guidebook p. 116 for details.

**Townline Lake day-use picnic area:** On Trail at CTH-T access (LA33).
Langlade County

Highland Lakes Segment
12.8 mi • Atlas Maps 32f, 33f

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mile</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>378.6</td>
<td>West Branch of the Eau Claire River ford (LA16) (200 ft north of “Five Points” intersection)</td>
<td>Caution — Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>379.3</td>
<td>Gate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380.3</td>
<td>Gate [join Lowells Rd. south of gate]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>381.2</td>
<td>Saddlebag Lane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382.0</td>
<td>Lowells Rd./Kleever Rd.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382.5</td>
<td>Kleever Rd./Forest Rd. (unsigned)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>384.8</td>
<td>Bogus Swamp SNA (LA16)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>386.6</td>
<td>Forest Rd. (LA30) in 250 ft go southwest at yellow steel post, a yellow trailhead marker and directional arrows (LA11)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>387.0</td>
<td>Join Camp Susan’s entrance drive (LA10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>388.7</td>
<td>Camp Susan’s entrance drive/CTH-B (LA10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>388.9</td>
<td><strong>Highland Lakes Segment and Summit Moraine Segment Trail Access</strong> (LA29)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>388.9</td>
<td>CTH-B/snowmobile trail (old railroad grade) (LA29)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>397.5</td>
<td>Langlade County Forest primitive camping: Indicated as green dotted area on Atlas maps 32f and 33f and Guidebook p 122, 123. Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Department (715-627-6300, co.langlade.wi.us/departments/). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>398.3</td>
<td>Caution — West Branch of the Eau Claire River ford and “Five Points” intersection (LA15) navigation note: The West Branch of the Eau Claire River (LA16) ford can be tricky in high water. Rocks in the river can be used as steppingstones when water is low. A culvert over the river can be found by heading upriver approximately 300 yards. Return to the Trail by heading southwest on a logging road. The trek upstream to the culvert requires a bushwhack through thick underbrush. The “Five Points” intersection (LA15), is a former rail line junction where five fire lanes or logging roads meet (LA15), known as “Five Points.” Eastbound hikers should follow the distinct logging road headed southeast. This is the second lane/road to the left or clockwise. Westbound hikers should follow the logging road headed northwest. Be careful not to follow ATV trail signs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>399.5</td>
<td>Bogus Swamp State Natural Area: On Route. Off-road exploring opportunity. Along Forest Rd. (dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=287). A unique 870-acre wetlands complex that includes a variety of northern wetland types, none of which are swamp. Bogus Swamp, a large kettle filled with peat, is home to several rare plants, birds and butterflies. Note: There are no facilities, established hiking trails or signage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>403.5</td>
<td>Koeppel’s Cottages on Deep Wood Lake: Near Forest Rd. Trail access (715-350-2570). Seasonal overnight lodging available to hikers if there are vacant cottages.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>405.5</td>
<td>Local Area: North of Forest Rd. access.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>406.5</td>
<td>Camp Susan’s entrance drive/CTH-B parking: Access CTH-B from USH-45 &amp; STH-47 via Koepenick Rd., 0.7 mi south of the USH-45 &amp; STH-47 Trail access. At CTH-B turn right and go north 1.0 mi to Camp Susan’s gated entrance drive. Parking permitted on the side of the access road. Do not block the gate!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ice Age Trail Databook 2020 – 2022 Edition
Map 29f
Lincoln County
Includes Lincoln County Forest, Underdown Recreation Area, Horn and Thompson lakes, and Tug Lake Recreation Area

- Ice Age Trail
- Connecting Route
- Future Trail
- Other Trail
Map 30f
Lincoln County
Includes Lincoln County Forest, Lookout Mountain, Alta Springs and Prairie River State Fishery areas, North Branch Prairie River, and Underdown Recreation Area

Lincoln County Map 30f

Includes Lincoln County Forest, Lookout Mountain, Alta Springs and Prairie River State Fishery areas, North Branch Prairie River, and Underdown Recreation Area

Underdown Segment
6.3 mi

Harrison Hills Segment
14.5 mi

Alta Junction Segment
1.2 mi
**Underdown Segment and Alta Junction Segment**  (Atlas Maps 29f, 30f; Databook pages 29–30)

**SNAPSHOT**

**Underdown Segment—6.3 miles:** Horn Lake Rd. to Copper Lake Ave.

1.2-mile Connecting Route

**Alta Junction Segment—1.2 miles:** CTH-J Southern Trail Access to CTH-J Northern Trail Access

The very hilly and forested Underdown Segment passes through the popular Underdown Recreation Area and cuts through the primeval “Enchanted Forest,” a beautiful hemlock grove next to a wetland area.

At the Underdown Recreation Area main parking area 1.1 mi west of the eastern end of the segment.

From Dog Lake and Mist Lake.

Primitive camping on county forest lands. Walk-in campsites in the Mist Lake and Dog Lake area. The Dog Lake site has a shelter.

Campground at the Underdown Recreation Area main parking area.

Primitive campground on south end of Horn Lake.

Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

Much of the segment overlaps bike trails, horse trails, cross-country ski trails, snowshoe trails and logging/forest roads.

Underdown Recreation Area trail network.

The short Alta Junction Segment follows a historic railroad grade for much of its route.

From the North Branch of the Prairie River and a small intermittent creek.

Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

**TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING**

**Horn Lake Rd.:** From Merrill at the intersection of I-39/USH-51 and CTH-K, take CTH-K north 7.3 mi. At CTH-H turn right and go east 0.5 mi to gravel Horseshoe Lake Dr. As CTH-H turns north, continue east on Horseshoe Lake Dr. for 0.8 mi. At Horn Lake Rd. turn right and go south 1.2 mi. No parking. Instead, park at the Horn Lake primitive camping area (see additional parking below).

**CTH-J Northern Trail Access:** From Merrill at the intersection of I-39/USH-51 and STH-64, take USH-51 north 13.0 mi to Irma. At CTH-J turn right and go east 5.1 mi. Roadside parking.

**Additional Parking:** (i) Horn Lake camping area: From Horn Lake Rd. Trail access take Horn Lake Rd. south and then west at the T intersection 0.4 mi to the walk-in campsites on the south end of Horn Lake. (ii) Copper Lake Ave.: From Merrill at the intersection of I-39/USH-51 and CTH-K, take CTH-K north 7.3 mi. At CTH-H turn right and go east then north 1.0 mi to Copper Lake Ave. At Copper Lake Ave. turn right and go east 3.7 mi. Pass the Underdown Recreation Area main parking area and continue an additional 1.1 mi east to reach the Trail access. Roadside parking. (iii) CTH-J southern Trail access: From Merrill at the intersection of I-39/USH-51 and STH-64, take USH-51 north 13.0 mi to Irma. At CTH-J turn right and go east then south 6.6 mi to a DNR parking area on the west side of CTH-J. There is also an additional DNR parking area 0.25-mi north on CTH-J. (iv) Alta Springs Rd. parking area, about 0.1 mi north of CTH-J on Alta Springs Rd. A blue-blazed spur trail leads to the Ice Age Trail.
The topography traversed by the Underdown Segment is part of the Harrison Moraine of the Wisconsin Valley lobe. Glacial debris remnants in the form of hummocks separate deep kettles. Some kettles remain lakes, but most are filled with sphagnum peat. Thick forests including frequent hemlock groves, white pine, mature maples and white birch hide the high-relief hummocky terrain that a hiker may not always see but will certainly feel with the climbs and descents. Note: Single-track mountain bike trails and horse trails intertwine with the Ice Age Trail along this segment. Pay close attention at intersections.

From its starting point on Horn Lake Road the segment heads east then north and after about a mile winds through a thick hemlock grove called the “Enchanted Forest.” Sphagnum moss bogs lie amid the hemlocks and towering white pines. Steep climbs up and down hummocks greet the hiker as the segment closes in on Mist Lake and reaches a high point and a Leopold bench (LI40) high above the lake. Farther east along the segment another very steep ascent leads to a campsite (LI39) halfway between Mist Lake and Dog Lake. The site is very primitive and high above the surrounding forest. After descending through a mature hardwood forest hikers will encounter another hemlock grove that wraps around the north-west side of Dog Lake. On a small rise facing the lake is the Dog Lake backpack shelter (LI5). There is a fire ring and room for a few small tents near the shelter.

After leaving Dog Lake the segment crosses several small bridges and intermittently shares single-track trail. After crossing Loop Road (open to all vehicles including ATVs) the segment enters an open mature white birch forest home to nesting cooper’s hawks. The segment continues past a Leopold bench through open forest and a previously logged area ascending to the high point of the seg-
ment. Volunteers have worked hard to make this section easy to traverse with hand-built bench cuts carved into the hillside.

Just prior to crossing Loop Road a second time, hikers will reach the site of the original homestead of Bill Underdown. Remains of the cabin foundation can be found on the left side of the Trail. A sign marks the location. The segment crosses Loop Road and steeply climbs an esker. This very narrow ridge has steep sides falling off on both sides from the narrow ribbon of Trail. Another bench here lets the hiker rest and take in the surrounding deep woods. The segment descends and crosses an intermittent creek and climbs back up and through a recent timber harvest area before reaching its endpoint on Copper Lake Avenue.

To reach the Alta Junction Segment, hikers should head east for 0.7 miles on a connecting route along Copper Lake Avenue, then turn left and head north for 0.5 miles on CTH-J.

The **Alta Junction Segment** is named after the historic railroad junction of two rail lines at the village of Dunfield (now a ghost town). The segment follows the east side of the North Branch of the Prairie River. This area is known for the natural springs that bubble up from underground water tables. The Alta Springs Bottling Company (late 1800s) and Pay Brothers Alta Springs Bottling Company (1930s) bottled and sold the spring water for medicinal purposes.

From the southern Trail access on CTH-J the segment initially crosses a hummocky area, cuts through a parking area and then follows a rail grade built in 1908 that was part of the Milwaukee Road network that mainly serviced the logging industry in the area. Old railroad ties can still be seen in some places. The rail lines served the land Sigmund Heine-mann owned and were used to transport timber to the mill town of Heinemann until it burned down in 1910. Traversing the hilly glacial terrain, trains also hauled freight along these lines to the lumber mills in Merrill and Tomahawk until 1931. The segment ends when it again intersects CTH-J near Alta Springs Road.

### AREA SERVICES

**Underdown Recreation Area:** Camping. From the Copper Lake Ave. Trail access go west 1.1 mi. For info contact the Lincoln County Forestry, Lands & Parks Department (715-539-1034).

**Merrill:** See Turtle Rock Segment and Grandfather Falls Segment, p. 101. From Copper Lake Ave. Trail access go west then south ~17 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

**Gleason:** See Harrison Hills Segment, p. 108. From the CTH-J southern Trail access go south then east ~6 mi.

**Tomahawk:** See Turtle Rock Segment and Grandfather Falls Segment, p. 101. From the CTH-J northern Trail access go west then north 15.5 mi.
Harrison Hills Segment (Atlas Maps 30f, 31f; Databook page 30)

SNAPSHOT

14.5 miles: CTH-J to First Lake Rd.

This beautiful, remote segment features roller-coaster topography, plentiful primitive camping options and long views from the top of Lookout Mountain.

From the numerous trailside lakes, a trailside spring near the North Branch of the Prairie River and other small streams/creeks.

Primitive camping on county forest lands. Two walk-in campsites on Chain Lake.

At a walk-in campsite on Bus Lake accessible from Turtle Lake Rd. Large enough for groups.

At an ATV shelter at the CTH-B Trail access.

Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

Portions overlap logging/forest roads and two gravel roads.

Blue-blazed spur trail to Alta Springs Rd. parking area and a spur trail to walk-in campsite on Bus Lake.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

CTH-J: From Merrill at the intersection of USH-51 and STH-64, take USH-51 north 13.0 mi to Irma. At CTH-J turn right and go east 5.1 mi. Roadside parking.

First Lake Rd.: From Merrill at the intersection of USH-51 and STH-64, take STH-64 east 0.3 mi. At STH-17 turn left and go northeast for 21.9 mi. At First Lake Rd. turn left and go north then west 1.5 mi to parking area on the north side of First Lake Rd., just before the intersection of First Lake Rd., Parrish Rd. and Fish Lake Rd. Additional roadside parking is available on Parrish Rd. just north of this intersection.
When the Wisconsin Valley lobe advanced, there was most likely a period where the lobe surged forward. Researchers have found that when today’s glaciers rapidly advance they gather sediment on their surface, especially along the marginal edges. When the ice melts it leaves behind deep kettles and high-relief hummocks. The Harrison Moraine that this segment traverses is noted for this spectacular high-relief topography, including many glacially deposited ridges and hills such as Lookout Mountain, the highest point on the Ice Age Trail at 1,920 feet above sea level. Views are especially impressive when leaves are off.

Generally on public forest lands, this segment is remote (the Harrison Hills support a thriving wolf pack) and rugged. Ongoing timber harvest can make navigation challenging at times. The Trail corridor, while generally easy to follow, can be quite narrow in some areas. Watch carefully for Trail signage, especially at intersections and when on logging/forest roads.

This segment starts off at CTH-J and almost immediately intersects a blue-blazed spur trail leading to the Alta Springs Road parking area. It then quickly crosses primitive Alta Springs Road and soon brings hikers to a natural spring bubbling trailside and a bench with a view of the North Branch of the Prairie River.
River. The segment follows the river briefly before heading northeast to an area with a network of public ATV trails. ATVs are often seen or heard nearby; however, the segment does not overlap any of the ATV trails.

The segment crosses Beaver Trail Road and then Turtle Lake Road (LI42) before entering a region filled with small, beautiful, undeveloped lakes. It is common to see beavers swimming in some of the lakes at dusk. Portions of the segment in this area may be wet or flooded in early spring or during rainy periods. The trail wraps around the south end of Bus Lake. Near a bench overlooking the lake, the trail intersects (LI47) a spur trail leading north along the western edge of Bus Lake to a walk-in campsite (also accessible by car). A few open timber harvest areas on this portion of the segment are reestablishing with what is called a “gap” forest. Pioneer plants, such as grasses, shrubs and raspberry bushes, close in on the Trail and the new growth of aspen and birch trees offers little shade.

The segment reaches the top of Lookout Mountain (LI1), the second highest point in Wisconsin. There are several structures at the top, including two radio towers. The segment continues from Lookout Mountain. It travels through deciduous forest dominated by oak and maple trees on its way to CTH-B. It passes an ATV parking area with vault toilets. A popular fishing destination, the northeastern section of the segment passes many lakes. There are two angler campsites on Chain Lake: the first is along a spur trail (LI48) between the west and center lobes and is approximately 100 feet off the Trail; the second is also reached by a spur trail (LI49) between the center and east lobes and is approximately 400 feet off the Trail. The second campsite may be flooded when water levels are high.

From Chain Lake, the segment continues for about 2.0 miles to its terminus on First Lake Road, right on the Lincoln/Langlade county line.

**AREA SERVICES**

**Tomahawk:** See Turtle Rock Segment and Grandfather Falls Segment, p. 101. From the CTH-J Trail access go west then north 15.5 mi.

**Gleason:** Restaurant, convenience store. From the CTH-J Trail access, take CTH-J east, south and east 5.6 mi to STH-17. At STH-17, turn left (northeast) and go 1.9 mi. From the CTH-B parking area, take CTH-B east 1.2 mi to STH-17. At STH-17 turn right (southwest) and go 10.0 mi.

**Harrison:** Restaurant. From the CTH-B Trail access parking area go west and north ~7 mi.

**Merrill:** See Turtle Rock Segment and Grandfather Falls Segment, p. 101. From the First Lake Rd. Trail access go east then south ~24 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

**Rhinelander:** See Parrish Hills Segment, p. 116. From the First Lake Rd. Trail access go east and north ~18 mi.

* A highlight for us was learning that winter hiking was great. Frozen fog is beautiful. Snowshoeing at Harrison Hills was unforgettable. You see how alive the Trail is in winter by the tracks. We hiked, in two to four feet of snow, with snowshoes, and saw tracks from mice, squirrels, otter, deer, coyotes, and turkey but no humans. We didn’t see bears but saw lots of poop and tracks on the Trail.

GEORGE (AKA “MOSS BACK GEORGE”) AND VIOLET (AKA “DANCING TURTLE”)

BANE, ICE AGE TRAIL THOUSAND-MILERS
Parrish Hills Segment

(Atlas Maps 31f, 32f; Databook page 32)

SNAPSHOT

12.0 miles: First Lake Rd. western Trail access to CTH-T

This remote and rugged segment features the shoulder of Baldy Hill, a ford of the Prairie River, a scenic ridge with long views, several wetland areas and scenic Townline Lake.

Note: A reroute is planned between Five Cent Rd. and Parrish Game Trail Fire Lane. Check with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (800-227-0046, iceagetrail.org) for details.

At a former ATV shelter north of Five Cent Rd. (see map icons) and the Townline Lake wayside. Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times. Portions overlap roads, ATV and snowmobile trails and gravel or dirt logging roads.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

First Lake Rd. Western Trail Access: From Merrill at the intersection of I-39/USH-51 and STH-64, take STH-64 east 0.3 mi. At STH-17 turn left and go northeast for 21.9 mi. At First Lake Rd. turn left and go north then west 1.5 mi to the parking area on the north side of First Lake Rd. just before the intersection of First Lake Rd., Parrish Rd. and Fish Lake Rd.
**THE HIKE**

This segment is the oldest in the county. It was named after the town of Parrish, in the northwestern corner of Langlade County, and the Parrish End Moraine, a belt of moraine hills of boulders, sand and gravel deposited by a massive ice sheet over 10,000 years ago. The segment traverses the Parrish End Moraine, winding its way southeast through the typical hilly, hummocky terrain. The wetlands are so extensive that the Trail layout winds through the landscape to take advantage of beaver dams and narrow, high ridges. The segment is notable for the extent of evergreen forest (spruce, pine, fir, balsam, etc.) traversed by the route.

Several characteristics make this segment potentially challenging for hikers to navigate. Depending on water levels, precipitation and beaver activity, there may be several wet crossings that can require slight detours off-trail. Portions of the Trail may become overgrown and foliage may cover Trail signage. Logging occurs periodically on the lands through which the segment passes. The segment may intersect or even overlap multiple gravel or dirt logging roads, as well as other primitive roads and ATV and snowmobile trails. The segment route continually switches between these roads/trails and single-track tread. Hikers should pay close attention to signage.
and navigate carefully through intersections. Note: The logging roads between Pine Road and Townline Lake are ATV roads and are not maintained for general vehicular traffic. Hikers are strongly advised not to drive motor vehicles on these roads.

From its starting point at the Lincoln/Langlade county line on First Lake Road, hikers should head east just under 0.2 miles to a point where the segment leaves the road (LA31) on a single-track tread. It briefly heads north then east through forested terrain, passing 1831-foot Baldy Hill and then meanders to where hikers will need to exercise caution when crossing STH-17 and then CTH-H, in short order, as the roads parallel one another at this location. The segment continues southeast over lands that are part of a glacial outwash fan from the Harrison Moraine. Note: Portions of the segment here cross private and state lands where primitive camping is not permitted.

After skirting south and eastward along a pine plantation, the segment emerges onto Pine Road, follows the road south for a short distance and then continues southeast to a crossing (river ford) of the Prairie River (LA19), which has a fairly firm bottom with water levels typically below the knees. With rocks and vegetation on the river bed, hikers may wish to use footwear appropriate for the crossing. There is an old building foundation near the river ford where hikers can sit to rest or change footwear.

A little more than a mile east of the river the segment reaches a small wooden shelter (LA18) in a grassy opening along a logging road. Much of the next portion of the segment traverses high-relief hummocky topography. The segment continues east and then bends south to its intersection (LA35) with primitive Five Cent Road. About 0.9 miles from the small wooden shelter, the Trail intersects a logging road. Hikers can follow this road south for 0.3 miles to reach a former ATV shelter with drinking water and pit toilets. The segment continues east and then bends south to its intersection with primitive Five Cent Road. Hikers can also head west from here 0.3 miles along Five Cent Road, then north on a logging road 0.2 miles to reach the ATV shelter.

Upon reaching Five Cent Road hikers should turn left and follow the road east for a short distance, less than 0.2 miles, before departing from the road to head south for less than a mile down the primitive Parrish Game Trail Fire Lane. The segment then departs from the Parrish Game Trail Fire Lane and heads east, soon reaching a nice grove of hemlocks along a small lake.

The segment crosses (LA36) Nelson Firelane and eventually joins the Parrish snowmobile and ATV trail for a short distance. Hikers here should be alert to motorized traffic. The segment continues east, passing large wetlands and through logged clear-cut areas. At one time, the segment traversed at least two active beaver dams. Reroutes were constructed over the years because the beavers’ persistence in dam building caused flooding of the segment. The footbridge that hikers cross a mile north of the segment’s terminus on CTH-T replaced one beaver dam.

The segment follows the northeast edge of scenic Townline Lake along the base of a hill through a stand of large hemlock. Townline Lake is one of two trout lakes in the county and loons can be seen here in season. Remains of a stone bench, fire pit and stairs built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s are located along the Trail just before the picnic area. They are heavily overgrown
and easily missed. The segment ends at the easternmost Townline Lake day-use picnic area on CTH-T, which features several picnic tables, grills, a fire ring and a privy about 50 yards up the Trail into the woods. Swimming is available nearby at the boat landing.

**AREA SERVICES**

**Parrish:** Restaurant (tavern). From the STH-17 Trail access go north 0.1 mi.

**Rhinelander:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical service. From the STH-17 Trail access go north 15.5 mi. Area info available from the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce (715-365-7464, explorerhinelander.com).

**Gleason:** See Harrison Hills Segment, p. 108. From the STH-17 Trail access go south 10.5 mi.

**Merrill:** See Turtle Rock Segment and Grandfather Falls Segment, p. 101. From STH-17 Trail access go south ~25 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

**Antigo:** See Highland Lakes Segment, p. 120. From the CTH-T Trail access go east then south 21.7 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

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Winter solitude along the Highland Lakes Segment.