Map 11f
Rusk County
Includes Blue Hills, Devils and Hemlock creeks, Murphy Dam Recreation Area, and Rusk County Forest

0 1/2 1 mile
1:48,000 scale

- Ice Age Trail
- Connecting Route
- Future Trail
- Other Trail

Hemlock Creek Segment
7.0 mi

Northern Blue Hills Segment
9.6 mi

Southern Blue Hills Segment
7.3 mi

Includes Blue Hills, Devils and Hemlock creeks, Murphy Dam Recreation Area, and Rusk County Forest
Northern Blue Hills Segment (Atlas Map 11f; Databook page 12)

SNAPSHOT

9.6 miles: S. Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F to CTH-F Southern Trail Access

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 Devils Creek and other small streams/creeks and lakes/wetland areas.
- Primitive camping on county forest lands.
- At Murphy Flowage Campground, Audie Flowage-Perch Lake Recreation Area and Rusk County Remote Campsite 6 (see Area Services).
- Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.
- Portions overlap logging/forest roads and gravel S. Bucks Lake Rd.
- A blue-blazed spur trail to Stout Rd. parking area.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

S. 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 S. Bucks Lake Rd.

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

Additional Parking: (i) Murphy Flowage Picnic Area 0.5 mi north of S. Bucks Lake Rd. on the west side of CTH-F. Follow access road around to the picnic area. (ii) Bucks Lake Rd. where the Trail goes off-road (RU8). Roadside parking. (iii) Stout Rd. Trail access parking area (RU6) 2.2 mi north of CTH-F. From the parking area, follow the blue-blazed trail 0.3 mi to the Ice Age Trail.

THE HIKE

The segment starts at the intersection of South Bucks Lake Road and CTH-F. Hikers should head east on South Bucks Lake Road 0.1 mile where the segment leaves the road and heads north into woods. The segment courses through the woods over rolling terrain on rocky tread and makes its way to another intersection with South Bucks Lake Road. Shortly before reaching the road, hikers can catch glimpses of the Murphy Flowage through the trees from a boardwalk.

Reaching South Bucks Lake Road, the segment turns left and follows the road for 0.1 mile then goes off-road (RU8) to the south. The segment traverses low-relief hummocky terrain through a mixed hardwood forest mostly on logging/forest roads passing several small ponds. Hikers should pay close attention to Trail signage at intersecting logging/forest roads. This area shows evidence of extensive beaver activity and the Trail skirts close to and offers views of large beaver lodges. Shortly before reaching the blue-blazed spur trail to the Stout Road parking area, the segment crosses over a large active beaver dam. The tread across the dam is uneven and slippery, so hikers should use caution when crossing the dam.

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. During periods of heavy rain, portions of the Trail may become
muddy and rutted from ATVs, and larger ponds may flood the Trail. Again, 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 Devils Creek through a scenic and peaceful shallow valley, crossing a series of bridges.

Eventually the segment makes its way to a ridge overlooking Devils Creek, descends to the creek, crosses on a bridge, then climbs up another ridge on the opposite side. It then follows the ridge through birch and pine forest before reaching its terminus at the CTH-F southern Trail access.

*Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017*

**AREA SERVICES**

**Birchwood:** See Tuscobia Segment, p. 38. From S. 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.

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

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

**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.
Must-Have Ice Age Trail Books!

The Ice Age Trail Guidebook 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 Ice Age Trail Atlas 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, 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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5/25/2017