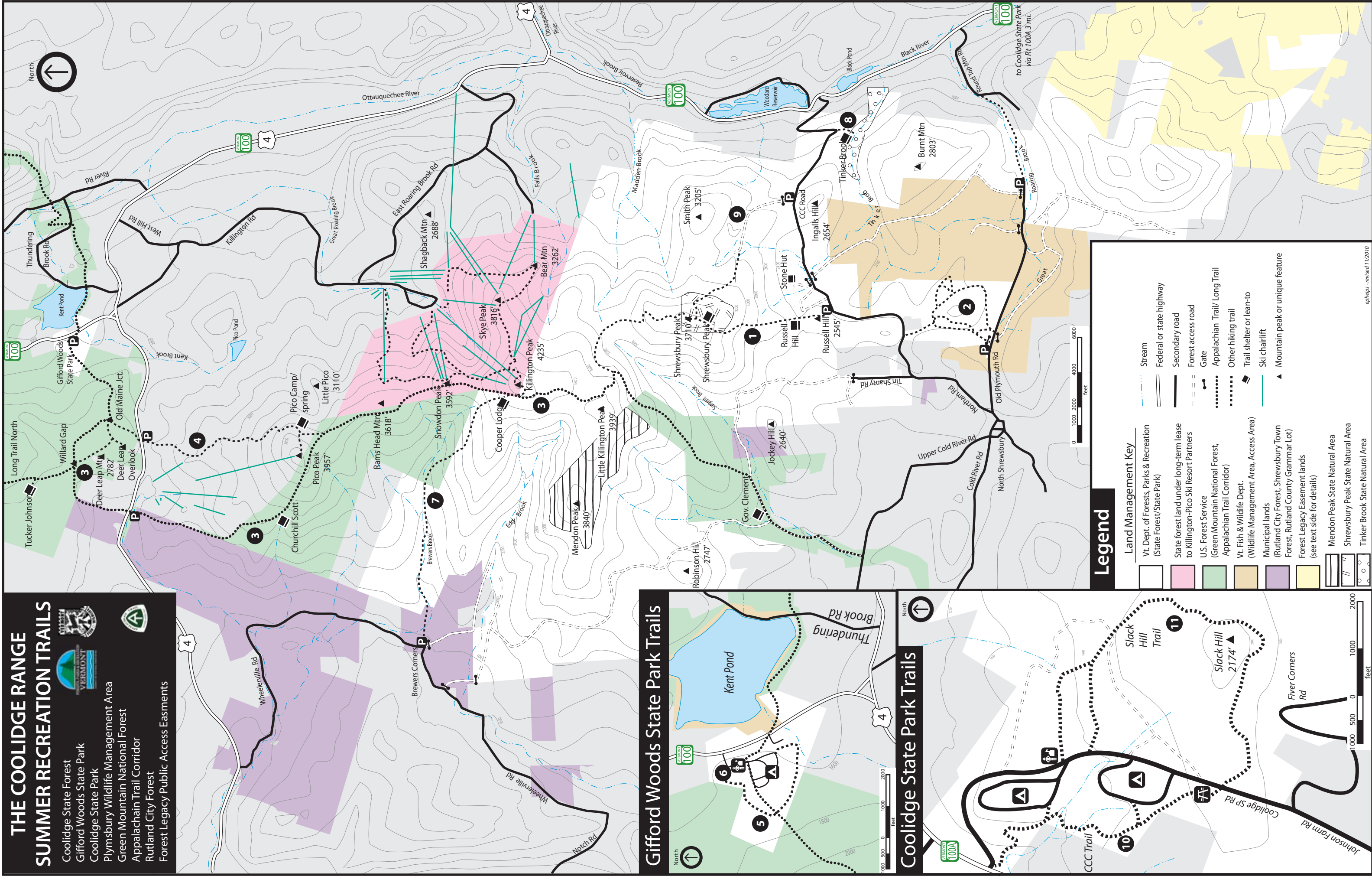


THE COOLIDGE RANGE SUMMER RECREATION TRAILS

- Coolidge State Forest
- Gifford Woods State Park
- Coolidge State Park
- Plymbsury Wildlife Management Area
- Green Mountain National Forest
- Appalachian Trail Corridor
- Rutland City Forest
- Forest Legacy Public Access Easements



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | Land Management Key | | Stream |
| | Vt. Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation (State Forest/State Park) | | Federal or state highway |
| | State forest land under long-term lease to Killington-Pico Ski Resort Partners | | Secondary road |
| | U.S. Forest Service (Green Mountain National Forest, Appalachian Trail Corridor) | | Forest access road |
| | Vt. Fish & Wildlife Dept. (Wildlife Management Area, Access Area) | | Gate |
| | Municipal lands (Rutland City Forest, Shrewsbury Town Forest, Rutland County Grammar Lot) | | Appalachian Trail/ Long Trail |
| | Forest Legacy Easement lands (see text side for details) | | Other hiking trail |
| | Mendon Peak State Natural Area | | Trail shelter or lean-to |
| | Shrewsbury Peak State Natural Area | | Ski chairlift |
| | Tinker Brook State Natural Area | | Mountain peak or unique feature |

Hiking

There are more than 30 miles of maintained hiking trails on public land in the Coolidge Range area. Trails are identified with colored rectangular blazes. There are also many miles of woods roads for walking and exploring.

1. Shrewsbury Peak Trail (1.8 miles to Shrewsbury Peak, 4.0 miles to Long Trail) Blue blazes. This trail links the CCC Road with the Long Trail near Little Killington Peak. It begins at the Russell Hill parking lot on CCC Road and ascends steeply to Shrewsbury Peak.

There are remnants of Civilian Conservation Corps-era construction including the pavilion chimney, wishing well and Russell Hill lean-to. The trail begins in northern hardwood forests but enters spruce-fir forests at higher elevations. Views to the south and east from the peak include Plymbsbury wetlands and Saltash Mountain. Elevation change: 2,340 to 3,500 feet.

2. Bessenyey Trail (1.5 miles) Blue blazes. This is primarily a cross-country ski trail. However, this system of old skid roads can also be used as walking paths in the summer. Parking is available on Old Plymouth Road. The trail head is ¼ mile east along the town road on north side. Remnant Norway spruce plantations, lowland spruce-fir forests and northern hardwood forests can all be seen along this trail. Elevation change: 2,100 to 2,400 feet.

3. Long Trail/Appalachian Trail White blazes. A section of the Appalachian Trail/Long Trail (AT/LT) runs through the Coolidge Range. It enters the region near Governor Clement Shelter and leaves on the north slope of Killington Peak, continuing through private and federal lands before the two trails diverge and the AT continues east through Gifford Woods State Park. The trail travels through high elevation northern hardwoods and spruce-fir forests. There are spectacular views from the summit of Killington Peak accessed by the Killington Spur Trail (0.2 miles). (Elevation change: 3,300 to 4,235 feet). For more detailed information on the AT/LT system refer to the Green Mountain Club's *Long Trail Guide*.

4. Sherburne Pass Trail (2.9 miles to Route 4) Blue blazes. This is the former route of the Long Trail between Pico Camp and Route 4 at Sherburne Pass, and currently connects to the AT/LT at both its north and south ends. The Pico Link (0.4 miles) leads to the summit of Pico Peak. This trail is on private land with a public access easement. Elevation change: 3,600 feet (Pico Camp) to 2,700 feet (Old Maine Jet).

5. Kent Brook Trail (1 mile) Yellow blazes. This loop trail follows the perimeter of Gifford Woods State Park through a northern hardwood forest. Trail intersects the AT at the halfway point. Accessible from the park entrance; day fee charged during operating season.

6. Gifford Woods Interpretive Trail (0.3 mile). This loop trail has interpretive exhibits exploring the natural and cultural history of the Gifford Woods old-growth forest. Accessible from the park entrance; day fee charged during operating season.

7. Bucklin Trail (3.4 miles). Blue blazes. This popular side trail to the AT/LT begins at Brewer's Corners on Wheelerville Road in Mendon and ascends the western flank of Killington Peak. It follows an old logging road for much of its length. The trail ends at an intersection with the Long Trail. Elevation change: 1,800 to 3,600 feet.

8. Tinker Brook Trail (0.4 Miles to Tinker Brook gorge) Blue blazes. This trail begins at a sharp turn on the CCC Road in the Town of Plymouth. This moderate hike along an old woods road leads to the Tinker Brook Shelter and the Tinker Brook Natural Area. The Natural Area includes 65 acres of Hemlock-Red Spruce Forest on the rocky slopes of Tinker Brook Gorge. It is thought to be old growth with many of the trees around 200 years old. Elevation change: 1,800 to 2,000 feet.

9. Black Swamp Trail (2.1 miles) Blue blazes. This trail begins at the Black Swamp parking area on the CCC Road and follows the gated Black Swamp Road to its end through hardwood forests. Black Swamp, an important bear feeding area in spring, is to the northeast. From there the trail ascends through spruce-fir forests to Shrewsbury Peak. This route is a more gradual ascent than the Shrewsbury Peak Trail. The Shrewsbury Peak Shelter is just below the summit. Elevation change: 2,400 to 3,500 feet.

10. CCC Trail (1.5 miles) Blue blazes. Coolidge State Park. Start at the park entrance off Route 100A near a wooden bridge leading to the site of a former picnic shelter. The trail leads steeply uphill and connects to an old fire road that climbs moderately for approximately ½ mile to an intersection. Straight ahead a spur trail leads to the lean-to loop and office. To the right the CCC Trail drops steeply downhill through a hemlock grove, crosses a brook, and then continues uphill for ½ mile to another intersection where a spur trail on the left leads to the tent loop. The CCC Trail continues straight and winds steadily uphill for the final ½ mile before coming out at the Bradley Hill picnic shelter. The trail continues past the shelter and comes out on the park road opposite a parking area and the entrance to the Slack Hill Trail. Day fee charged during operating season. Elevation change: 1,050 to 1,850 feet.

11. Slack Hill Trail (2.5 miles) Blue blazes. Coolidge State Park. The Slack Hill Trail begins at the park office, climbing moderately for the first ½ mile through hardwoods; then a short steep section continues to a trail intersection. The trail on the right descends back to the park road just above the office. The main trail continues left climbing moderately for one mile before descending a short distance to a vista located near the 2,174 foot summit of Slack Hill. On clear days Mount Ascutney can be seen in the distance. The trail continues alternately climbing and descending for another mile to the day use area parking lot. Day fee charged during operating season. Elevation change: 1,550 to 1,850 feet.

Forest Legacy Easements

Public access easements are held by the State on private land for public recreation. Several properties adjacent to Coolidge Range lands have these easements. The public access easements are funded through the Vermont Forest Legacy Program.

Parking and Fee Areas

Several improved parking areas as well as pull-offs along roads and old log landings serve as parking for summer recreation activities. The CCC Road provides access for recreational activities including fall foliage viewing and hunting, but is not maintained for automobiles in winter. Gifford Woods and Coolidge State Parks have parking and modern facilities, and charge entry fees during the operations season. Do not block gates or roadways.

Off-Road Vehicles Prohibited

The use of ATVs, dirt bikes, or any other motorized, off-road vehicle is prohibited on these lands, roads and trails.

Killington Resort on State Land

Killington/Pico Ski Resort Partners, LLC leases nearly 1,700 acres of Coolidge State Forest at Killington Resort and offers downhill skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking and hiking activities. The company charges fees for use of their lifts and facilities, and may control, limit or exclude public use or access in certain situations. Pico Mountain operates on private land owned by the resort.

Mountain Bikes and Horses

Mountain bikes and horseback riding are allowed only on gravel surfaced roads within Coolidge State Forest and gravel or paved roads in state parks. Killington Resort has more than 30 miles of mountain bike trails (fees charged) within the ski lease area of Coolidge State Forest; Pine Hill Park in nearby Rutland offers many miles of trails as well. The Sherburne Trails connect to Gifford Woods State Park. Other trails are available in Pittsfield and Rochester.

Camping

Primitive camping is permitted within the following guidelines: no permits are required for stays of less than 4 days or for groups of less than 11 people; camping must be at least 100 feet from any stream or body of water, 200 feet from a trail or property line; and at least 1,000 feet from any traveled road. No camping is allowed within designated Natural Areas. Please practice “leave no trace” or “carry in carry out” camping techniques. There are 3 lean-to shelters available for overnight use (Russell Hill, Shrewsbury Peak and Tinker Brook). Gifford Woods and Coolidge State Parks offer developed facilities for tent, RV, lean-to and cabin camping.

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

The Coolidge Range offers over 18,600 of acres of public land for hunting, fishing and trapping. This large acreage is well suited to hunting large game including white-tailed deer, black bear, and moose. Ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and turkey hunting is also popular. Several brooks offer fishing opportunities, primarily for brook trout. These activities require a license from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Trail Partners

Trails in the Coolidge Range are managed and maintained by Forests, Parks & Recreation with many partners, including the Green Mountain Club, Farm & Wilderness Foundation, Killington-Pico Ski Resort Partners, Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Catamount Trail Association and the Shrewsbury Outing Club.

Winter Recreation

Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter activities. There are 33 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Cross-country skiers and snowshoers can ski along the Catamount Trail, bushwack to any area of the property, enjoy the trails on a 600-acre block of non-motorized forest area, or share the miles of groomed snowmobile trails. The Coolidge Range Winter Recreation Guide has more detailed information on wintertime activities.

For More Information

Please contact the Agency of Natural Resources Rutland North office located at 271 N Main St, Suite 215, Rutland, VT 05701, or contact by phone at (802)786-0060. On the web at: www.vtfnpr.org, www.vtfishandwildlife.com and www.vtstateparks.com.



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Natural Areas

There are four designated Natural Areas (NA) in the Coolidge Range. Tinker Brook NA is characterized by a steep, rocky gorge that supports old growth yellow birch and red spruce. Shrewsbury Peak NA and Mendon Peak NA consist of high elevation spruce-fir forests. Gifford Woods NA encompasses an old-growth northern hardwood forest.

Welcome to the Coolidge Range Area

Coolidge State Forest and Plymbsbury Wildlife Management Area provide access to more than 18,600 acres of state lands. The area is most noted for mountainous terrain, expansive forests and associated wetlands. Elevations range between 1,900 and 4,235 feet, and include a “high peaks” area containing Killington Peak (Vermont’s 2nd highest peak, 4,235’), Little Killington (3,939’), Shrewsbury (3,720’), Mendon (3,840’) and Smith (3,220’) peaks. This area, along with Gifford Woods State Park and Coolidge State Park is referred to as the ‘Coolidge Range.’

The Coolidge Range forms a “bridge” along the Green Mountain spine that connects blocks of Green Mountain National Forest land to the north and to the south. This large block of remote public land provides nearly endless opportunities for low intensity, dispersed recreational activities including hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, primitive camping and cross-country skiing. Focused parcels provide more intensive recreational opportunities such as down-hill skiing (Killington Resort) or snowmobiling. Several nearby state parks offer developed camping and day use facilities.

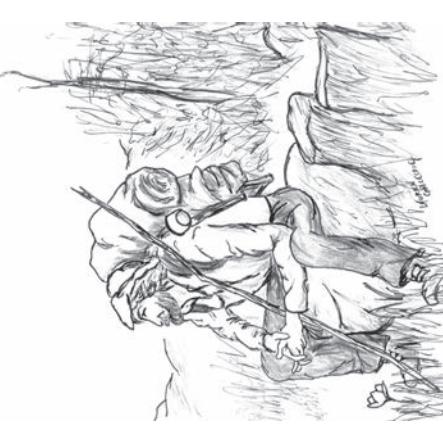
THE COOLIDGE RANGE SUMMER RECREATION TRAILS GUIDE

Coolidge State Forest

Coolidge State Park

Gifford Woods State Park

Plymbsbury Wildlife Management Area



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Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Department of Fish and Wildlife