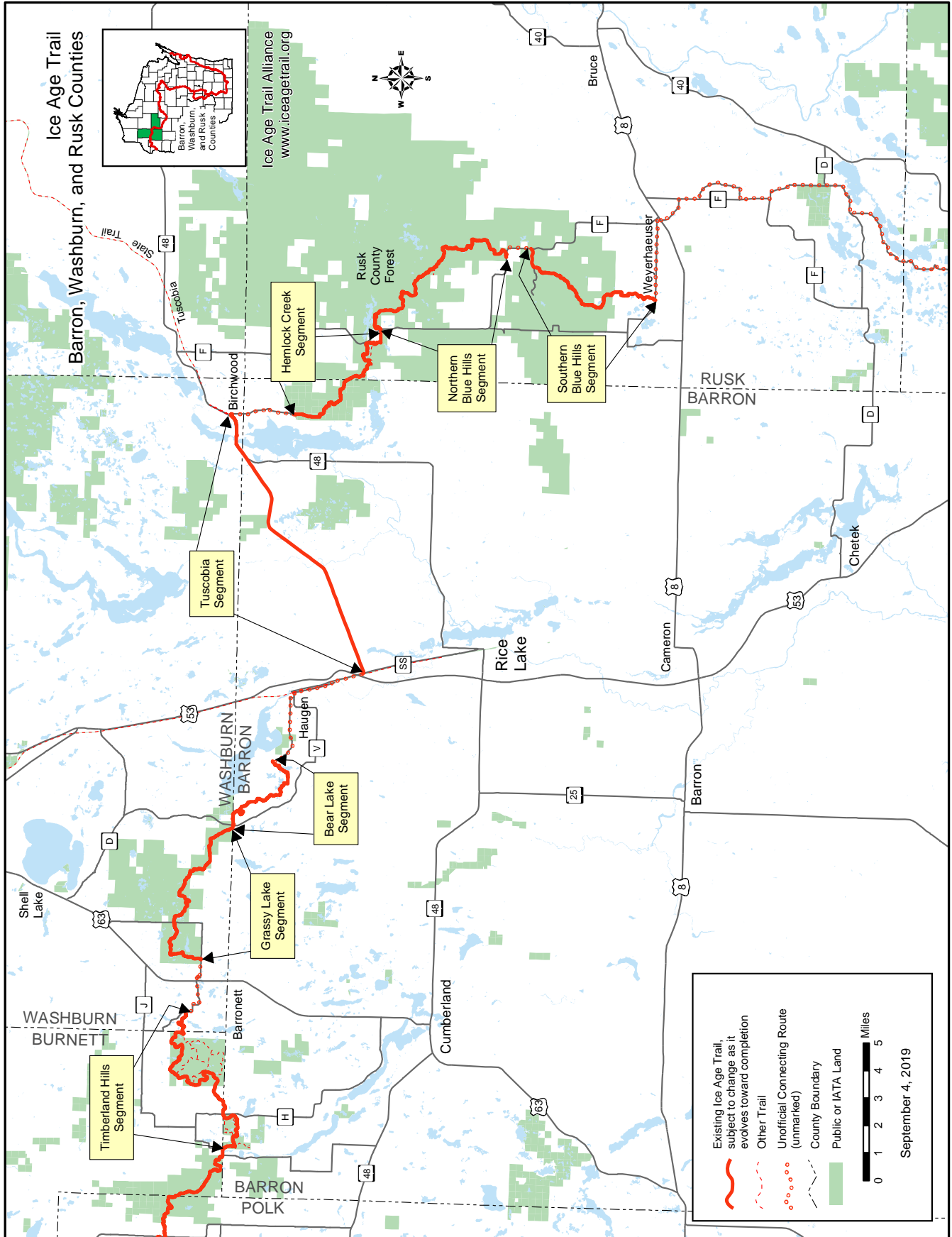


# Barron, Washburn & Rusk Counties












# Rusk County

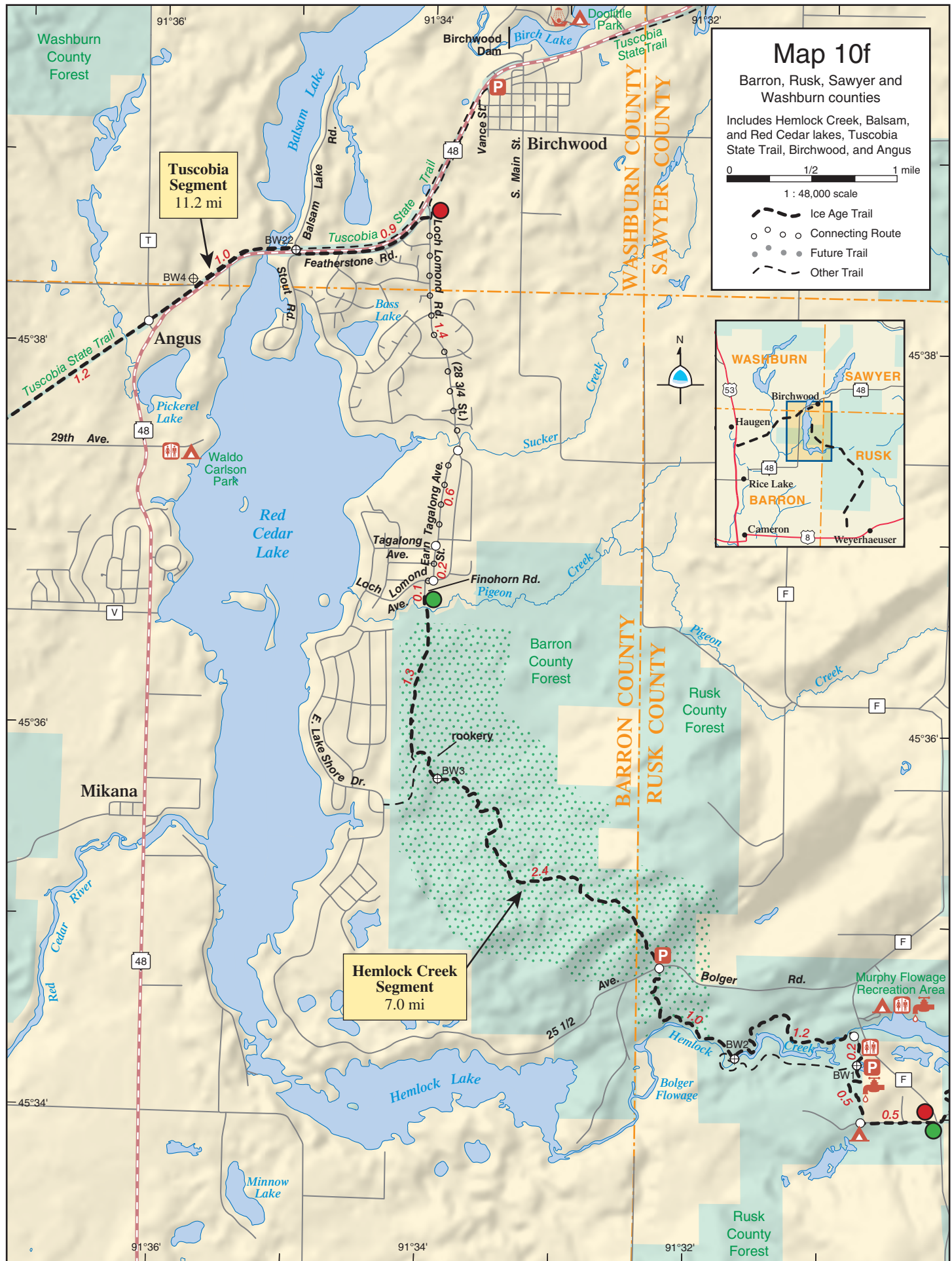
Atlas maps 11f–14f; Guidebook pages 44–49

Total miles: 33.7 (Trail 16.9; Connecting Route 16.8)

	<p>119.2 <b>Hemlock Creek Segment and Northern Blue Hills Segment Trail Access</b> &gt;&gt; S. Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F (RU14) </p>	<p>1028.2 <b>S. Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F access (RU14):</b> From Birchwood at Main St./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. <b>Additional parking:</b> Murphy Flowage Picnic Area on CTH-F 0.5 mi north of S. Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F on the west side of the road. Follow access road around to the picnic area.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Northern Blue Hills Segment 9.6 mi • Atlas Map 11f</p>	<p><i>Note: Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.</i></p>	<p><b>Stout Rd. parking area (RU6):</b> 0.3 mi northwest of the blue-blazed spur trail junction with the IAT.</p>
	<p>119.3 Depart S. Bucks Lake Rd. to the north 1028.1</p>	<p><b>Rusk County Forest primitive camping:</b>  Indicated as green dotted area on Atlas map 11f and Guidebook p. 47. Rusk County Forestry Department (715-532-2113, RuskCounty.org /department/forestry/camping-information). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.</p>
	<p>120.0 Join S. Bucks Lake Rd. 1027.3</p>	
	<p>120.1 Depart S. Bucks Lake Rd. to the south (RU8)  1027.2</p>	
	<p>124.2 Blue-blazed spur trail to Stout Rd. parking area &gt;&gt; 1023.2</p>	
<p>126.5 Large wetland (RU5) 1020.9</p>		
	<p>128.8 <b>Northern Blue Hills Segment Trail Access</b> &gt;&gt; E ← CTH-F (RU11) </p>	<p>1018.6 <b>CTH-F southern access (RU11):</b> From Weyerhaeuser on USH-8 take CTH-F north then west 6.6 mi. Roadside parking.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CR—1.2 mi Atlas Map 11f</p>	<p>S Along CTH-F N</p>	
	<p>129.9 <b>Southern Blue Hills Segment Trail Access</b> &gt;&gt; CTH-F/Yuker Rd. (unsigned) (RU10) </p>	<p>1017.4 <b>CTH-F/Yuker Rd. access (RU10):</b> From Weyerhaeuser on USH-8 take CTH-F north 5.4 mi to Yuker Rd., an unsigned primitive road heading west. Roadside parking on Yuker Rd.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Southern Blue Hills Segment 7.3 mi • Atlas Map 12f</p>	<p><i>Note: Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times. The Trail south of the Rusk County Forest boundary to Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd.) is closed during gun deer season.</i></p>	<p><b>North Lake walk-in campsite (RU2):</b>  On Trail. On Rusk County forest land. Not always mowed/maintained. Rusk County Forestry Department (715-532-2113).</p>
	<p>130.7 Depart Yuker Rd./join logging road (RU9) 1016.7</p>	<p><b>Rusk County Forest primitive camping:</b>  Indicated as green dotted area on Atlas map 12f and Guidebook p. 49. Rusk County Forestry Department (715-532-2113, RuskCounty.org /department/forestry/camping-information). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.</p>
	<p>131.3 Depart logging road 1016.1</p>	
	<p>132.5 Moose Ear Creek southern crossing (RU4) 1014.9</p>	
	<p>134.6 North Lake walk-in campsite (RU2) &gt;&gt; 1012.8</p>	
	<p>135.4 Small stream outlet of unnamed lake (RU1) 1012.0</p>	
	<p>136.2 Gravel farm road (RU13) 1011.2</p>	
<p>136.6 Railroad tracks 1010.7</p>		
	<p>137.2 <b>Southern Blue Hills Segment Trail Access</b> &gt;&gt; E ← Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd.) (RU15) </p>	<p><b>Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd.) access (RU15):</b> From Weyerhaeuser on USH-8, take CTH-F (2nd St.) north 0.1 mi. At the first street north of the railroad tracks, unsigned Railway Ave., turn left and go west 1.0 mi. Railway Ave. becomes Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd.). Angle left across the railroad tracks and continue west 1.9 mi to the Trail access. Roadside parking along the north side of the road.</p>

# Rusk County

CR—15.6 mi Atlas Maps 12f, 13f, 14f	139.2	Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd.) (unsigned)/ Railway Ave.	1008.2	W ↑	<b>Weyerhaeuser (54895):</b>     On Trail.  <b>Lodging:</b> Country View Motel (W14691 STH-8, 715-353-2780).
	140.2	Railway Ave. (unsigned)/2nd St. (CTH-F): <b>Weyerhaeuser</b> >>	1007.2	W ←	
	140.3	2nd St. (CTH-F)/USH-8	1007.1	NW ←	<b>Potato Creek State Wildlife Area:</b> Off-road exploring opportunity. Access from Dzimiela Rd. parking area ( <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topics/lands/WildlifeAreas/potato.html">dnr.wi.gov/topics/lands/WildlifeAreas/potato.html</a> ). This 1,000-acre property consists of wetlands, forested uplands and grasslands. The area is primarily managed for waterfowl habitat and as a hunting area. <i>Note: There are no facilities, established hiking trails or signage. ATV and snowmobile trails present.</i>
	140.5	USH-8/Historic Rd. (unsigned junction)	1006.9	NE →	
	141.6	Historic Rd./CTH-F	1005.7	W ←	
	142.4	CTH-F/Right-of-Way Rd.	1005.0	N →	
	144.7	Right-of-Way Rd./CTH-F at Pleasant Ridge Rd.	1002.7	E →	
	145.8	CTH-F/Pondell Rd.	1001.6	W →	
	146.0	Pondell Rd./Right-of-Way Rd.	1001.4	N ←	
	146.8	Right-of-Way Rd./Dzimiela Rd.	1000.6	N ←	
	147.2	Potato Creek SWA access  >>	1000.1	N ↑	
	148.1	Dzimiela Rd./CTH-D >>	999.2	N ←	
	149.8	CTH-D/Plummer Rd. >>	997.6	E →	
	152.9	Rusk/Chippewa county line on Plummer Rd. (Round Lake Rd.)	994.5	N ↑	<b>Rose's Bay Resort and Campground:</b>    At Dzimiela Rd./CTH-D go south 0.1 mi. At Roses Resort Rd. go west 1.4 mi (N1107 Roses Resort Rd., Weyerhaeuser, 715- 353-2527, <a href="http://rosesbayresort.com">rosesbayresort.com</a> ). Bar, restaurant and cabin rental open year-round.  <b>Backwoods Resort on the Island Chain of Lakes:</b>   On Route on Plummer Rd. (W14549 Plummer Rd., Weyerhaeuser, 715-353-3003, <a href="http://backwoodsresortwi.com">backwoodsresortwi.com</a> ). Bar open year-round.



# Map 10f

Barron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties

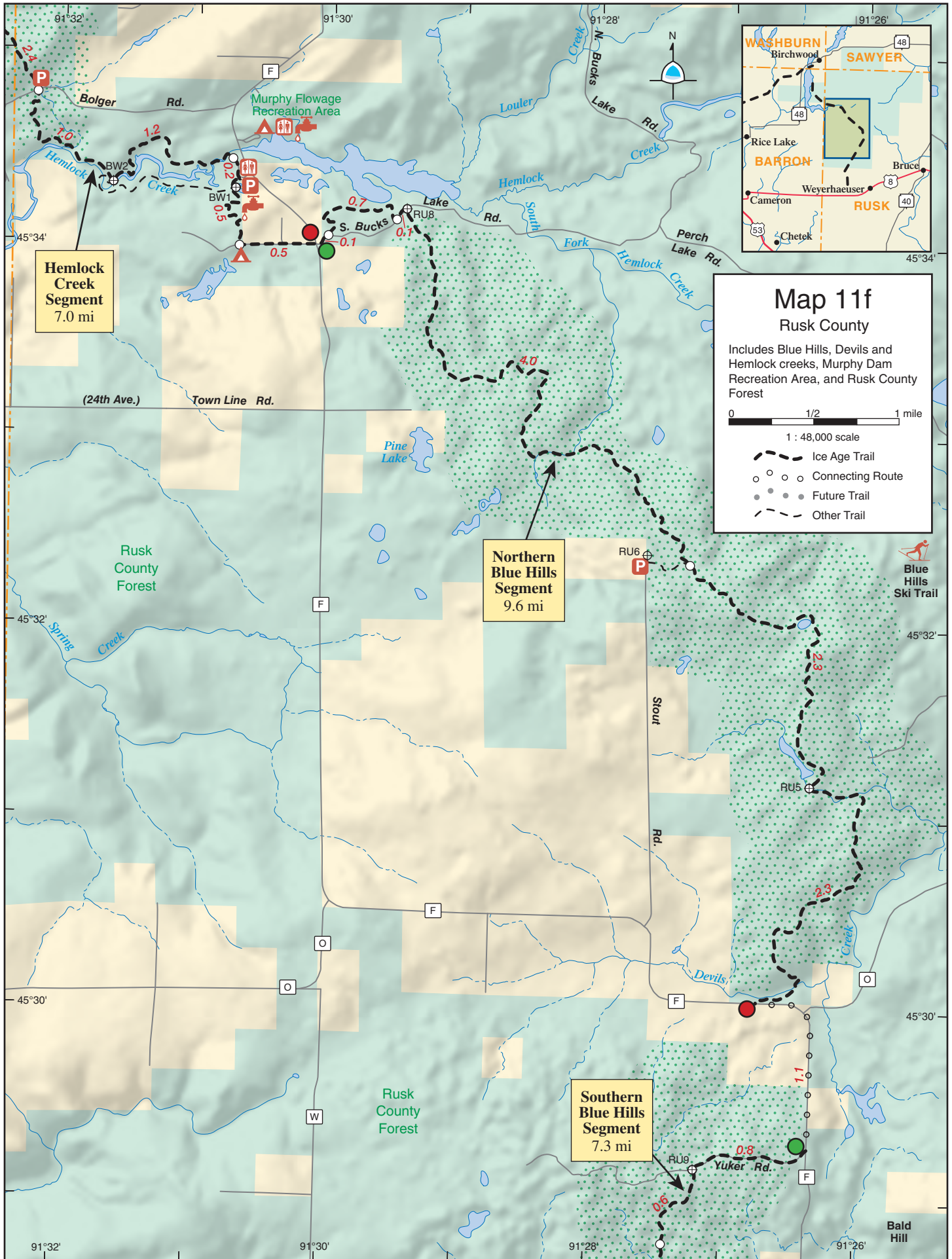
Includes Hemlock Creek, Balsam, and Red Cedar lakes, Tuscobia State Trail, Birchwood, and Angus

0 1/2 1 mile

1 : 48,000 scale

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





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

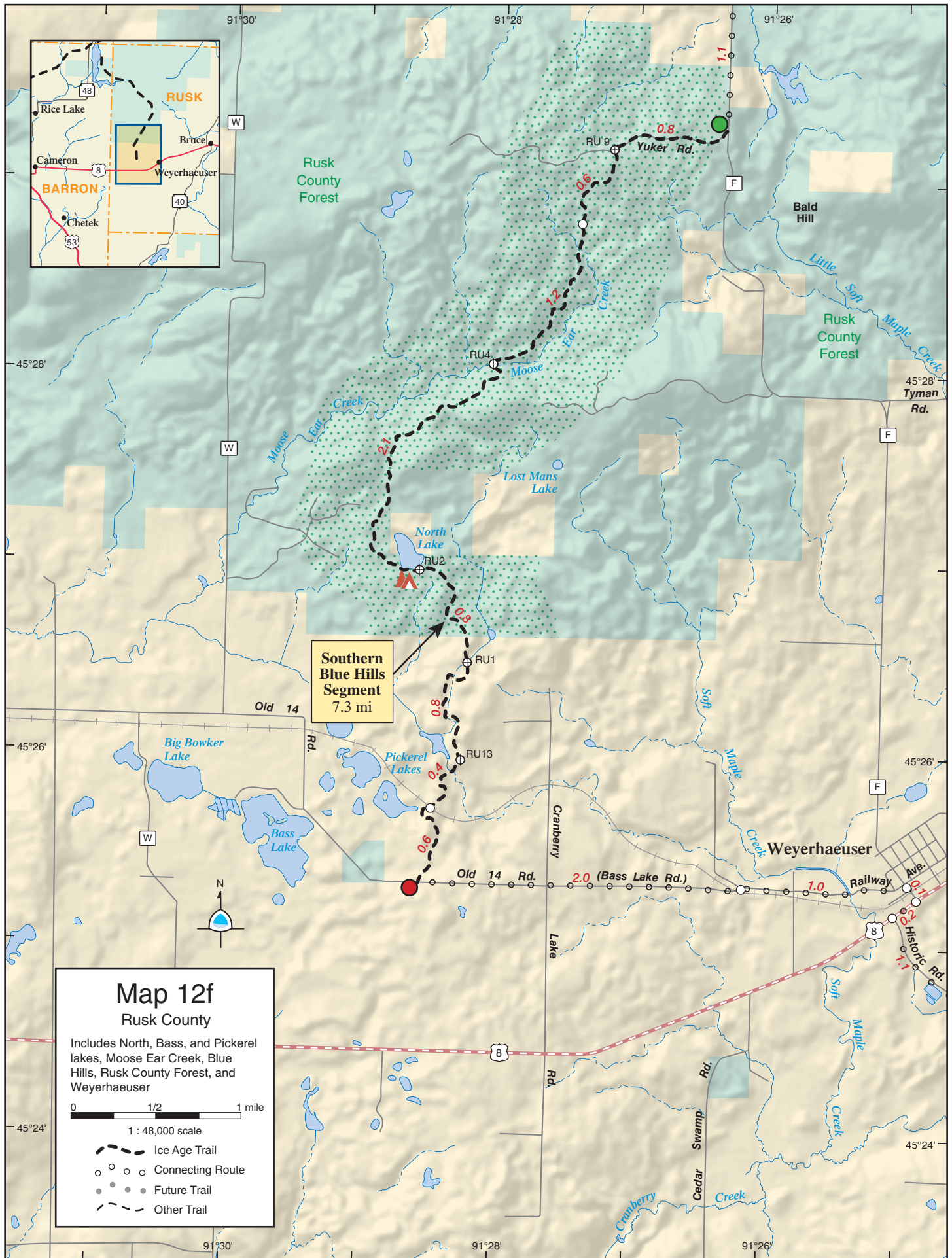
0 1/2 1 mile  
 1 : 48,000 scale

- 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



**Map 12f**  
Rusk County

Includes North, Bass, and Pickerel lakes, Moose Ear Creek, Blue Hills, Rusk County Forest, and Weyerhaeuser


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

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

# Hemlock Creek Segment (Atlas Map 10f; Databook pages 10–11)

## SNAPSHOT

**7.0 miles:** Finohorn Rd. (28<sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> St.) to S. Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F

 *This scenic segment through rolling county forest highlights the western edge of the Blue Hills and a loop around Hemlock Creek.*



At the Murphy Flowage Picnic Area and Murphy Flowage Campground.



From Pigeon and Hemlock creeks and a few small intermittent streams and lakes/wetland areas.



Primitive camping  on county forest lands.



At Murphy Flowage Campground and at Rusk County Remote Campsite 6  (see Area Services).



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



Small portions overlap a snowshoe trail and logging/forest roads.



A blue-blazed spur trail and a white-blazed loop south of Hemlock Creek.

## TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

**Finohorn Rd. (28<sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> St.):** From Birchwood at the intersection of Main St. and STH-48, take STH-48 west 1.0 mi. At Loch Lomond Rd. (28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> St.) turn left and go south then west 2.5 mi. At Finohorn Rd. (28<sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> St.) turn left and go south 0.1 mi to the Trail access. Roadside 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 to S. Bucks Lake Rd. Roadside parking on S. Bucks Lake Rd.

**Additional Parking:** (i) Bolger Rd. (25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Ave.) parking area, 1.2 mi west of CTH-F. (ii) 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.

## THE HIKE

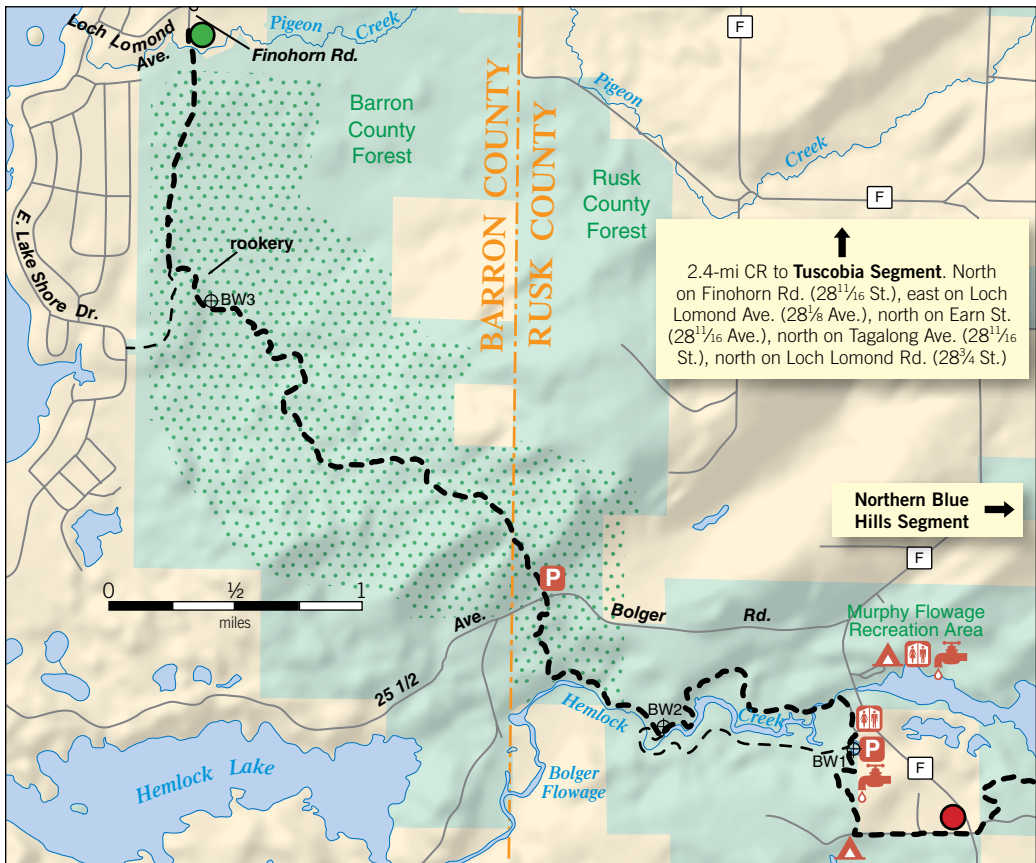
From its starting point on Finohorn Road (28<sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> Street) the segment heads south and quickly crosses Pigeon Creek. It continues over flat terrain and in about 0.9 mi intersects a blue-blazed spur trail that leads south to E. Lake Shore Drive. A little farther on, the segment passes an abandoned blue heron rookery (**BW3**), now home to nesting osprey.

South of the rookery the segment reaches a boardwalk; hikers should use caution when passing through this area and will likely come out with wet feet. An alternative is to walk on top of a beaver dam that parallels the segment.

As the segment makes its way to Bolger Road, it ascends into Barron quartzite hills, the first taste of the Blue Hills highlighted on segments farther east in Rusk County. Hikers should watch carefully for signage in this area as the route intersects many grassy logging roads.

Now in Rusk County, south of Bolger Road the segment drops steeply toward Hemlock Creek. Along the way the Trail passes some small, quickly flowing creeks. After paralleling Hemlock Creek for half a mile the segment reaches a junction (**BW2**) with a white-blazed trail that highlights the southern side of the creek.

From the junction with the white-blazed loop, the main segment continues east along the north side of Hemlock Creek with several trailside benches pre-



senting scenic views of the wetland below. The segment crosses the creek on an abandoned road bridge and enters the Murphy Flowage Picnic Area.

The segment continues south through a forested area, then reaches a primitive road and turns left. In 0.1 miles the Trail intersects another forest road that heads southwest 0.1 miles to the Rusk County Remote Campsite 6. The segment continues to follow the main primitive road east to its terminus on CTH-F.

*Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2007, 2008, 2013, 2014, 2016*

#### AREA SERVICES

**Birchwood:** See Tuscobia Segment, p. 38. From the Finohorn Rd. (28<sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> St.) Trail access go north then east 3.6 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

**Murphy Flowage Recreation Area:** Camping. On Trail. Picnic area is on the west side of CTH-F on the Trail route. The campground is on the east side of CTH-F, 1.0 mi north of S. Bucks Lake Rd. Rusk County Forestry Department (715-532-2113, [RuskCounty.org/departement/forestry/camping-information](http://RuskCounty.org/departement/forestry/camping-information)).

**Rusk County Remote Campsite 6:** Camping. From S. Bucks Lake Rd. at CTH-F Trail access go west 0.4 mi on primitive road (recommend 4WD). At "Y" junction, go southwest 0.1 mi on another primitive dirt road to campsite. For more information contact Rusk County Forestry Department (715-532-2113, [RuskCounty.org/departement/forestry/camping-information](http://RuskCounty.org/departement/forestry/camping-information)). A very remote site established for hunter use. No facilities.

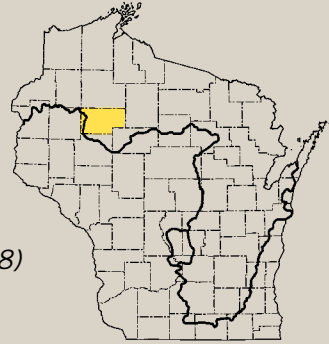


# Rusk County

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*Atlas Maps 10f–14f; Databook pages 7, 12–13*

*Total miles: 33.7 (Trail 16.9; Connecting Route 16.8)*



**T**wo distinct landscapes dominate the Ice Age Trail route through Rusk County. In the northern half of the county are the Blue Hills, once a mountain range of quartzite bedrock older than the Appalachian Mountains and most of the Rocky Mountains. The 1.6-billion-year-old quartzite peaks wore down over time. The Chippewa Lobe, flowing south and southwest, came to a halt as it reached the Blue Hills. It left a legacy of scattered lakes that offer an enticing habitat for an abundance of wildlife. Seen in the county forest have been whitetail deer, wolf, black bear and on rare occasion moose, who travel from as far away as Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The southern half of Rusk County is a land of lakes, which extends into Chippewa County.

On Rusk County Forest land, primitive camping is permitted at least 200 feet from trails and waterways.

## CHAPTER INFORMATION

The Blue Hills Chapter formed in 1992 after the Rusk County Chapter, formed in 1975, reorganized. Most of the Ice Age Trail through this area was designed and built in the late 1970s and early 1980s by Adam Cahow, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The chapter members continue his pioneer trailblazing with ongoing Trail maintenance projects and construction of new Trail routes.

## COUNTY INFORMATION

**Rusk County Tourism (and Visitor Center):** 800-535-7875, [ruskcountywi.com](http://ruskcountywi.com)

**Rusk County Forestry and Parks Information:** 715-532-2113, [ruskcounty.org](http://ruskcounty.org)




JANET WOOD

*Small ponds are plentiful; a rustic boardwalk offers dry passage along the Northern Blue Hills Segment.*

# 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.

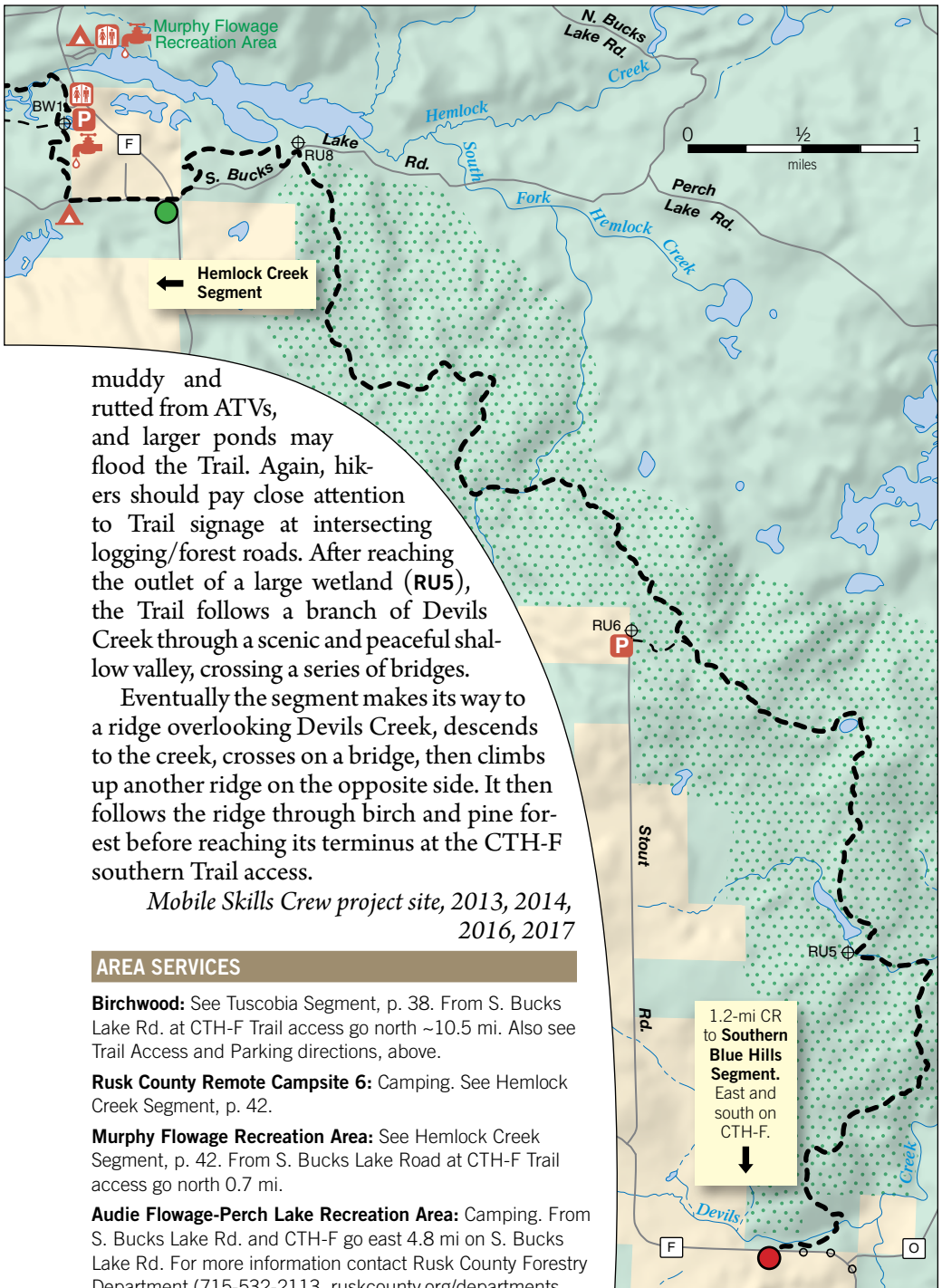
**Additional Parking:** (i) Murphy Flowage Picnic Area 0.5 mi north of S. Bucks Lake Rd. on the west side of CTH-F. Follow access road around to the picnic area. (ii) Bucks Lake Rd. where the Trail goes off-road (**RU8**). Roadside parking. (iii) Stout Rd. Trail access parking area (**RU6**) 2.2 mi north 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](http://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.

1.2-mi CR to Southern Blue Hills Segment. East and south on CTH-F.

# Southern Blue Hills Segment (Atlas Map 12f; Databook page 12)

## SNAPSHOT


**7.3 miles:** Yuker Rd. at CTH-F to Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd)

  *This remote and rugged segment continues through the Blue Hills, traversing ridges, kettles and ravines.*



From North Lake, Moose Ear Creek and other small intermittent streams/ creeks and wetlands.



Primitive camping on county forest land and at a walk-in campsite  on the south shore of North Lake.



The portion of the segment south of the Rusk County Forest boundary to Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd.) is closed during gun deer season.



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



Portions overlap logging/forest roads and dirt access road.

## TRAIL ACCESS AND WALK-IN

**Yuker Rd. at CTH-F:** From Weyerhaeuser on USH-8 take CTH-F north 5.4 mi to Yuker Rd., an unsigned primitive road heading west. Roadside parking on Yuker Rd.

**Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd.):** From Weyerhaeuser on USH-8, take CTH-F (2nd St.) north 0.1 mi. At the first street north of the railroad tracks, unsigned Railway Ave., turn left and go west 1.0 mi. Railway Ave. becomes Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd). Angle left across the railroad tracks and continue west 1.9 mi to the Trail access. Roadside parking along the north side of the road.

## THE HIKE

This segment starts at the intersection of CTH-F and Yuker Road, an unsigned primitive road used by fishermen and hunters for access to Rusk County Forest land. Hikers should head west on Yuker Road for 0.7 miles to a point (**RU9**) where the Trail leaves Yuker Road and heads south on a logging/forest road. Shortly, the segment splits off to the right on a narrow tread. Within the first few miles, the Trail twice crosses scenic Moose Ear Creek on primitive wooden and log bridges (second crossing: **RU4**). As the route makes its way to North Lake it follows or parallels forested ridges with views of trailside kettles and down glacial-formed ravines on a mix of two-track footpath and logging roads. Low-lying areas can be very wet and muddy, especially during rainy periods. Hilly, forested terrain characterizes this portion of the segment, most of which is on Rusk County Forest land. During growing season dense vegetation hugs the Trail; pay close attention to Trail signage.

The segment eventually emerges into a clearing and soon after intersects and briefly follows a dirt access road to the east. The segment curves around to the west and south of North Lake, a local fishing hole, then reaches the south shore of the lake and a walk-in campsite (**RU2**). The south shore offers scenic views of the lake and is a perfect place to view the many birds, including loons, who use the lake.

South of North Lake, the Trail soon comes to a gate and fence stile and enters private land. The segment crosses the outlet/small stream (**RU1**) from a small, unnamed lake then weaves in and out of woods, skirts daisy pastures and crosses the small stream two more times on a combination of forest roads, farm roads

and narrower tread. Eventually the Trail climbs a ridge overlooking a lake through the forest, crosses another fence stile and comes to a gravel farm road (RU13) with excellent views of agricultural fields through an opening in the trees.

From here on its way to its terminus on Old 14 Road (Bass Lake Road), the segment includes a trek through a forested, more hummocky area, the crossing of a set of railroad tracks, the skirting of another wetland/lake and a pine, oak and birch forest with an undergrowth of ferns.

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

**AREA SERVICES**

**Audie Flowage-Perch Lake Recreation Area:** See Northern Blue Hills Segment, p. 46. From Yucker Rd. at CTH-F go north and east ~9 mi.

**Murphy Flowage Recreation Area:** See Hemlock Creek Segment, p. 42. From Yucker Rd. at CTH-F go north ~10.5 mi.

**Birchwood:** See Tuscobia Segment, p. 38. From Yucker Rd. at CTH-F Trail access go north ~20 mi.

**Weyerhaeuser:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, lodging. From Old 14 Rd. (Bass Lake Rd) Trail access go east 3.0 mi. Lodging at Country View Motel (715-353-2780).

