



Catskill 3500 Club Hiking & Private Property June 2020

While most of the high peaks in the Catskills are primarily on state land, two summits, Graham and Doubletop, are on private property, while other peaks have areas of private property that bushwhackers will want to avoid. This brief guide is intended to help new and returning hikers avoid illegal trespassing. Respecting private property will help ensure that landowners remain receptive to hiker's requests to use their land in the future. Contact the aspirants chair at 3500.club.aspirants.chair@gmail.com with any questions. Updates with current information can be found on our website www.catskill-3500-club.org

Graham and Doubletop

The summits of both peaks are located on land belonging to the Gould family. For years, the family has allowed hikers to use this land with permission, granted by a caretaker. To ensure continued access for hikers, it is imperative that everyone hiking these peaks contact the caretaker in advance of their hike and receive verbal or written permission. It's easy, the caretaker is friendly, and most requests are granted.

Gould Property Caretaker
Bill Fiedler
Office landline: (845) 586-4099
Responds Mon-Fri during
business hours

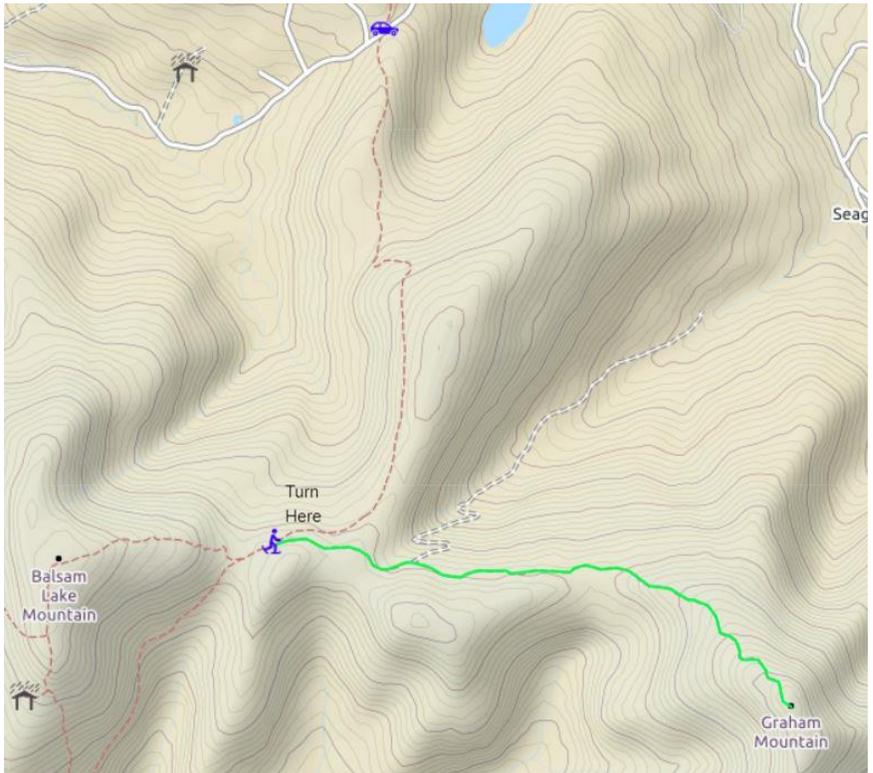
To request permission, call and leave a message. Be sure to mention the names and home residence of everyone requesting access, as well as the areas you want to access. **Depending on the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, access may be limited to hikers from nearby counties.** Be sure to call several days in advance to give the caretaker time to respond to your request, especially if you plan to hike on the weekend.

The Seagar-Big Indian Trail (access to Doubletop, Big Indian, Eagle) traverses private lands. Please avoid leaving the trail as it crosses these lands. The waterfalls next to the trail along the Shandaken Brook, appealing as they are, are not on public property.

During big game rifle hunting season, permission will not be granted to hike Doubletop and Graham.

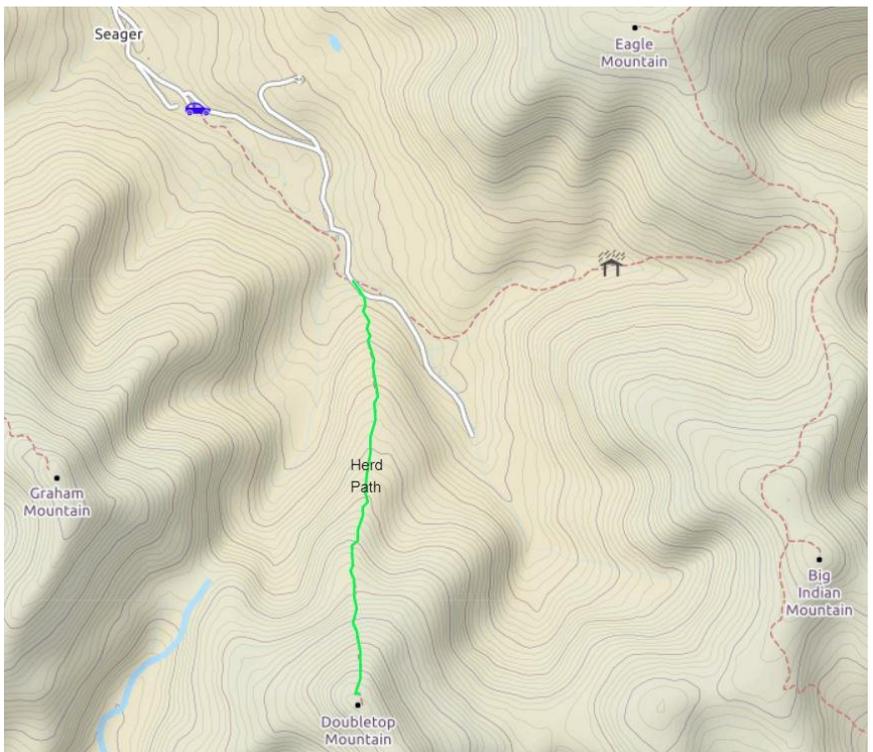
Graham Mountain

Use the established unmarked trail that branches off the blue-blazed Dry Brook Ridge Trail (trail to Balsam Lake Mountain).



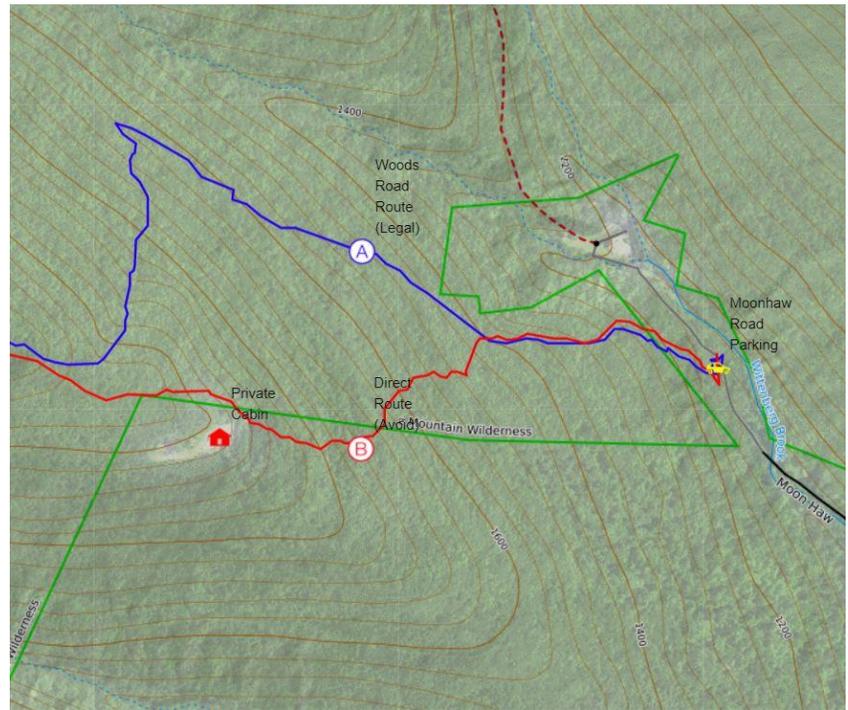
Doubletop Mountain

Follow Seager/Big Indian trail until you come to road bridge next to bench. Head south off the road/trail (right turn if coming from Seager) and head up the north shoulder of Doubletop along the herd path.



Friday Mountain

A hunter's cabin is located on private property along the East shoulder of Friday Mountain, just below 2000'. Please avoid this property altogether when ascending Friday. The best way to avoid private lands in the area is by following the woods roads along the blue track (A). It's also much easier than heading directly up the mountain!



Halcott Mountain

Please do not attempt to climb Halcott from the south without permission from property owners. While Upper Birch Creek Road comes close to state land, there is no legal way to cross onto state land without permission. The landowner has expressed discontent with trespassing in the past, and is unlikely to give permission to hikers. Most hikers start their ascent at the parking area on Route 42.



On behalf of the board and membership of the 3500 Club, thank you for following these guidelines!