

Mount Prospect

3.2 miles round trip via the Auto Road – 650' ascent
3.0-mile loop via Around the Mountain Loop Trail – 350' ascent, must combine with the road or another trail to reach the summit

Travel on US Route 3S/US Route 2 for 0.2 miles. Stay right to continue on US Route 3S and continue for 2.4 miles. Turn left at the top of the hill onto Weeks State Park Road. Ample parking is available in the lot on the right.

Walking the Auto Road to Mount Prospect's summit is a favorite pastime of Lancaster locals. It is a good leg stretcher, including one sustained steep section along the way. The Auto Road is shared with vehicles, so please use caution. The summit boasts fantastic views of the Northern Presidential mountains and delightful outlooks over the Lancaster countryside.

For a more wooded adventure, take the **Around the Mountain Loop Trail**, offering a picturesque hike around the base of the mountain. The trail's grade is gradual for most of its distance with a few moderate pitches and provides limited views of the surrounding landscape. To summit Mount Prospect for this challenge, hikers can combine this hike with a walk up the Auto Road from the parking area, or take a less formal connector trail between the Loop Trail and the Auto Road.

Mount Cabot

9.8 miles round trip via York Pond, Bunnell Notch, and Kilkenny Ridge Trails – 2,700' ascent

Travel on US Rte. 3N toward Groveton for 9.6 miles. Turn right onto NH Rte. 110E; drive 17.6 miles. Turn right on York Pond Rd., the access road to the Berlin Fish Hatchery. Follow York Pond Rd. for 7.1 miles to the York Pond Trailhead. Be advised, the gate across the hatchery road, five miles in, may be closed between 4PM to 8AM; plan accordingly. If you park outside the gate, this will add 4.2 miles of road walking to your hike.

One of New Hampshire's forty-eight 4,000 footers that draw many hikers to the state, Mount Cabot is the farthest north. Follow York Pond Trail for 0.2 miles before reaching Bunnell Notch Trail on the right. Follow Bunnell Notch trail for 2.7 miles, crossing several small streams and one larger stream, to the height of land. After a slight descent, the trail reaches its first junction with the Kilkenny Ridge Trail. Stay on the Bunnell Notch Trail another 0.1 miles to its second junction with Kilkenny Ridge Trail, on the right. Head north on the Kilkenny Ridge Trail 1.9 miles toward the summit of Mount Cabot, passing the Mount Cabot Trail on the left after 0.3 miles. Shortly before the summit, stop to explore the Mount Cabot cabin and enjoy views to the southwest and northeast. Continue to the true summit, which is wooded, and return the way you came.

Percy Peak

3.8 miles round trip via the Percy Peaks Trail – 2,200' ascent
5.2 miles round trip via the Percy Loop Trail – 2,050' ascent
Loop Option – combine the Percy Peaks and Percy Loop trail for a loop option that requires a 1.1-mile road walk.

Travel on US Rte. 3N toward Groveton for 9.6 miles. Turn right on NH Rte. 110E and go for 2.6 miles. Turn left on Emerson Rd. and go 2.2 miles. Turn left onto Nash Stream Rd. and go 2.7 miles to the angled parking area on the right. Look for the Percy Peaks Trail sign 50 yards farther up beyond the bridge over Slide Brook. If you are parking at the Percy Loop trailhead, go an additional 1.1 miles on Nash Stream Rd. Parking is available on either side of the road; be sure not to block access to the private drive on the west side. Auto access to Percy Peaks Trail and Percy Loop Trail is only possible when the Nash Stream Road Gate is open, typically from Memorial Day into November.

Percy Peaks Trail has easy to moderate grades for much of its first mile before it steepens. The final push to the summit requires crossing exposed granite ledges, which can be slippery and possibly dangerous when wet.

The Percy Loop Trail provides a more gradual northern approach to North Percy. At 1.5 miles, the trail reaches a spur for Percy Loop Campsite. Stay on the main trail until reaching the junction with the Percy Peaks Trail at 2.3 miles. Follow the Percy Peaks Trail up the summit cone over granite slabs to the summit.

Take The Challenge!

Directions to all Challenge hikes start from the **Great North Woods Welcome Center** located at 25 Park Street in Lancaster, NH.

Earn Your Award Patch

It's easy to earn your Northern Gateway Challenge Hiking patch! Just email us a photo of you and your companions at the peak of each Challenge. We'll post the photos on social media and on our website.

Help us keep track of your progress by naming each photo file you send us with your name, the peak and the date, using this format: "First_Last_Peak_Oct10_2018". When you send your 5th photo, be sure to include your mailing address and we'll send you a Northern Gateway Challenge Hiking award patch to wear with pride! We'll also add your name to the list of people who have successfully completed the Challenge. Please send all email to: northerngatewaychamber@gmail.com

Remember to Hike Safe

Consult a detailed topographic map and trail description such as those found in the AMC's White Mountain Guide and plan your hike using the recommendations on **Hikesafe.com**. Check out the site's gear list for ideas of what to pack. Always follow the Hiker Responsibility Code.

Leave No Trace

Protect the outdoors by practicing Leave No Trace principles. For information visit LNT.org.

The hike up North Percy is an adventure at any time but particularly rewarding in August when blueberries are in season, as the summit is covered with this native shrub.

View from Mt. Prospect. Photograph by Bill Rutherford, Northern Lights Studio Lancaster, NH

Mounts Starr King and Waumbek

Mount Starr King, 5.2 miles round trip via the Starr King Trail – 2,300' ascent

Mount Waumbek, 6.8 miles round trip via the Starr King Trail – 2,600' ascent

Travel on US Route 3S/US Route 2 for 0.2 miles. Bear left onto US Route 2E and continue for 7 miles. Turn left onto Starr King Road and continue until reaching the trailhead. In winter, park in the small lot on the right side of Route 2, across from the start of Starr King Road.

Another 4,000-foot peak, Mount Waumbek can be reached via the Starr King Trail but first you must summit Mount Starr King. Follow the Starr King Trail 2.6 miles to the first summit with limited views. Just past the summit descend briefly and ponder the old stone chimney, which once warmed a summit cabin. You can turn around here and retrace your steps to the trailhead or continue along the trail one mile to Mount Waumbek's summit. Here, the trail meets the southern end of the Kilkenny Ridge Trail. For a partial view of the Presidentials, travel about 50 yards along the Kilkenny Ridge Trail to a short side path on the right.

Mount Martha and Owl's Head

Mount Martha, 3.8 miles round trip via the Cherry Mountain Trail – 1,900' ascent

Owl's Head, 4.4 miles round trip via Owl's Head Trail – 2,000' ascent

Travel on US Route 3S/US Route 2 for 0.2 miles. Stay right to continue on US Route 3S and travel 14.8 miles. Turn left on NH Route 115N. Drive 2 miles to parking for the Cherry Mountain Trail, on the right. Parking for Owl's Head is 3.5 miles farther north on NH Route 115N, on the right.

Hike Cherry Mountain Trail for 1.7 miles to its junction with the Mount Martha spur trail, on the left. Another 0.2 miles uphill reaches the summit of Mt. Martha with several clearings providing worthy views east, south-southwest, and northwest.

Owl's Head Trail provides easy to moderate grades through its first mile. Soon after, the trail ascends more steadily before steeply traveling up the summit cone of Owl's Head. Connect with Martha's Mile on a wooded ledge at the summit to descend briefly to reach the open outlook ledges with impressive views to the north.

Whether you ascend the Cherry Mountain or Owl's Head Trail, Martha's Mile provides an opportunity to visit both peaks. The connector trail is 0.8 miles long, adding 1.6 miles round trip to either hike, with a 100' ascent from Mount Martha to Owl's Head, and a 450' ascent from Owl's Head to Mount Martha.



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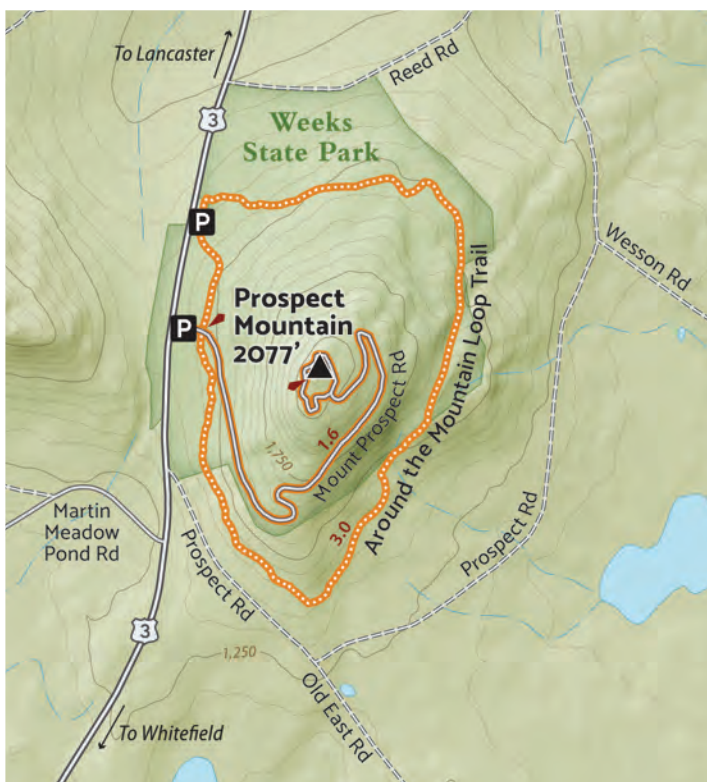
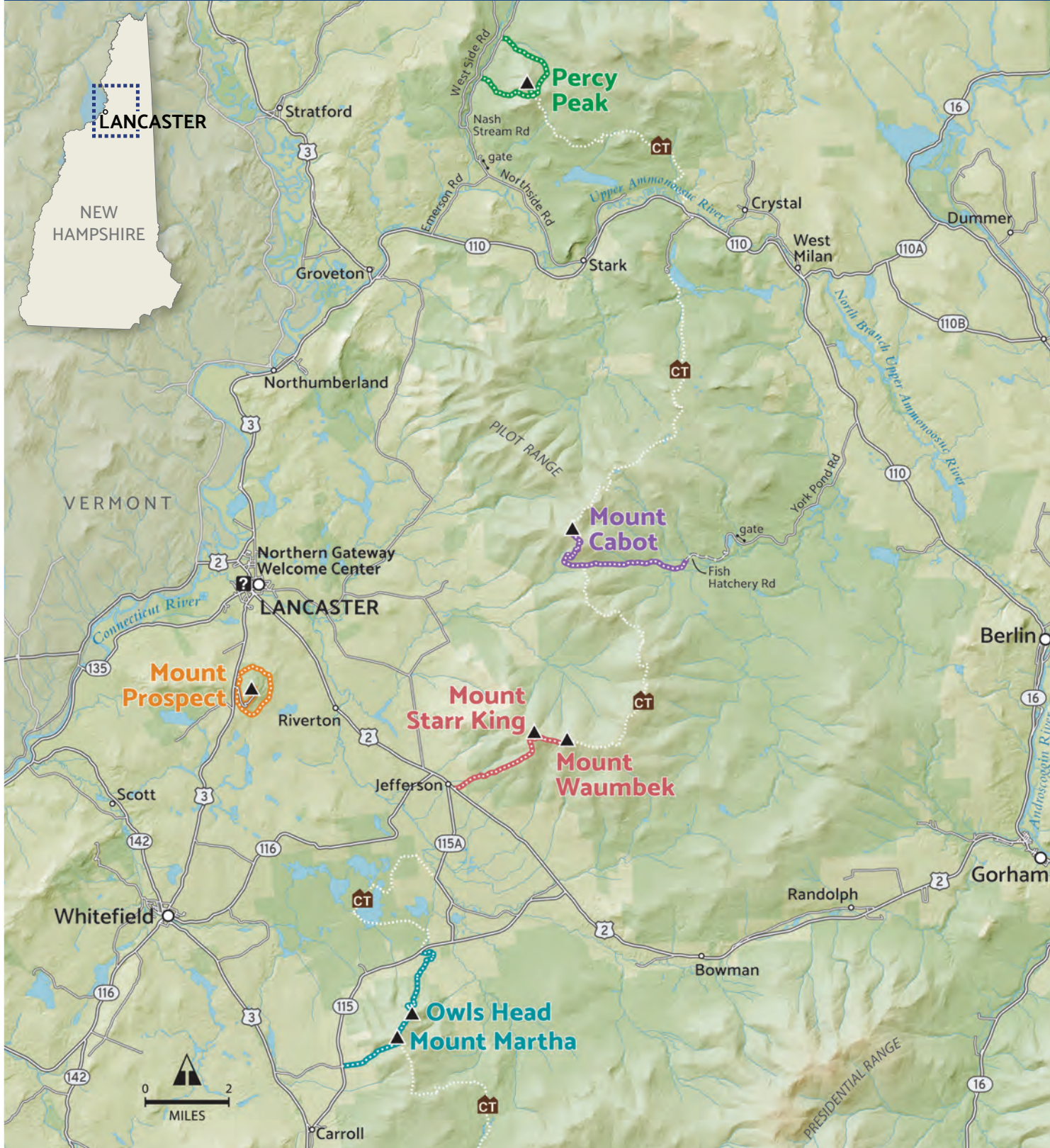
Explore more by checking out the **Cohos Trail**, a 170-mile thru-hiking trail spanning Coos County, offering both rewarding day hikes and extended backcountry adventures. Visit www.cohostrail.org for more info, or join **Friends of the Cohos Trail** on Facebook.



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Northern Gateway Hiking Challenge Region



Mount Prospect



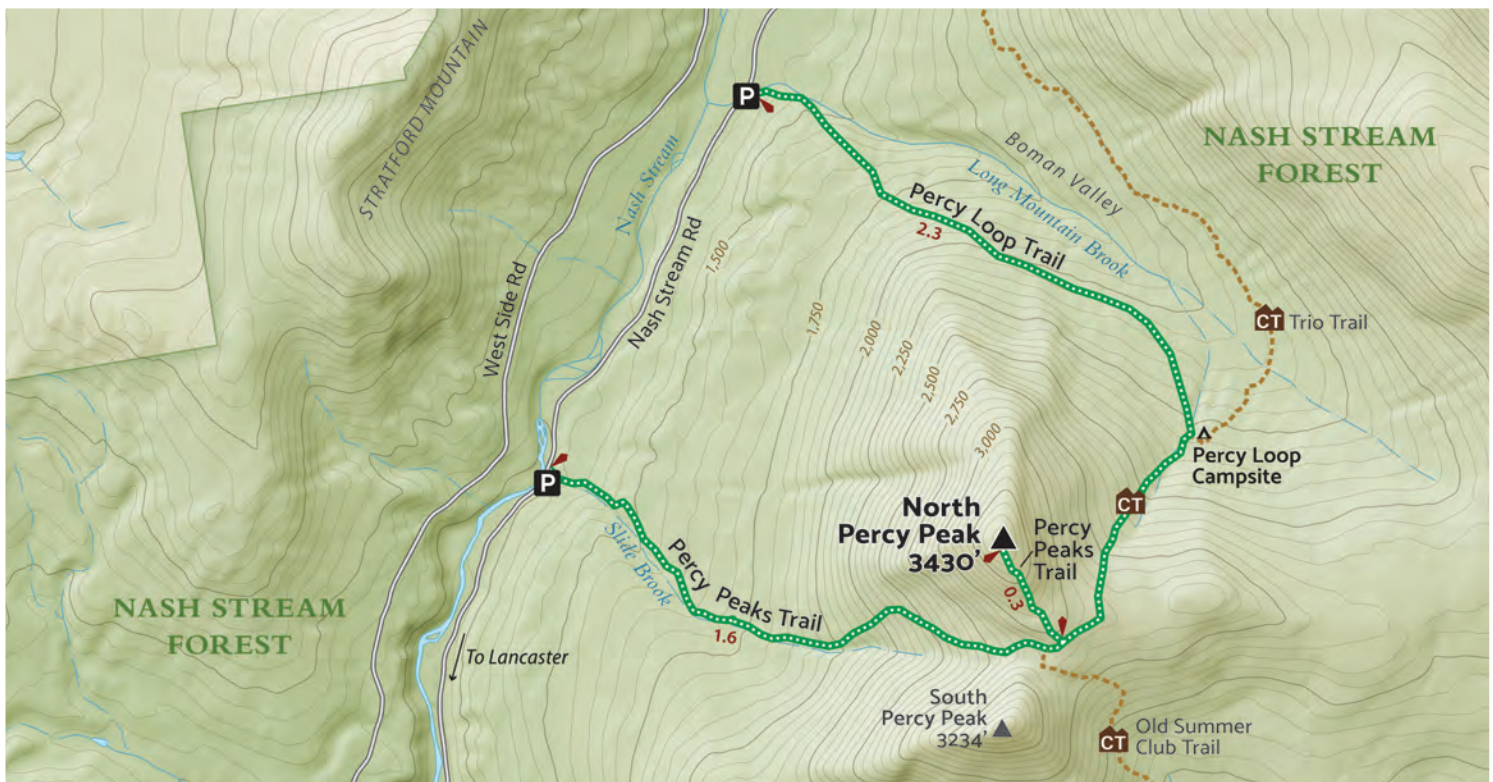
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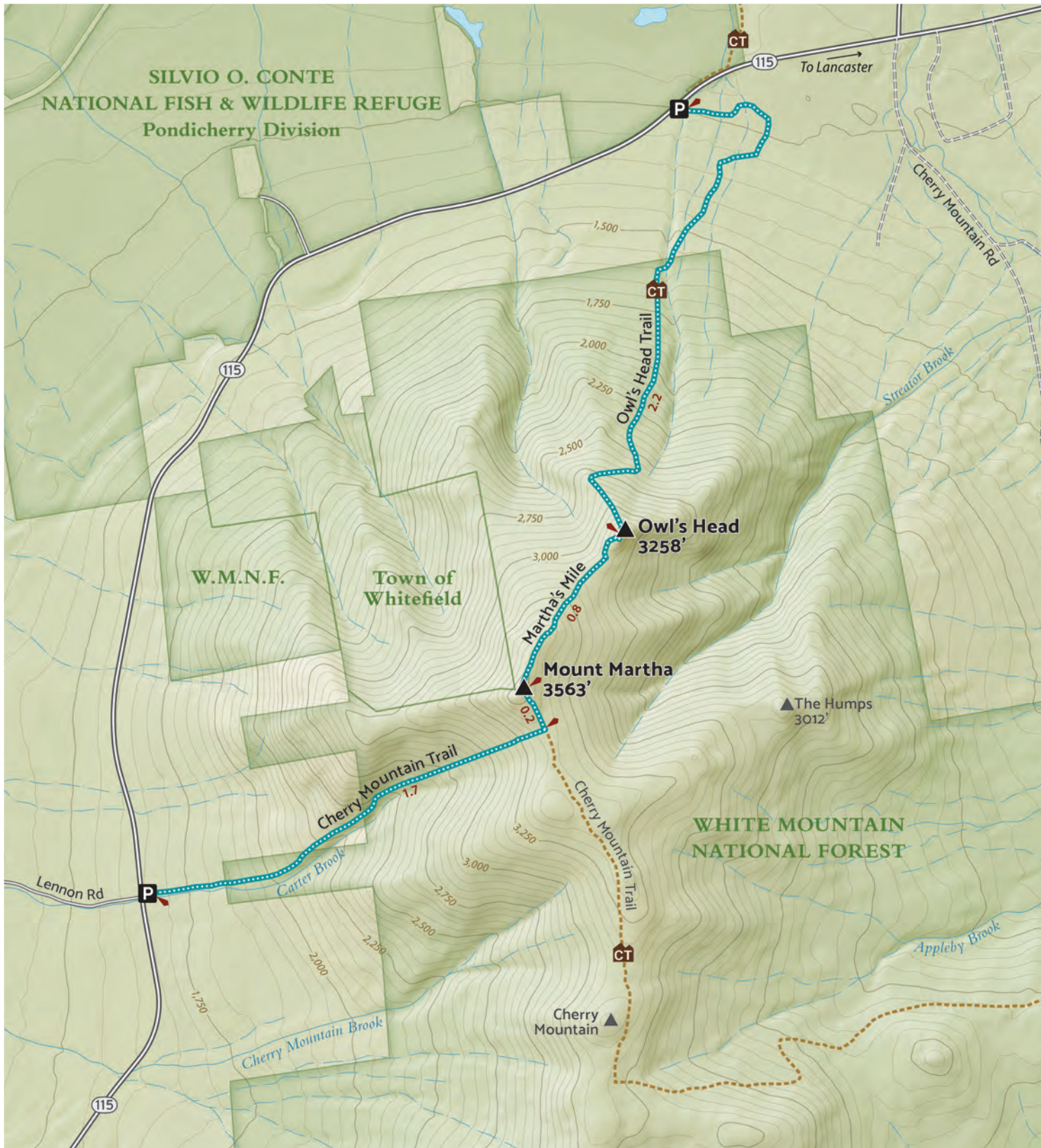
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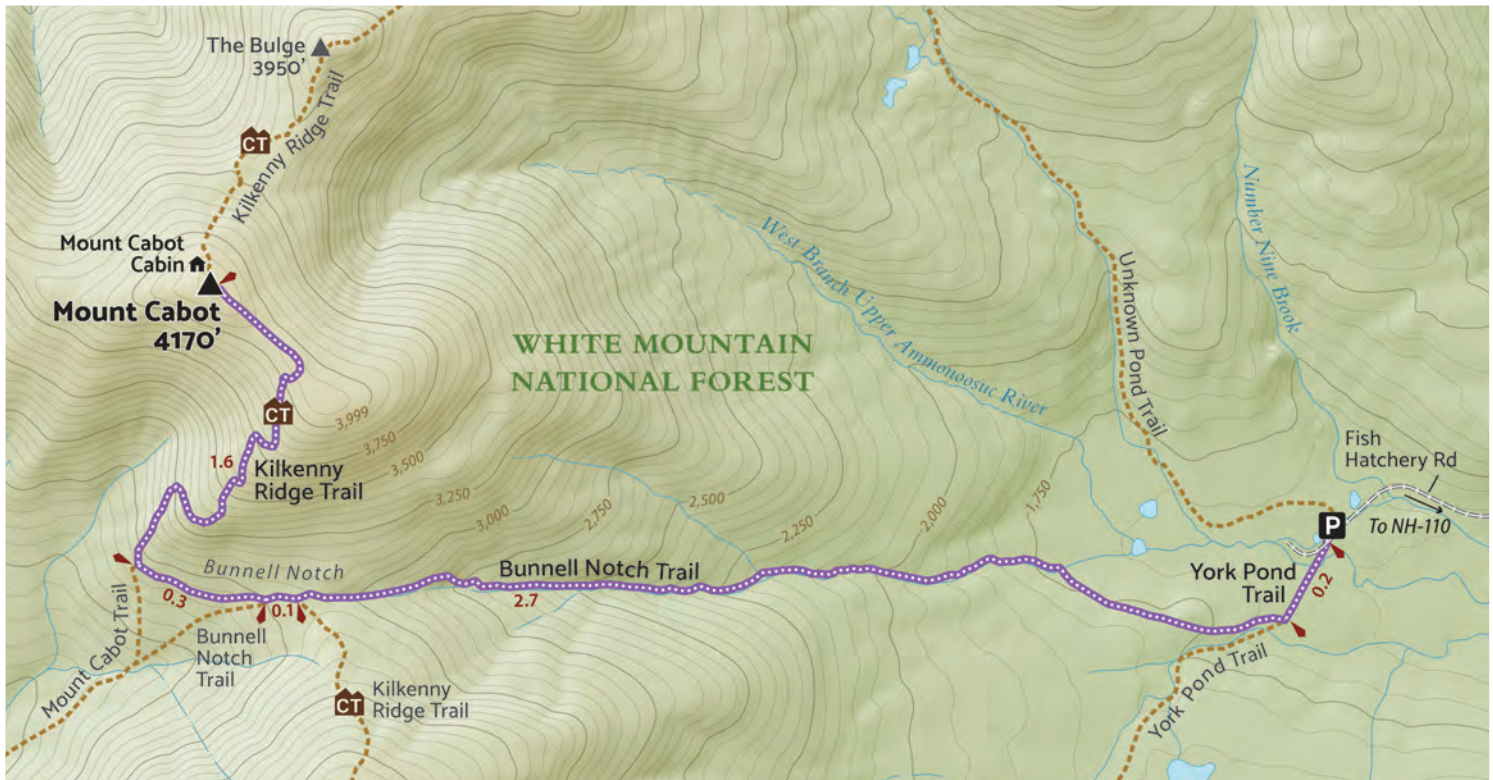
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Percy Peak



Mount Martha and Owl's Head



Mount Cabot



Mounts Starr King and Waumbek