

Updated 8/13/05

# ***The Great....Great Mountain Forest Rogaine***

## **Map Notes**

Below are a few notes on the map we'll be using for the rogaine.

The map scale is 1:30,000, with a contour interval of 10 meters, with contour lines based on USGS maps. The map dimensions are roughly 22 x 17 inches, and the map covers about 150 to 200 square kilometers.

For the basemap, we shoveled in data from wherever we could get it, including USGS and CT DEP data, orthophotos (from 1990, black and white), and some data derived from satellite images.

Field work was largely by Rick and Susan DeWitt, with substantial assistance from George and Lyn Walker and Steve and Donna Fluegel, plus an assist from Gari Williams and Cliff Fox. Drafting was by Rick DeWitt.

The symbols used on the map are generally the standard orienteering symbols. If you would like a legend, these will be available at the registration desk.

Now some notes on what's on the map.

**Trails:** We sketched and GPS'ed these in. We think we got most of the main trails, but no doubt we missed some. Also, there are areas where there is ATV activity, which means new trails can appear overnight.

**Out of bounds symbols:** Areas that are definitely out of bounds are indicated by the usual purple hatch. We obviously haven't spoken with every private landowner, so the fact that an area is not covered in hatch does not necessarily mean we have permission to go through that area.

Common sense should be a good guide here. If a glaringly obvious route choice takes you through posted property that is not marked in purple hatch, we likely have permission to go through that land. But if you are not on an obvious route choice and come across posted signs, we probably do not have permission to use that land.

Areas where you are likely to encounter posted signs, but which are fine to go through, include the Great Mountain Forest area in the center of the map, and the Yelping Hill Association and Camp Isabella Freedman, both in the southwest area of the map.

**Text indicating OK-to-use driveways and fields:** There are four places where a trail network, possibly of interest as a route choice, can best (or only) be accessed by going on a driveway (or nearby field) for a private residence. In these four cases, we have permission from the property owner to use their driveways (or nearby fields) to access the trails. To increase the odds of you finding the right driveway (or field), we've marked these four locations with text and an arrow. For example, "Mose 310 Music Mtn. Road,"

with an arrow pointing to a driveway, means that driveway is for the Mose residence, it's ok to use the driveway (or field), and the address is 310 Music Mountain Road (you'll see the number on or near the mailbox and/or house).

**Vegetation symbols:** Three types of vegetation symbols are used on the map, described below. Keep in mind, though, that no attempt has been made to map all the vegetation. If while in the field, we noticed a patch of nasty vegetation, or had other reasons to believe there is vegetation in an area, we drew it in. But most of the map has not been field-checked for vegetation.

*Dark Green (heavy vegetation symbol):* Mostly, this indicates mountain laurel (or occasionally, other types of difficult vegetation). Most of this green on the map is based on data from the CT DEP, which in turn is based on color analysis of satellite imagery. This sort of analysis only picks up fairly large patches of laurel, and only if the conditions are right (so many patches of laurel will be missed). Also, the boundaries of the green are pretty rough. We've found the data is useful in making decisions about route choices, but certainly don't try to navigate by the green.

*Green Stripes (undergrowth symbol):* Mostly, these are areas where we've noticed recent logging, and so there is a lot of slash on the ground and in some cases, the nasty briar growth that often comes after logging.

*Yellow (rough open symbol):* This indicates the usual fields and meadows. Most of this was drawn from aerial photos. Most of the large patches of yellow are fields used for grazing by the nearby dairy farms. This time of year the vegetation in these fields is quite high. The fields can often provide good handrails and, in some cases, attack points, but for traveling, staying in the woods is usually faster and more pleasant.

Barb-wire alert: be particularly on guard for barb wire when near these fields, not just on the borders of the fields, but in the woods behind the fields as well.

**Houses and buildings:** Mostly these were drawn in from the aerial photos. No attempt was made to draw all the houses. Generally, if we could see a house on the photos, we drew it in. But the photo resolution is such that houses can usually only be seen if the lighting is just right, so there are many more houses out there than are shown on the map.

### **Now a couple of miscellaneous notes, in no particular order:**

In the northwest portion of the map is the Canaan Mountain Natural Area. This is a beautiful area, but in terms of terrain, navigation, and vegetation, this is probably the most difficult section of the map. Also, there are almost no trails through this area. You might want to consider this when you think about where you want to be (or don't want to be) when it gets dark.

Portions of the terrain are very steep, especially on the north and west sides of the map. In these areas, we have tried to provide good trail options to get up and down these slopes. Off-trail shortcuts in these steep areas are usually not a good idea.