Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests



David Dana Forest

301 ACRES, DALTON, NH

Reservation Details

This beautiful forest with well maintained trails serves to protect the flowing waters of the adjoining Johns River and provides wonderful habitat for browsing deer and other wildlife. Among these natural features is a manmade structure which man many find to be fascinating: a 100 foot deep mine shaft that was abandoned in 1885. The mine is now sealed with stone and water but the entrance carved into a cliff face can be seen by taking a walk to the end of a trail in the northwest portion of the forest.

Did you know? The David Dana Forest was named after the property donor whose family is known worldwide for their axles, drive shafts, and U-joints.

Trail Information

From the parking area on Ridge Road, hike the yellow-blazed trail through the center of the property until you reach a T-intersection. A quick left turn will bring you to another trail junction on your right. Follow the Gold Mine Trail to continue on your way to the site of the abandoned mine, then retrace your steps back to the start.

- **DIFFICULTY:** Moderately strenuous
- **ROUND TRIP DISTANCE:** 1.7 miles to gold mine and back
- **TRAIL MARKINGS**: Yellow rectangles

Getting There/Directions

The entrance & parking area for the David Dana Forest is 2 miles west of the center of Whitefield, NH. Follow Brown St. west for a mile until it turns into Faraway Rd. After 0.7 miles turn right on Ridge Road for another 0.6 miles where the property sign and parking lot will be on your right.

Google Maps: Using the address: 216 Ridge Road, Dalton, NH in the google maps search will get you specific directions to the property from your location.

Recreational Opportunities

- & Hiking
- & Nature Observation
- Snowshoeing/XC skiing
- & Hunting
- & Dog walking

Available Amenities

- Small parking area (may not be plowed in winter)
- Please note NO bathroom facilities are available at this location.

Recreational Use Guidelines

- No wheeled vehicles permitted, including bicycles, dirt bikes or ATVs
- & Carry In, Carry Out all Trash
- & No camping or campfires
- Do not disturb plants, animals or cultural features
- Dogs must be under owner control at all times, and all dog waste packed out

COVID-19 HIKE SAFE TIPS

- Allow 6+ feet of distance between unrelated groups. Step off the trail to allow others to pass.
- Bring a mask or face covering and hand sanitizer in case you need it
- Don't attempt anything risky or outside your comfort zone
- BYO lunch and plenty of water!

