

**MEREDITH NRI PHASE II
CO-OCCURRENCE AREA SUMMARY**

CA #8 – Spectacle Pond Map

CO-OCCURRENCE AREA (CA): Spectacle Pond

CA #: 8

ACRES: 310.2

LOCATION: West corner of Meredith west of Interstate 93

Elevation: 708 - 1225 ft.

General Aspect: East

Ave. Slope: 8 – 35%

% Upland Forest: 86.8

% Open Upland: 0.9

% Wetland: 3.1

% Open Water: 9.2

GENERAL LAND USE:

Type: Forestry - Conservation

Zoning: FC

Spectacle Pond CA sits west of Route 132 and Interstate 93, and therefore a fair amount of traffic passes by the east base of the CA. A few homes and small businesses are within the CA along Route 132. Most current land use activities include timber harvesting and occasional gravel extraction. A portion of the New Hampton water supply from Mountain Pond passes through the west part of the CA.

General Ecological Attributes: Spectacle Pond lies above the largest sand & gravel aquifer in the western part of Meredith. Although it is a low yield site, it does have the potential for contamination from stormwater run-off from I-93 or Route 132. The importance of the sand & gravel deposit has underscored the need to include all of the east slopes below I-93 in the CA. A small perennial stream descends through the west side of the CA. This waterway has been reconstructed to pass water towards a water supply pond and aeration system in New Hampton. It is still used as a water supply for the village. The remaining part of the Spectacle Pond CA is comprised of mixed forest on fairly steep slopes.

Prime Wetland Description: There is no prime wetland associated with this CA.

Wildlife Habitat Description: The Spectacle Pond CA is adjacent to a recently conserved 4,000+ acre forest that covers the slopes of Hersey Mountain. This unfragmented forest is roughly one-half in Sanbornton and one-half in New Hampton. Abundant wildlife has been documented from the Hersey Mountain forest, including moose, deer, bear, coyote, fox, bobcat, fisher, ermine, mink, squirrel, and porcupine. Several raptors nest on Hersey Mountain, and it is an active hawk migration site. Principal habitat types include mixed upland forest, hemlock-cinnamon fern swamps, vernal pools, intermittent drainageways, and semi-rich hardwood forests on talus. The latter are considered “semi-rich” owing to the above average amounts of calcium in the weathered schist soils. Historic agriculture and recent timber management has changed the tenor of the forest, although pockets of late successional stands still exist. On a single tracking day in January 2007, over 950 track intercepts were recorded along 3757 m of travel, or roughly 4 m between each track set on the average. This does not include the 565 track intercept paths of 6 species of small mammals. Clearly this CA has abundant furbearer wildlife.

Rare & Endangered Species / Exemplary Natural Communities: Bobcat (S4); Lowland Acidic Cliff (S4), Semi-rich Mesic Sugar Maple Forest (S4S5)

Wildlife Issues of Concern:

- Fragmentation effect of one state road and one interstate at edge of the CA
- Road salting, nutrient loading, and sedimentation of Spectacle Pond by roadways
 - Specific concern is the contamination of the low yield aquifer in this area
- Inappropriate timber management on steep slopes
- Introduction of invasives along roadways or as a result of clear-cutting



Left: Semi-rich mesic sugar maple forest on talus – perfect habitat for bobcat (above), which frequents the Spectacle Pond CA. Lower left: red squirrel track cross a vernal pool in typical hemlock woods above Spectacle Pond. Lower right: gray fox track relief created by wind over a light crust of snow.

