

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

[CA #9 – Leavitt-Ladd Mountain Map](#)

CO-OCCURRENCE AREA (CA): Leavitt – Ladd Mountain **CA #:** 9 **ACRES:** 1106.5

LOCATION: Highlands of the West (Chemung District)

Elevation: 775 - 1414 ft. **General Aspect:** Southwest/Northeast **Ave. Slope:** 10 – 35%

% Upland Forest: 94.0 **% Open Upland:** 1.9 **% Wetland:** 1.2 **% Open Water:** 2.9

GENERAL LAND USE: **Type:** Forestry - Conservation **Zoning:** FC

Leavitt-Ladd Mountain is in the heart of the Forestry Conservation District in Meredith for good reason: it is over 90% forested with timber management as the principal land use activity, and over 80% of the CA is in current use. There are a few scattered residences in this CA, mostly along Chemung and Carleton Roads. A few hayfields are present, and several summer homes exist on the 32-acre Randlett Pond.

General Ecological Attributes: The Leavitt-Ladd Mountain CA was designated for its contribution of higher elevation forests and wildlife to the ecological diversity of Meredith. The mean elevation exceeds 1000 feet, and therefore mixed northern hardwood forests are the dominant land cover. The unfragmented nature of the landscape in this part of Meredith favors abundant, wide-ranging mammal species such as moose, deer, bear, and bobcat. Upper elevation forests also host breeding birds with northern affinities such as olive-sided flycatcher, golden-crowned kinglet, Swainson’s thrush, northern parula, and American restart. Ledge and talus slopes on Saddle Hill and Ladd Mountain also contain unique upland habitats found nowhere else in Meredith: Northern Hardwood-Mountain Maple-Talus Boulder Woodland, Rich Red Oak Rocky Woods, and Montane Acidic Cliff. The upper part of Leavitt Mountain, having been burned frequently in the past, also supports the only example of a Red Oak-Pine Rocky Ridge community in Meredith.

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

Wildlife Habitat Description: At least 8 wildlife corridors were noted during fieldwork in the CA #9 area. This does not include the large number of game trails observed while traversing the ridge. As noted above, moose, bear, deer, bobcat, coyote, fox and fisher were all noted from the CA. The clearcuts on Saddle Hill favor moose during all times of the year, and spring/fall browse on red maple was seen throughout the area. Bobcat denning evidence was noted in the above-mentioned talus slope on Saddle Hill, and suitable habitat exists on Ladd Mountain as well. Deer sign can be found virtually throughout the CA, with summer fawning activity reported for the fields adjacent to the forested hills. Besides the ‘northern birds’ noted above, several different breeding species were also observed in the CA during the field survey time period: turkey vulture, osprey, common raven, wood thrush, eastern towhee, and slate-colored junco. Although few wetlands or open water bodies are present, a fairly high incidence of dragonflies was also noted.

Rare & Endangered Species / Exemplary Natural Communities: Tuckerman's sedge (S3S4), floating bladderwort (S3), Bobcat (S4); Canada warbler (S4), eastern towhee (S4), osprey (S2B), Northern Hardwood-Mountain Maple-Talus Boulder Woodland (SU), Montane Acidic Cliff (S5), Rich Red Oak Rocky Woods (S2S3), Red Oak-Pine Rocky Ridge (S3S4), Hemlock-Cinnamon Fern Forest (S4)

Wildlife Issues of Concern:

- Inappropriate timber management on steep slopes
 - Principal issue is loss of soil, alteration of natural drainage patterns
- Cutting of old growth trees on Saddle Hill
 - Old growth is a rare resource in Meredith only found in three locales
- Sediment and/or nutrient loading in Randlett Pond
 - Randlett Pond is fairly shallow and its natural ecology could be upset very easily



Left: Bill & Linda Lee at regional champ white oak on Leavitt Mtn.; Right: Ladd Mtn. cliffs; Lower left: old growth yellow birch on Saddle Hill; Below: beaver pond near Randlett Pond;

