

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

[CA #7 – Meredith Center/Chemung Map](#)

CO-OCCURRENCE AREA (CA): Meredith Center/Chemung **CA #:** 7 **ACRES:** 1467.7

LOCATION: Meredith Center south to Lake Winnisquam and west to Lake Wicwas & Hamlin Rec. Area

Elevation: 482 - 825 ft. **General Aspect:** East & South **Ave. Slope:** 0 – 18%

% Upland Forest: 60.5 **% Open Upland:** 0.5 **% Wetland:** 26.0 **% Open Water:** 13.0

GENERAL LAND USE: **Type:** Forestry-Conservation, Shoreland, Residential **Zoning:** FC,S,R
Although the Meredith Center/Chemung CA is dominated by two prime wetlands, it also includes the shores of Lake Wicwas and Winnisquam and therefore has a number of small lot residential homes in the area. The small commercial section in Meredith Center (gas station/grocery) is outside of the CA. A trailer park sits astride Mill Brook, which is the dominant perennial stream that bisects the CA. While this district was historically active with agriculture and mill-based industry, it has now largely regrown to forest. The Hamlin Recreation Area is mostly contained within this CA, as is Chemung State Forest.

General Ecological Attributes: Meredith Center/Chemung includes two prime wetlands: Mill Brook and Stoney Brook. These are hydrologically and ecologically connected, and form the dominant wetland ecosystem above Lake Winnisquam. Several small ponds are located within the CA, notably Mud Pond and Swains Pond. The shoreline of both Lake Wicwas and Winnisquam provide a deepwater connection for wildlife and water transport, and the large marsh system in between contains some of the richest habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife in Meredith.

Prime Wetland Description: Mill Brook prime wetland extends east and south from Lake Wicwas to Lake Winnisquam. It includes marsh systems and intermittent drainages on the east side (e.g. Collins Brook) and the west side (Roger Harris Natural Area). Third order Mill Brook is the principal waterway. Stoney Brook originates at the Chemung Road crossing of the fen-bog system on the east side of Lake Wicwas, and drains southerly into Lake Winnisquam. Being a smaller system than Mill Brook, Stoney Brook contains a large number of peat-accumulating fen communities, such as the Leatherleaf-Black Spruce Bog around Mud Pond. Swains Pond is more minerotrophic and is influenced by beavers to a larger degree. Stoney Brook empties into the west shore of Lake Winnisquam below Swains Pond.

Wildlife Habitat Description: CA #7 contains the largest wetland/upland habitat mix of any CA in Meredith. Over one third of the CA is wetland or open water with a rich mix of marshes, bogs, fens, and forested swamps. Some of the rarest habitat types in Meredith occur here, as well as some of the rarest plant and animal species. This CA had the second highest count of mammal observation sites of any CA in Meredith. Excellent overland and aquatic wildlife corridors between CA #7 and CA #6 exist, making the boundary between these two CA's somewhat arbitrary.

Rare & Endangered Species / Exemplary Natural Communities: Prickly coontail (S2), lesser bladderwort, Panax ginseng (S2), Common loon (S3B), great blue heron (S4B), American black duck, (S4), osprey (S2B), purple finch (S5), Atlantic salmon (S4), rainbow smelt (S5), lake whitefish (S3), Medium Depth Emergent Marsh (S4), Leatherleaf-Sheep Laurel Dwarf Shrub Bog (S1S3), Leatherleaf-Black Spruce Bog (S3), Semi-rich Mesic Sugar Maple Forest (S3S4)

Wildlife Issues of Concern:

- Fragmentation of habitat by roads, especially Meredith Center Road
- Road salting, nutrient loading, and sedimentation of wetlands by roadways
 - This is particularly an issue along Lake Wicwas on Chemung Road
- Boat traffic effects on loons in Lake Wicwas and Winnisquam
- Unchecked user impacts on great blue heron rookery and osprey nests



Upper left: View from Meredith Center of Ladd Mountain is classic "Chemung." Above: a white-throated sparrow from Hamlin. Lower left: Panax ginseng from a rich woods in the area; lower right: Chinese mystery snail, a potentially problematic invasive in Lake Wicwas.

