

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

CA #3 – Page Pond Map

CO-OCCURRENCE AREA (CA): Page Pond

CA #: 3

ACRES: 935.9

LOCATION: Northeastern part of Meredith on Meredith Neck south of Route 25

Elevation: 554 – 787 ft. (B.M.)

General Aspect: Southeast

Ave. Slope: 0 – 15%

% Upland Forest: 61.6

% Open Upland: 7.2

% Wetland: 21.0

% Open Water: 10.2

GENERAL LAND USE: Type: Meredith Neck, Forestry-Rural, Residential, Shoreland **Zoning:** MN, FR, R, S
The Page Pond Co-Occurrence area contains some of the best agricultural soils in Meredith. One of the two working farms in Meredith, Moulton Farm, is located at the head of the watershed to the 80+-acre Page Pond, a mostly emergent marsh with extremely high wildlife habitat value. The upper part of CA-3 contains scattered residences and Moulton Farm. It also encompasses the Town’s recent acquisition of the 567-acre Page Pond Tract, now a municipal conservation resource. The lower part includes a fairly recent subdivision on Blueberry Hill and a slightly denser residential zone near Lake Winnepesaukee. No public roads traverse this unfragmented block of land, although a number of recreational trails can be found. There is one historic mill and miles of stonewalls from a previous era of upland agriculture.

General Ecological Attributes: Page Pond is fed by second order Page Pond Brook that winds its way through 32-acre Little (“Quarry”) Pond and several wetland complexes before exiting the CA at Meredith Neck Road. Elevation is fairly low, although a few higher hills can be found along the eastern sub-watershed boundary. The forest is a mixed lowland type, with hemlock, pine, oak, and beech as dominants. While virtually all of the Page Pond CA was former pastureland, it has been between 90 and 150 years since the land was open. In some areas, the forest has regained its mature aspect, especially where old pasture trees were left for shade.

Prime Wetland Description: The 281-acre Page Pond prime wetland is the largest and most significant prime wetland in Meredith. It contains two open water ponds, two perennial streams, several beaver marshes, floating fen mats, forested & scrub-shrub swamps, a heron rookery, deer wintering areas, and migratory waterfowl nesting areas. The wetland complex forms the central core of the CA, and is roughly one-third of the total area. Designated in 1985, the prime wetland increased from 190 to 266 acres during the Phase I NRI process and to 281 acres during the field-based Phase II NRI process. The largest area of increase was the high-quality beaver marsh and fen connected to the principal drainageway on the west side by a perennial stream.

Wildlife Habitat Description: The Page Pond CA contains the richest diversity of wetland and aquatic habitat in Meredith. Virtually all of the uncommon to common water-dependent wildlife species was found during fieldwork in 2006 and 2007. This included a well-defined heron rookery. The map above shows an above average number of vernal pools in the Page Pond watershed, with a consequently higher than normal frequency of road crossing sites for amphibians. At least 8 major wildlife corridors

were noted, not including the well-used riparian zone along Page Brook. The size of the unfragmented area is sufficient to support bobcat, bear, moose, otter and other wide-ranging mammal species. The interior forest is an excellent site for breeding neo-tropical warblers and other passerines.

Rare & Endangered Species / Exemplary Natural Communities: Great blue heron nesting area (S3); American chestnut (S3); Northern Hardwood-Black Ash-Conifer Swamp (S3); Bog Rosemary-Sweet Gale-Sedge Fen (S4); Medium-depth Emergent Marsh; Appalachian Oak-Pine Rocky Ridge (S3)

Wildlife Issues of Concern:

- Water quality impacts from logging
 - There are currently no local provisions for restricting logging in prime wetlands
- Introduction of invasive species from open land areas in north
 - Active farmland tends to encourage non-native species introduction
- Interruption of natural beaver-mediated water levels at Page Pond
 - Some potential conflict exists between beavers and the Public Works Dept.
- Road-caused habitat isolation from adjoining upland habitat areas
 - This is principally an issue along the Route 25 border along the north edge



Left: great blue heron nests in remote section of Page Pond CA. Right: turkey, red fox, coyote, and bobcat tracks on Page Pond. Below left: fen on west side; Right: spotted sandpiper in Page Pond

