

## Target Elements, Ecological Features, & Conservation Values

from the Easement Documentation Report by The Nature Conservancy.

- The Property is within the Northern Appalachian Ecoregion.
- TNC has designated the Whitton Pond Conservation Area, which represents a high quality, largely intact and unfragmented forest-wetland-pond ecosystem.
- The NH Wildlife Action Plan ranks Whitton Pond as 6<sup>th</sup> of 66 ponds of its type due to undeveloped and intact character of the 700-acre watershed and riparian zones. On a larger scale, the Property is within a 3,600-acre unfragmented forest block.
- The matrix forming forests that surround Whitton Pond are primarily hemlock-beech-northern hardwood and hemlock-beech-oak-pine forest.
- The Pond and surrounding landscape support an exemplary occurrence of a medium level fen ecosystem and a suite of documented rare plant species.
- There are ten natural communities generally mapped for the Protected Property (see Appendix C).

Target Elements, Ecological Features, and Conservation Values on the Mudd Family Partnership Property include (see the Ecological Features Map in Appendix B):

- Whitton Ledge supports portfolio occurrences of **Red Oak – Pine Rocky Woods** and **Red Pine Rocky Ridge Woodland** natural communities.
- A notable **Red Maple – Sphagnum Basin** natural community with black gum.
- 7,125' of **frontage** on Whitton Pond, and 138 acres of the Whitton Pond watershed; Whitton Pond has had documented nesting **Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)** since the late 1800s.
- **Connectivity** between TNC-protected properties (the Paine Property and the Madison Boulder Woods complex).

Three plant species listed as threatened or endangered by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau are found on the Property; another two are found nearby:

- *Isotria medeoloides* (**Small Whorled Pogonia**); Federally & State Endangered; G2S2)
- *Triphora trianthophora* (**Three Birds Orchid**); State Threatened; G3G4S2)
- *Aureolaria pedicularia* var. *intercedens* (**Fern-leaved False Foxglove**); State Threatened; G5S2)
- *Conopholis americana* (Squaw-Root; State Threatened; G5S3; found nearby)
- *Malaxis unifolia* (Green Adder's Mouth; State Endangered; G5SH; found nearby)

Nesting habitat for many forest interior neotropical migratory birds such as wood thrush, pine warbler, black and white warbler, Eastern wood-pewee, and olive-sided flycatcher

Suitable wildlife habitat for large and wide-ranging mammals of conservation interest including black bear, bobcat, white-tailed deer, and fisher.

According to the Wildlife Action Plan (WAP): 47% of the Property is the "*Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire*"; 25% is the "*Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region*"; 28% is "*Supporting Landscapes*")