

Spring

MNHESP State Rank: Unranked

Physical

Hydrology Still or intermittently flowing water.

Soil Mineral or organic.

Topography Located on or at base of slopes or in a small depressions.

Elevation Mostly occurring above 300 m (984 ft) elevation in the October Mountain State Forest.

Form Occurs as a small rivulet of water emerging from slope side or as a tiny pond.

Dominant Plant Species¹

Canopy Absent, though frequently shaded by adjacent trees.

Subcanopy Absent.

Shrubs Absent.

Herbs Golden saxifrage, lesser duckweed, slender mannagrass, and common bladderwort.

Climbing Plants Absent.

Bryophytes Often present at margin of springs.

Notes Vegetation highly dependent on form (e.g., rivulet or pond) and permanence of source through the season.

Common Animal Species²

Birds Myrtle warbler, northern water thrush, and ovenbird.



Herpetiles Wood frog, spotted salamander, and eastern newt.

Fish Cyprinids present in larger springs connected to streams.

Invertebrates Arthropods breed in the larger, more permanent springs.

Notes Small size of community limits use by larger vertebrates.

Conservation, Distribution, and Notes

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Rare Species None observed.

Distribution in MA Common in portions of state with topographic relief.

Distribution in the Study Area Most occurrences located on or at the base of slopes within October Mountain State Forest.

Variation None observed.

Synonyms None.

¹ Scientific names provided in Attachment F.

² Scientific names provided in Attachment C.