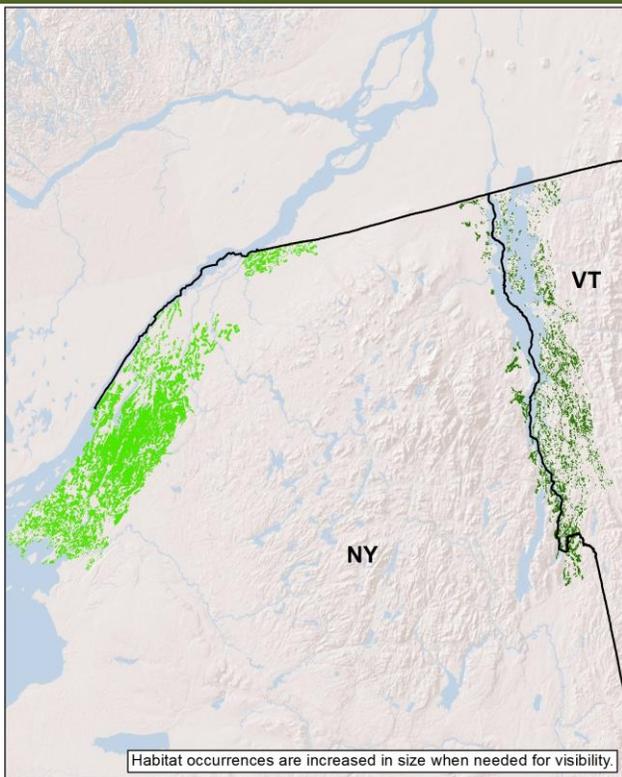




Macrogroup: Northern Hardwood & Conifer

This map is a modeled distribution based on current data and is not a substitute for field based inventory. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist for more information about this habitat.



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Description:

A hardwood forest of northern clayplains dominated by a shifting balance of oaks (white, red, swamp white, bur), maples (red and sugar), hemlock and white pine, ash and shagbark hickory, and other associates. The understory herb layer is distinctive and rich, and native and non-native shrubs can be dense. These forests developed on deep clay and silt soils deposited in proglacial lakes and inland seas during late stages of the Northeast's last glaciation. Formerly the dominant ("matrix") forest of the clayplain landscape, the few large tracts of it that survived human settlement are still notably diverse. It is not known to what extent occurrences mapped in northwestern New York (light green) may differ in ecological character from those in the Champlain Valley (dark green).

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs in deep, fertile, fine-grained soils with impeded drainage on gently convex landforms in low relief lake and marine plains. In some areas thin lenses of sand overlay the clay soils. Root systems are often shallow in the moist soils and blowdowns are common; resulting fine-scaled variation in microtopography and soil drainage can lead to high diversity in the shrub and herb layers in drier hummocks and wetter hollows.

Similar Habitat Types:

Clayplain forests could be seen as a moist subset of those in the much more broadly defined Appalachian (Hemlock-)Northern Hardwood system. Some ecologists recognize lower (up to 300') and higher elevation (300-600') variants. Forms a patchy mosaic with Glacial Marine & Lake Wet Clayplain Forests, a wetland variant in slight depressions with more poorly drained soils.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

State Distribution: NY, VT

Total Habitat Acreage: 236,851

Percent Conserved: 8.0%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NY	86%	204,873	1,471	15,417	187,985
VT	14%	31,978	1,004	994	29,980

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Beaver Creek State Forest | NY
 Pulpit Rock State Forest | NY
 South Hammond State Forest | NY
 Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area | NY
 Bald Mountain Natural Area | VT

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: wood thrush, eastern wood pewee, ovenbird, northern oriole, downy woodpecker

MAMMALS: gray squirrel, beaver, raccoon

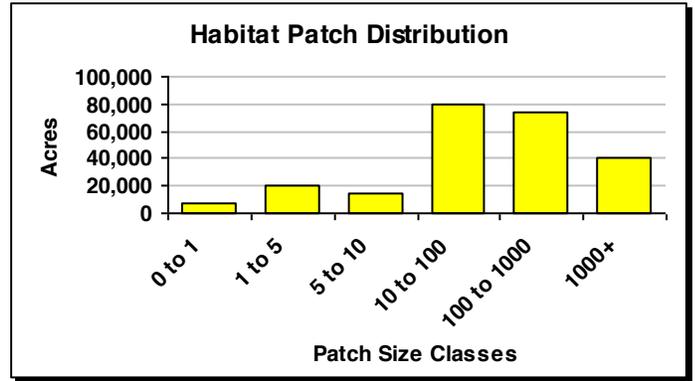
HERPTILES: blue spotted salamander, american toad, wood frog, grey treefrog

PLANTS: American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), drooping bluegrass (*Poa saltuensis*), leafy bulrush (*Scirpus polyphyllus*), rough avens (*Geum laciniatum*), short-styled snakeroot (*Sanicula canadensis*)

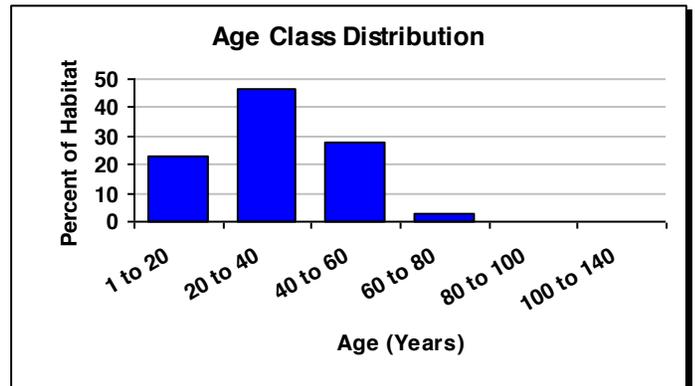
Species of Concern (G1-G4): *Appendix lists scientific names*



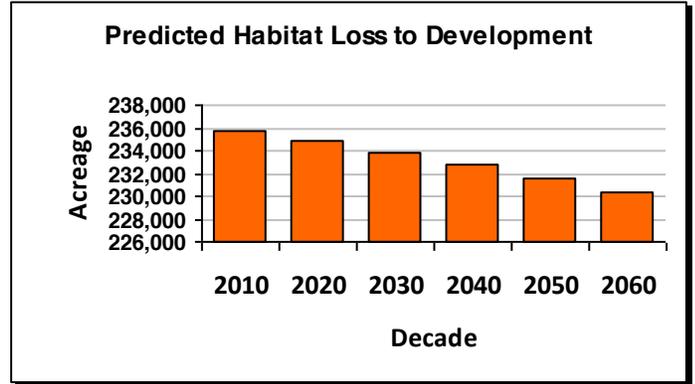
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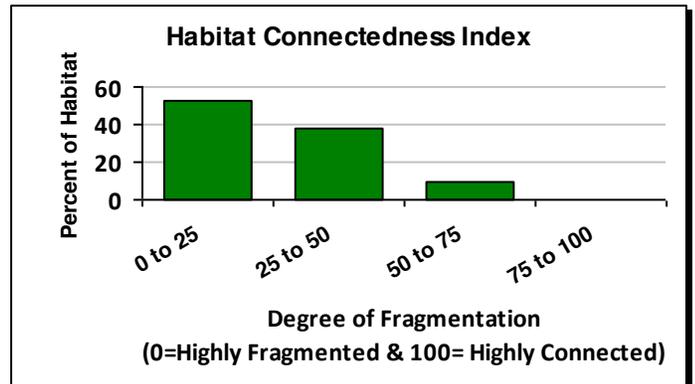
The average patch size for this habitat is 6 acres and the largest single patch is 4,192 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



This chart shows the average age of trees associated with this habitat based on forest inventory data. For non-forested systems or small habitats the average age is influenced by the surroundings.



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (5,277 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 106 acres per year.



This metric measures how connected or fragmented the land directly surrounding (18 square miles) the habitat is, this the chart shows the proportion of the habitat in each connectedness class.