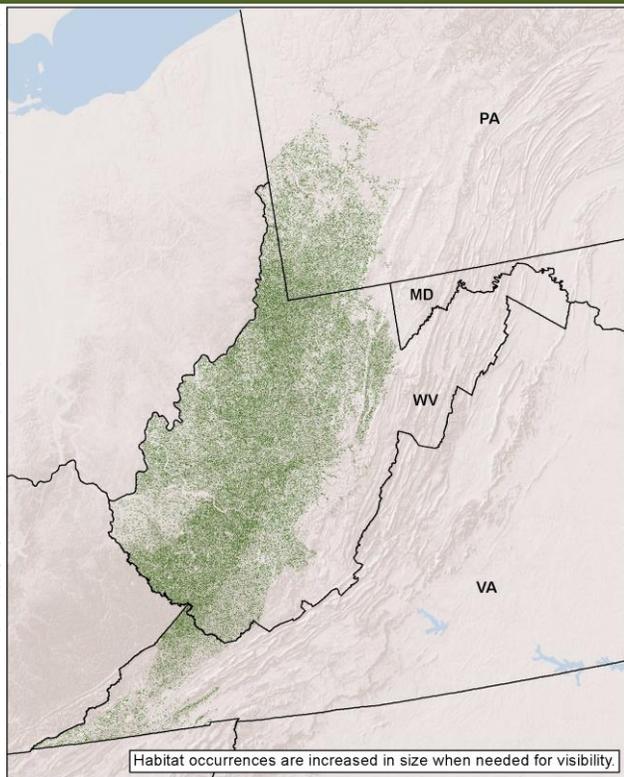


South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest



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.



© Brian Streets (West Virginia Division of Natural Resources)

Description:

A high-diversity, predominately hardwood forests that occurs on deep and enriched lowland soils or in somewhat protected landscape positions such as coves or lower slopes. Dominant species include sugar maple, beech, tuliptree, basswood, red oak, cucumber tree, and black walnut. Hemlock may be a component of some stands. Trees may grow very large in undisturbed areas. The herb layer is rich, often with abundant spring ephemerals. The core distribution of this system lies in the unglaciated Cumberland and Allegheny plateaus-- it occurs in our region only in the western and southern part.

State Distribution: PA, VA, WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 3,543,609

Percent Conserved: 4.4%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
WV	78%	2,777,629	25,263	91,525	2,660,841
PA	15%	533,048	7,033	23,375	502,640
VA	7%	232,931	2,499	7,084	223,348

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

A non-montane system widespread in western West Virginia that most often occurs as large patches on enriched soils in depositional settings (coves and other concave landforms). Corresponds to Lucy Braun's "Mixed Mesophytic Forest."

Similar Habitat Types:

Northeastern Interior Dry-Mesic Oak Forests or Southern Appalachian Oak Forests usually occupy the slopes above this habitat. Two similar systems are Southern and Central Appalachian Cove Forests and North-Central Interior Beech-Maple Forests; the first occurs from the Allegheny Mountains eastward, and the second is found to the north.

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Mixed Mesophytic Forest (PA), Dry-Mesic Calcareous Forest (Southern Ridge And Valley / Cumberlands Type) (VA), Mixed Mesophytic Forest (WV)

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Deciduous/Mixed Forest (upland) (PA), Forest Habitat - Deciduous Forest (VA), Mixed Mesophytic Forest (WV)

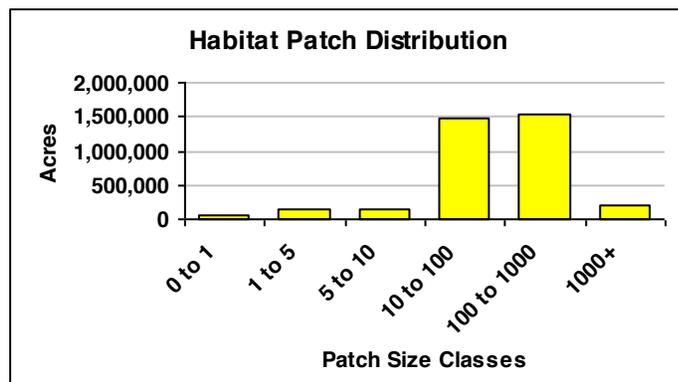
Places to Visit this Habitat:

Raccoon Creek State Park | PA
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA
 Kanawha State Forest | WV
 Monongahela National Forest | WV
 New River Gorge National River | WV

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: acadian flycatcher, barred owl, blue-gray gnatcatcher, eastern wood-pewee, hooded warbler, kentucky warbler, louisiana waterthrush, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, wood thrush, yellow-throated vireo

PLANTS: sweet pepper-bush (*Clethra alnifolia*), Walter's Sedge (*Carex striata*)



The average patch size for this habitat is 10 acres and the largest single patch is 5,040 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.

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

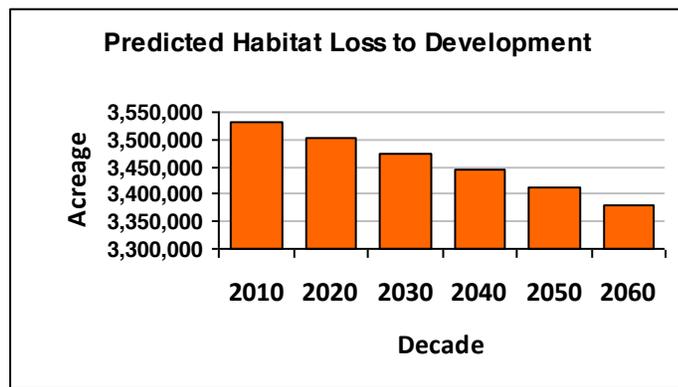
BIRDS: Bachman's sparrow

MAMMALS: Rafinesque's big-eared bat

HERPTILES: green salamander, Kirtland's snake

INSECTS: Cave spider (*Nesticus holsingeri*), cave springtail (*Arrhopalites pavo*), cherokee clubtail, ground beetle, (*Brachoria cedar*), silken cave beetle, Thomas' cave beetle

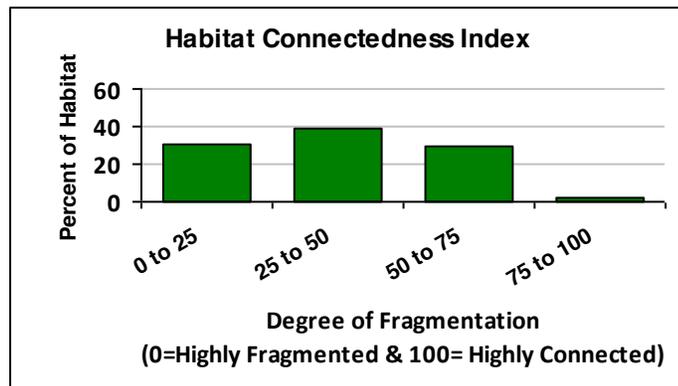
PLANTS: snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*), American gromwell (*Lithospermum latifolium*), blue monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*), rock skullcap (*Scutellaria saxatilis*), running buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), eastern featherbells (*Stenanthium gramineum*)



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (152,322 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 3,046 acres per year.



© Gary P. Fleming (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)



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.