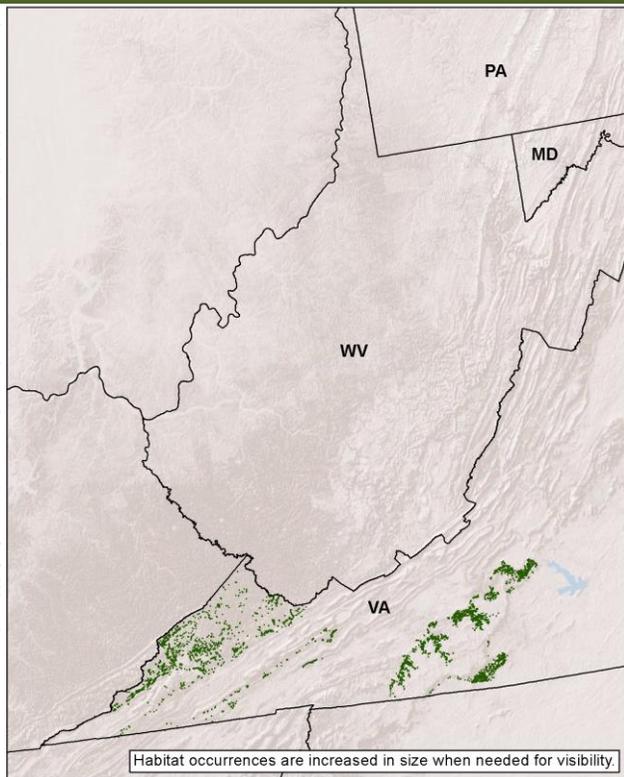




## Macrogroup: Southern Oak-Pine

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:

An open forest or woodland of acidic substrates at low elevations in southwest Virginia. Vegetation is dominated by Virginia and shortleaf pine; occasionally with pitch pine. Hardwoods may be abundant, especially dry-site oaks such as southern red oak, chestnut oak, and scarlet oak, but also pignut hickory, red maple, and others. A heath shrub layer may be well developed. Herbs are usually sparse, though communities of this system may have been grassy when fires were more frequent. The ecological character and natural distribution of this system has been obscured over the years by human settlement, universal logging, pine beetle outbreaks, and fire suppression. Pine-dominated forests have been both created and destroyed in different places by these disturbances.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs on a variety of acidic bedrock types and a variety of landforms, mostly below about 2300 feet. Frequent, low-intensity fires coupled with severe fires may have been solely responsible for maintaining this system under natural conditions. Occurrences may have covered thousands of acres in the past, but most relatively intact remnants are probably small patches. Peripheral to our region, in southwestern Virginia only.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Usually intermixed with Southern Appalachian Oak Forest. Southern and Central Appalachian Cove Forest may be present in more mesic areas. Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland is often on ridges above. Where the range of this system overlaps with that of Southern Appalachian Montane Pine Forest and Woodland, the latter may occur at higher elevations above it.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forest Habitat - Coniferous Forest (VA)

**State Distribution:** VA, WV

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 22,261

**Percent Conserved:** 7.1%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	100%	22,257	282	1,303	20,672
WV	0%	4	0	0	4

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

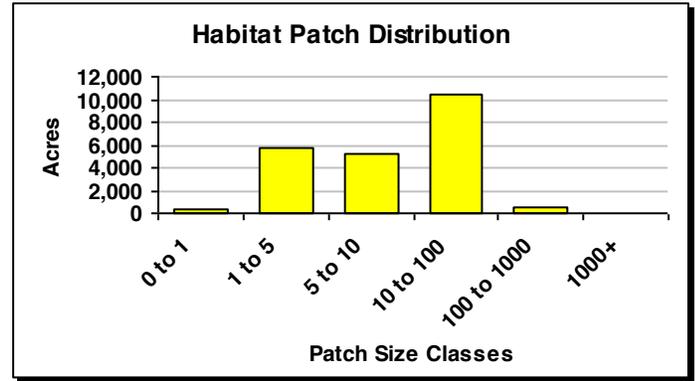
Cumberland Mountains Shortleaf Pine Woodland (VA)

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**

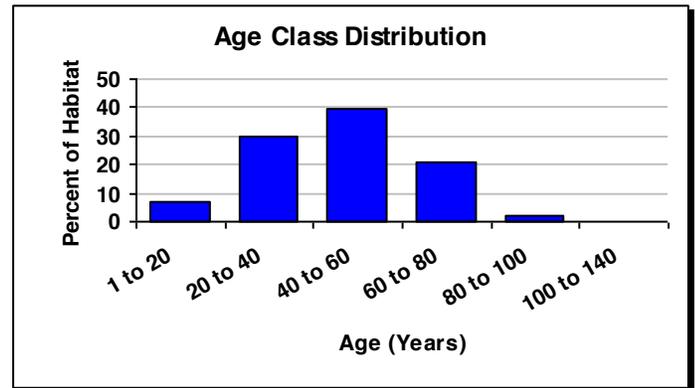
Blue Ridge Parkway National Park | VA  
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA  
 New River Trail State Park | VA

**Associated Species:** *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: alder flycatcher, swainson's warbler



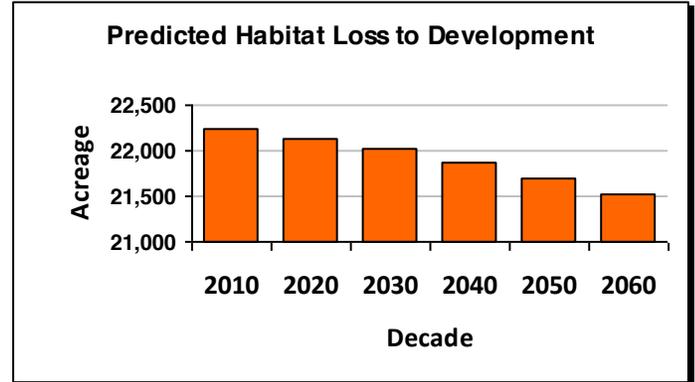
The average patch size for this habitat is 5 acres and the largest single patch is 110 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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*

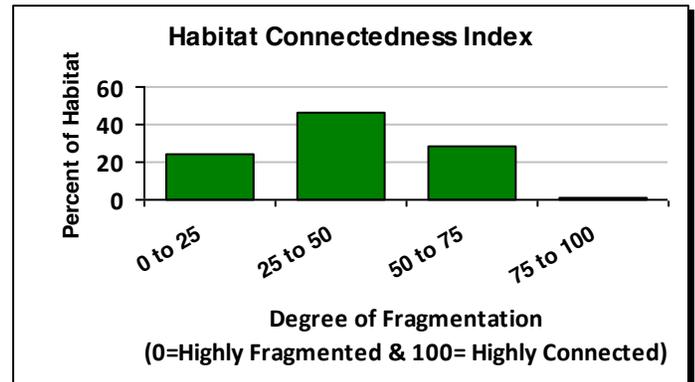
PLANTS: Piratebush (*Buckleya distichophylla*)



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (719 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 14 acres per year.



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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.