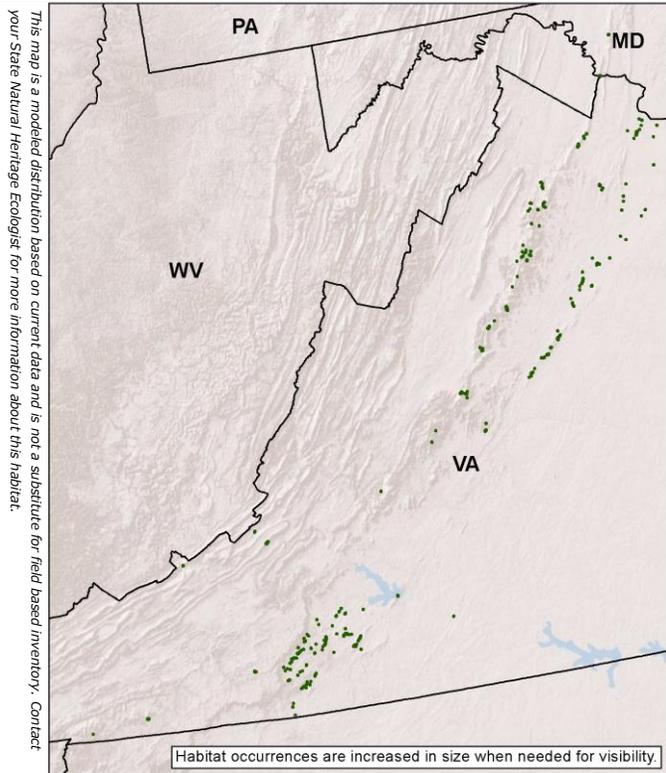




## Macrogroup: Glade, Barren and Savanna



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

### Description:

A mosaic of open woodland, short-shrub or grassy herbaceous vegetation, and rock outcrops, on shallow soils over predominantly mafic bedrock (igneous rocks rich in iron and magnesium). It generally occurs as a small patch system of a few acres. Vegetation varies according to soil chemistry. Stunted and sparsely distributed tree species include white ash, eastern red cedar, chestnut oak, and dry site hickories. Sumac and ninebark are common species in a shrub layer that may be thick. An herb layer dominated by graminoid species can be fairly dense away from bare rock; some typical forbs are nodding onion, slender knotweed, and woodland sunflower. Bedrock substrates include a variety of igneous and metamorphic rock types such as amphibolite, gabbro, and metabasalt (greenstone).

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Shallow soils on upper to mid (occasionally steep) slopes are unable to support a closed tree canopy. Examples on amphibolite have a distinctive basic flora, while those on the more acidic substrates have a more acid-loving and depauperate flora. Intermediate examples are more common that either of these extremes. Fire may be an important determinant of vegetation structure; periodic drought and wind storms may also limit canopy density and stature.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Other glades and barrens in this part of the region, similar in form and ecological character but occurring on different bedrock substrates, are Appalachian Shale Barrens, Central Appalachian Alkaline Glade and Woodland, and Southern Piedmont Glade and Barrens. Adjacent habitats are usually more closed canopy dry to dry-mesic oak-dominated forests.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Early Successional Forests - Shrub-dominated natural communities (MD), Forest Habitat - Mixed Forest (VA)

**State Distribution:** MD, VA

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 1,456

**Percent Conserved:** 40.2%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	97%	1,409	484	66	860
MD	3%	47	36	0	11

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Montane - Piedmont Basic Woodland (MD), Southern Blue Ridge High-Elevation Mafic Barren (VA)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

C & O Canal National Historical Park | MD  
 Appalachian National Scenic Trail | VA  
 Buffalo Mountain State Natural Area Preserve | VA  
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

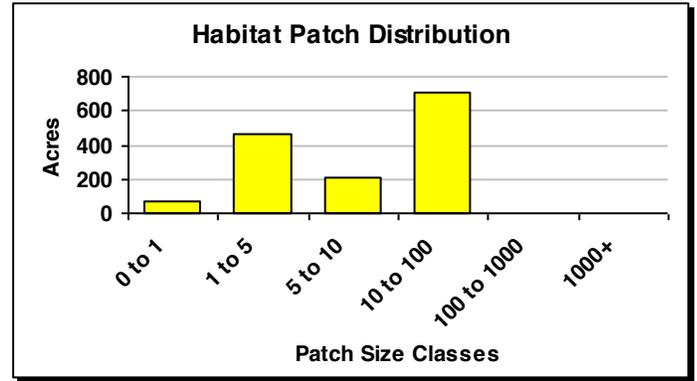
PLANTS: American alumroot (*Heuchera americana*), Appalachian phacelia (*Phacelia dubia*), aromatic sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), blue waxweed (*Cuphea viscosissima*), dwarf skullcap (*Scutellaria parvula*), dwarf-dandelion (*Krigia virginica*), false pennyroyal (*Isanthus brachiatus*), hairy lipfern (*Cheilanthes lanosa*), hoary mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*), hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), pink corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*), rusty woodsia (*Woodsia ilvensis*), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*), woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)

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

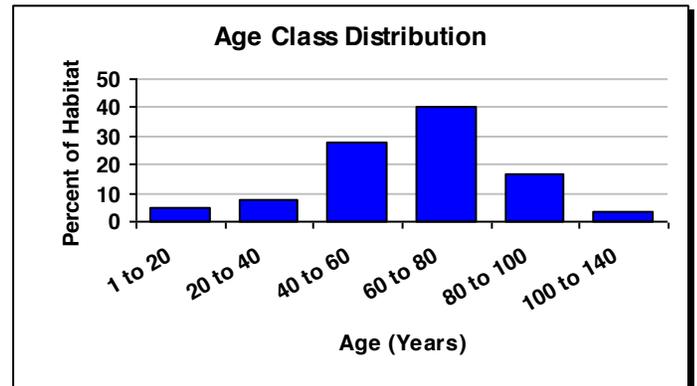
PLANTS: roundleaf fameflower (*Talinum teretifolium*)



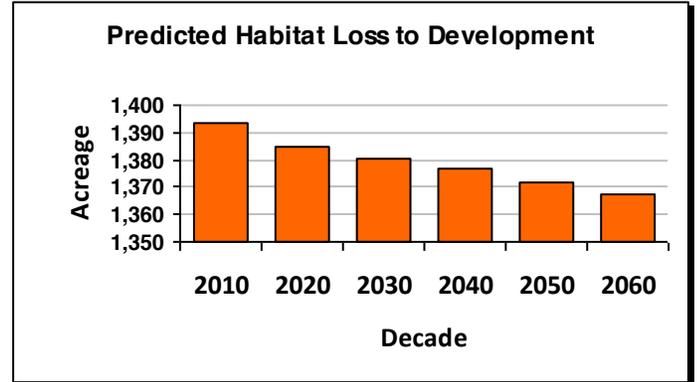
© Gary P. Fleming (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)



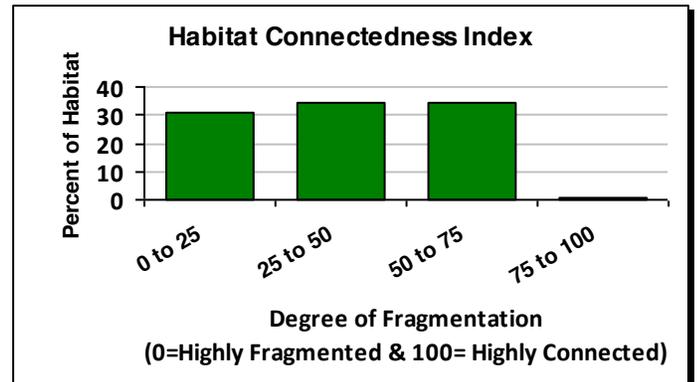
The average patch size for this habitat is 3 acres and the largest single patch is 85 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (27 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 1 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.