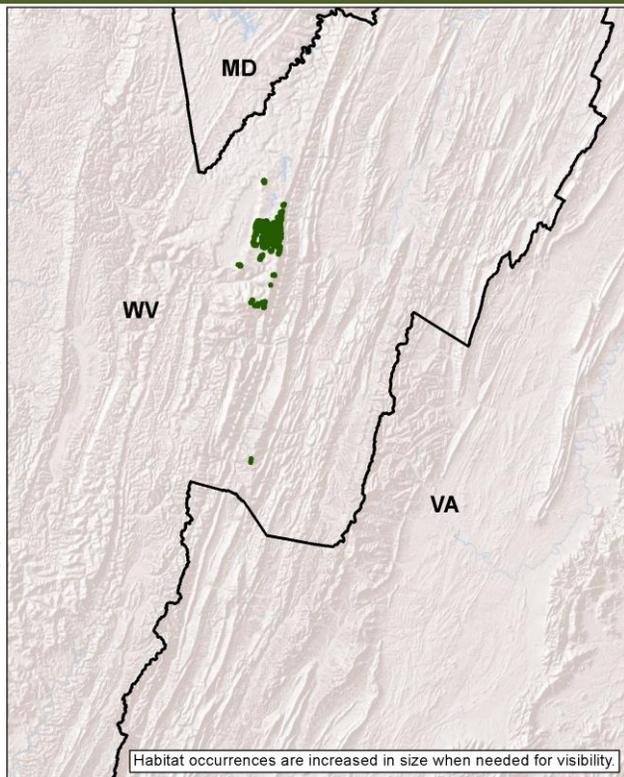




Macrogroup: Outcrop & Summit Scrub

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 shrubland or grassland of high-elevation summits and upper slopes in the southern Appalachians. Shrub-dominated balds are a mosaic of evergreen or mixed shrubland dominated by catawba rhododendron with mountain-laurel and black huckleberry, and deciduous shrubland dominated by blackberry or American mountain-ash, minniebush, and southern mountain-cranberry. Common herbs in open areas are mountain oat-grass, various sedges, and forbs like three-toothed cinquefoil and Blue Ridge St. Johns-wort.

State Distribution: WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 3,198

Percent Conserved: 71.5%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
WV	100%	3,198	1,842	444	912

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

In our region, mapped only at higher elevations in the Allegheny Mountains in eastern West Virginia, where the largest occurrence is the heath balds in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area. This system is associated with rocky, cold, windswept settings, and its ecological dynamics are driven by shallow rocky soils, fires, grazing, and microclimatic impacts such as frequent high-velocity winds and ice storms.

Similar Habitat Types:

Adjacent and downslope forests are generally Central and Southern Appalachian Spruce-Fir Forest and Appalachian (Hemlock)-Northern Hardwood Forest.

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Dolly Sods Expansion National Wilderness Area | WV
Bear Rocks Preserve | WV

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

PLANTS: Catawba rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*), mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), blackberry (*Rubus canadensis*), American mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*), minniebush (*Menziesia pilosa*), *Vaccinium erythrocarpum*, mountain oat-grass (*Danthonia compressa*), various sedges (*Carex brunnescens* ssp. *sphaerostachya*, *Carex debilis* var. *rudgei*, *Carex pensylvanica*), three-toothed cinquefoil (*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*) and Blue Ridge St. Johns-wort (*Hypericum mitchellianum*)

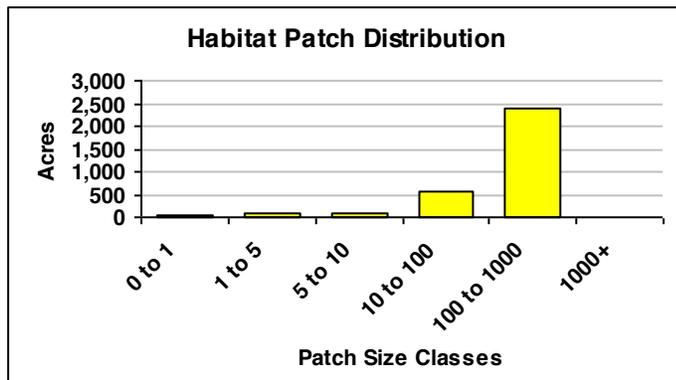
Species of Concern (G1-G4): *Appendix lists scientific names*

INSECTS: Pink-edged Sulphur (WV,VA, MD High Altitude Population - *Colias interior* pop 1)

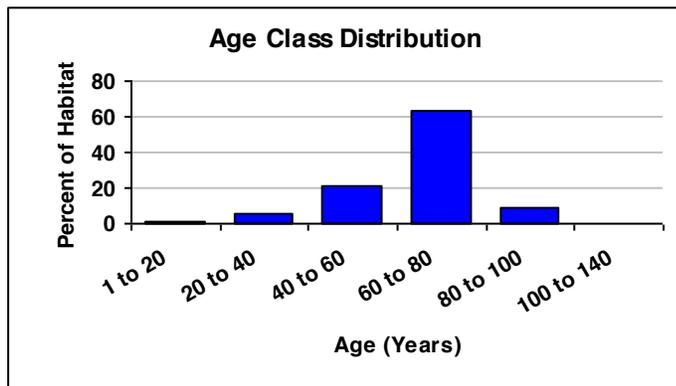
PLANTS: chamomile grape-fern (*Botrychium matricariifolium*), summer sedge (*Carex aestivalis*), purple clematis (*Clematis occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*), white alumroot (*Heuchera alba*), *Stellaria* (*Stellaria borealis* ssp. *borealis*), Death camas (*Zigadenus leimanthoides*)



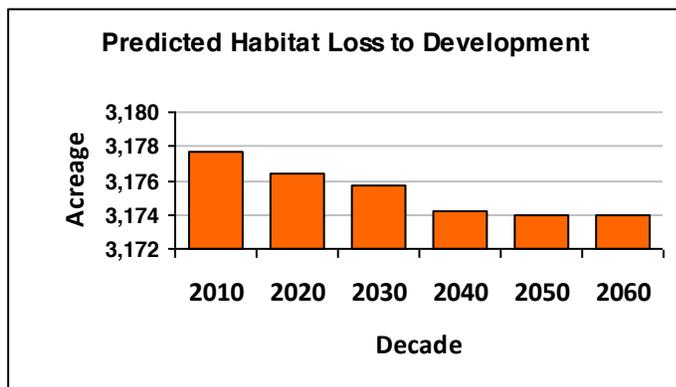
© Brian Streets (West Virginia Division of Natural Resources)



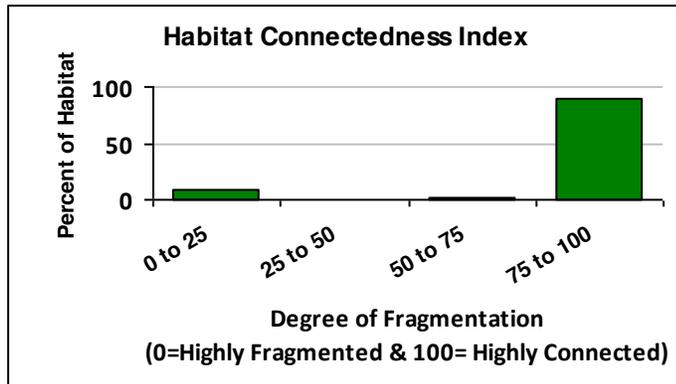
The average patch size for this habitat is 16 acres and the largest single patch is 641 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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