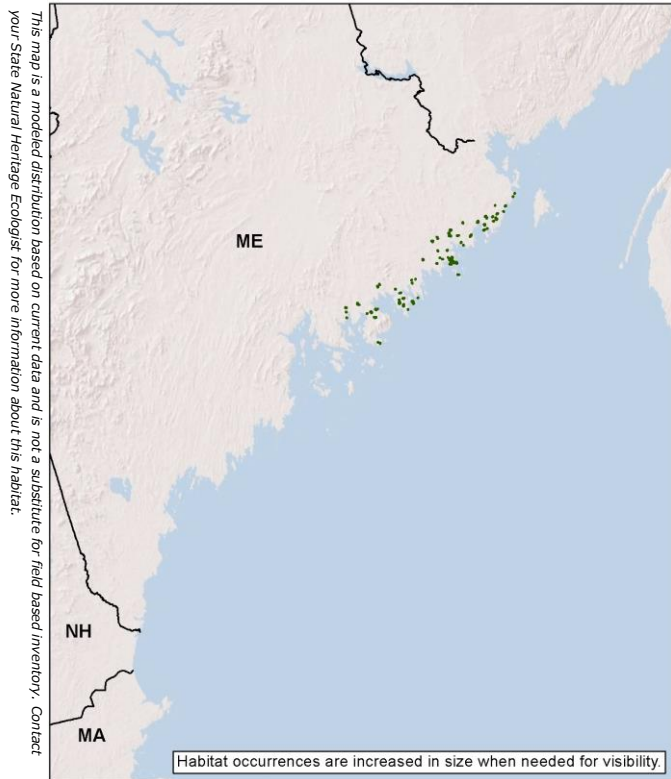




## Macrogroup: Northern Peatland



© Josh Royte (The Nature Conservancy, Maine)

### Description:

An acidic peatland dominated by dwarf-shrubs, sedges and peat-mosses, and occurring along the northern Atlantic Coast. When these form in basins, they develop raised plateaus with undulating sedge and dwarf-shrub vegetation. They also occur as "blanket bogs" over a sloping rocky substrate in extreme maritime settings. Species characteristic of this maritime setting include crowberry and baked-apple berry. Typical bog heaths such as sheep laurel, bog laurel, huckleberry, and Labrador tea are also present. The peat moss layer is extensive, with coverage usually close to 100%. The core distribution for this system is in the Canadian Maritimes, where there are some very large examples-- it is rare in the northeastern US.

### State Distribution: ME

Total Habitat Acreage: 5,235

Percent Conserved: 21.9%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
ME	100%	5,235	1,022	126	4,087

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Large peatlands form where anaerobic saturated conditions and a cool climate slow the decomposition of dead plant material (sphagnum moss), which accumulates to form an organic soil. US examples of this system are not true peatlands: peat layers are relatively thin, and occur over bedrock or other rocky substrate.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Peatland morphology and certain coastal species distinguish these from inland raised bogs like those in the Boreal-Laurentian Bog system. The latter are true peatlands, in which deep peat layers form in basin settings.

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Heath - Crowberry Maritime Slope Bog (ME)

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Peatlands (ME)

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**

Acadia National Park | ME  
 Cutler Coast | ME  
 Great Wass Island Preserve | ME  
 Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge | ME  
 Quoddy Head State Park | ME

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

**BIRDS:** alder flycatcher, common yellowthroat, lincoln's sparrow, willow flycatcher, wilson's snipe, white-throated sparrow

**INSECTS:** Quebec emerald

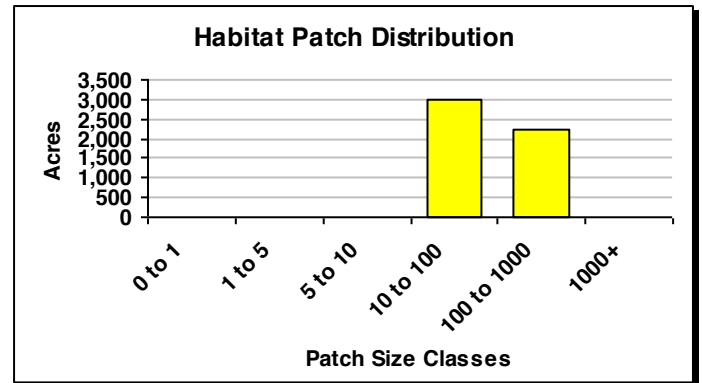
**PLANTS:** Swamp Birch (*Betula pumila*), Northern Comandra (*Geocaulon lividum*)

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

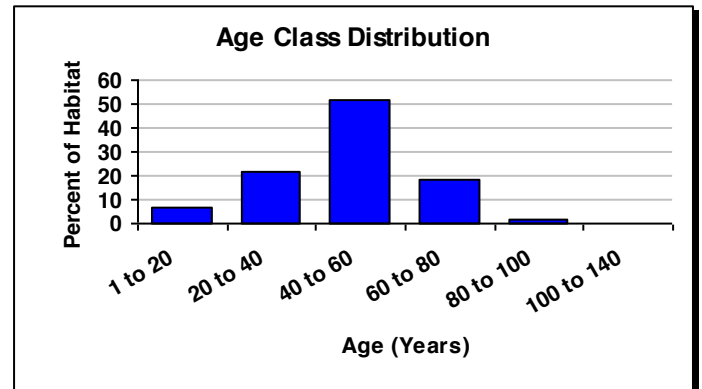
**INSECTS:** crowberry blue (*Plebejus idas empetri*)



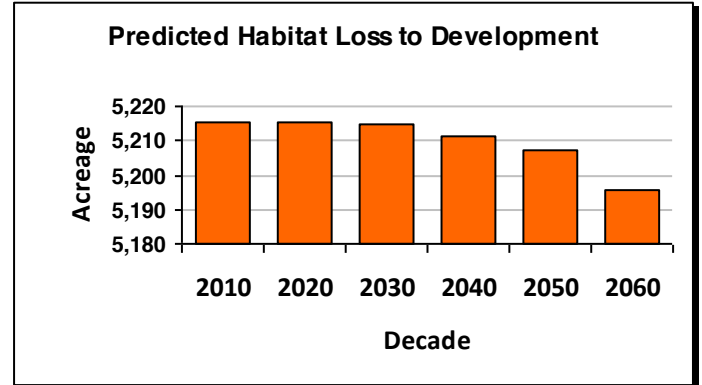
© Maine Natural Areas Program



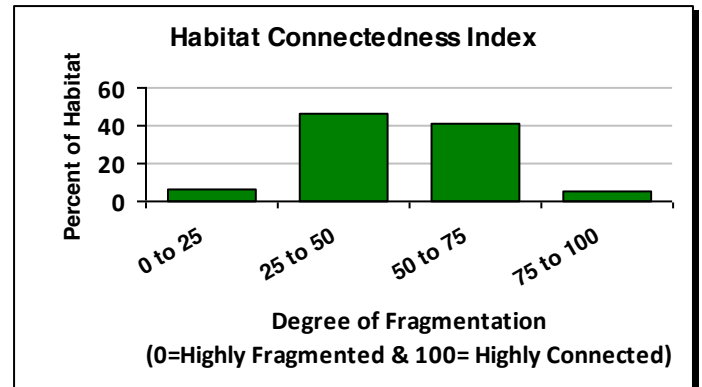
The average patch size for this habitat is 53 acres and the largest single patch is 206 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (19 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.