

## Macrogroup: Central 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:

A forest-shrubland mosaic encompassing a range of woody vegetation on barrier islands, near-coastal strands, and bluffs at the outer edge of the coastal plain. Defined by its proximity to maritime environments, and usually species-poor, the vegetation includes narrow bands of forests or woodlands, often featuring stunted trees with contorted branches and dense vine layers. A range of trees may be present depending upon location and degree of protection from most extreme maritime influences. They may include some combination of pines (like pitch, Virginia, loblolly, and shortleaf pine) and oaks (scarlet, black, scrub, post) as well as eastern red cedar, black cherry, American holly, sassafras, and red maple. The shrub layer may be dense; the herb layer is often sparse.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Soils are generally fine to coarse sand with some organic material mixed into the top layers; there is sometimes a thick duff layer. Groundwater levels vary, and have a strong influence on vegetation composition and structure. This habitat type encompasses both upland and embedded wetland environments. Maritime forest vegetation is subject to stresses like salt spray, high winds, dune deposition, sand shifting and blasting, and occasional overwash.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Maritime forests very often border and interfinger with dune, swale and sandy beach habitats. A similar system with more southern tree, shrub, and herb species has been described for the Central Atlantic Coastal Plain; it ranges south from southeast Virginia.

**State Distribution:** CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VA

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 127,121

**Percent Conserved:** 20.3%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
MA	26%	32,935	5,273	4,733	22,930
ME	25%	32,256	1,977	1,198	29,081
NY	24%	29,958	2,755	2,259	24,944
VA	11%	14,061	1,532	663	11,867
RI	6%	7,968	602	1,453	5,913
CT	4%	5,511	990	394	4,127
NJ	1%	1,266	479	85	703
DE	1%	1,233	18	495	721
MD	1%	1,157	593	116	447
NH	1%	774	5	161	608

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Upland Woodland And Shrub - Coastal Shrublands (CT), Maritime Red Cedar Woodland (DE), Maritime Oak-Holly Forest/Woodland (MA), Maritime Forest (MD), Maritime Wooded Dune (NH), Coastal Dune Woodland (NJ), Maritime Holly Forest (NY), Maritime Woodland (RI), Maritime Loblolly Pine Forest (VA)

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Upland Woodland and Shrub - Coastal Shrublands (CT), Beach and Dune Habitats (DE), Upland Forest (MA), Maritime Forests and Shrublands (MD), Coastal Hardwoods (NY), Forest Habitat - Mixed Forest (VA)

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**

Bluff Point State Park | CT  
 Cape Cod National Seashore | MA  
 Assateague Island National Seashore | MD  
 Mashomack Preserve | NY  
 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge | VA

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

**BIRDS:** black-and-white warbler, blue-winged warbler, carolina wren, common yellowthroat, eastern towhee, gray catbird, ovenbird, prairie warbler, white-eyed vireo (south), yellow-breasted chat (south)

**MAMMALS:** eastern mole, gray squirrel, long-tailed weasel, meadow vole, white-footed mice

**HERPTILES:** eastern hognose snake

**PLANTS:** Northern Blazingstar (*Liatrix scariosa* var. *novae-angliae*), Lion's-foot (*Prenanthes serpentina*), Sundial Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Eggleaf Rosette Grass (*Dichanthelium ovale* var. *ovale*), Eastern Silvery Aster (*Symphotrichum concolor*), Small White Leek (*Allium tricoccum*), Coastal Plain Blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium fuscum*), Yellow Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum* var. *horridulum*)

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

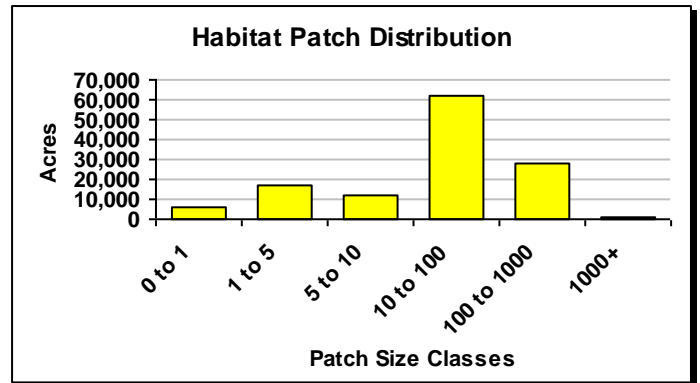
**HERPTILES:** copperhead, eastern box turtle

**INSECTS:** coastal heathland cutworm, Delaware skipper, graphic moth, little glassywing, southern broken dash, the pink streak

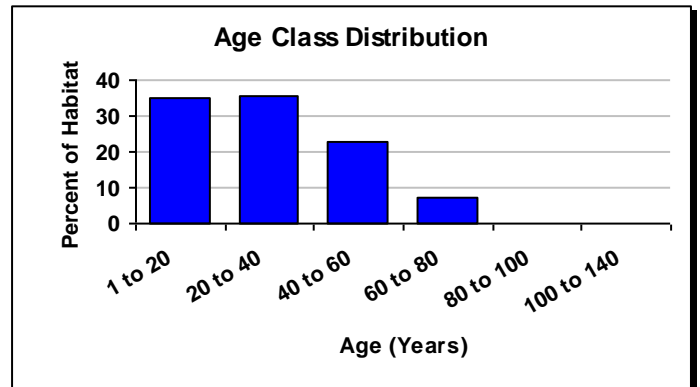
**PLANTS:** Bushy Rockrose (*Helianthemum dumosum*), Broom Crowberry (*Corema conradii*), Nantucket Shadbush (*Amelanchier nantucketensis*), Slender Blue Flag (*Iris prismatica*)



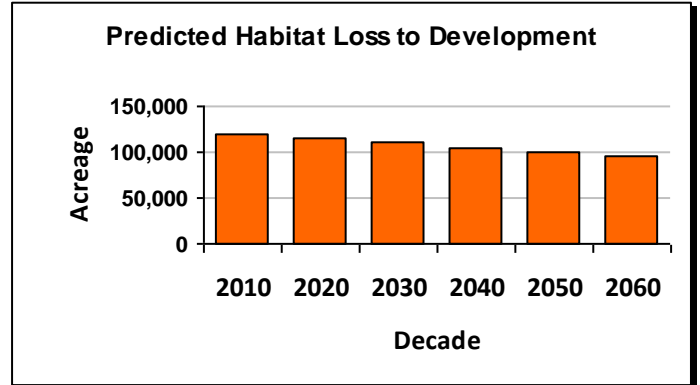
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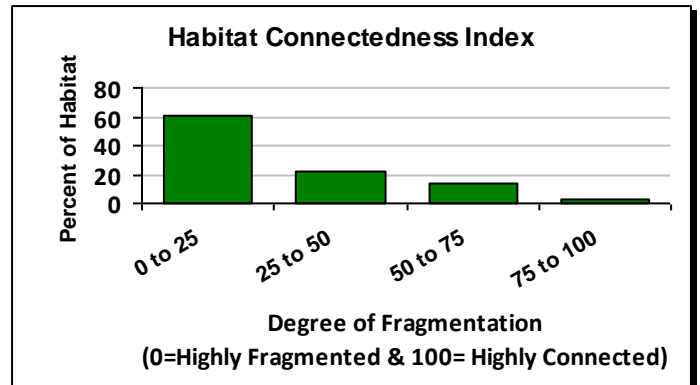
The average patch size for this habitat is 4 acres and the largest single patch is 385 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (23,614 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 472 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.