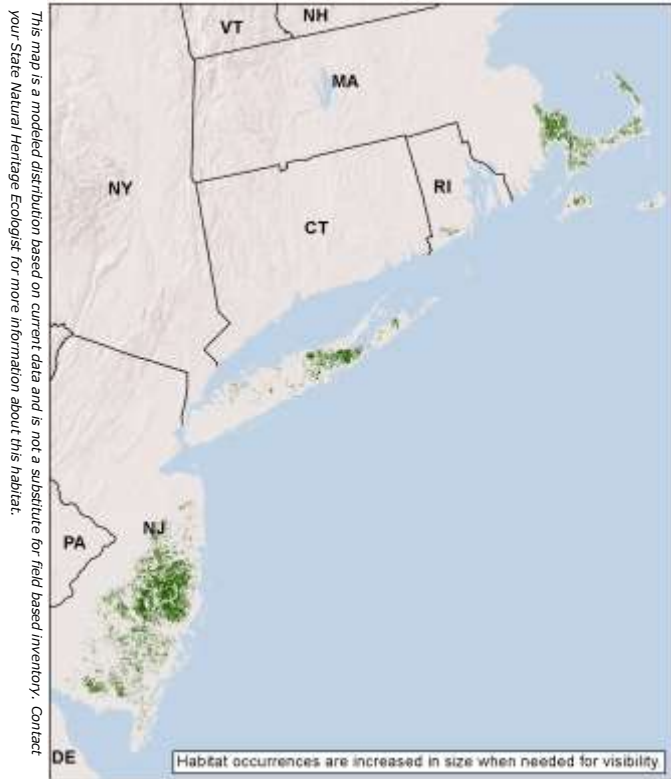


Macrogroup: Central Oak-Pine



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Description:

A dry, fire-adapted forest with a variable canopy of pitch pine, a tall-shrub layer dominated by scrub oak, and a low-shrub layer characterized by blueberry and other heaths. Other oaks (scarlet, black, chestnut, white) are also sometimes present. Composition and structure vary with fire frequency. In general, tree oaks are more prevalent in those stands having a longer fire-return interval, while fire frequencies of eight to ten years foster the growth of "pine plains," dwarf pine stands one meter in height. Dwarf-shrubs such as lowbush blueberry, bearberry and golden-heather typify the field layer of pine plains. Scrub oak stands may occur without pine cover, particularly in low-lying areas where cold-air drainage inhibits pine growth.

State Distribution: MA, NJ, NY, RI

Total Habitat Acreage: 491,551

Percent Conserved: 46.8%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NJ	66%	326,469	82,234	86,207	158,029
MA	21%	101,284	8,984	36,076	56,224
NY	12%	60,016	7,303	8,204	44,509
RI	1%	3,782	656	284	2,842

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

This system favors low-nutrient, deep sandy soils in dry, flat settings on the coastal plain. Historically large occurrences in southeastern Massachusetts and on Long Island have been largely degraded or destroyed, but sizable and relatively intact examples still exist in New Jersey. Occasional small barrens peripheral to the main distribution occur from southern Maine to Maryland.

Similar Habitat Types:

On the coastal plain of New Jersey, the pitch pine lowland system often occurs immediately adjacent to the upland pitch pine barrens system, where the water table is close to the surface. These upland pitch pine barrens are similar in structure and composition to the Northeastern Interior Pine Barrens system, but each system has species not shared by the other.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak (MA), Upland forests - pitch pine-oak forest (NJ), Coastal Coniferous Barrens (NY), Pitch Pine Communities - Evergreen Forest Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak Barren (RI)

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Pitch Pine-Oak Forest/Woodland (MA), Upland Forests - Pitch Pine-Oak Forest (NJ), Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak Barrens (NY), Pitch Pine Woodland/Barrens (RI)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Cape Cod National Seashore | MA
 Myles Standish State Forest | MA
 Brendan T. Byrne State Forest | NJ
 Wharton State Forest | NJ
 Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area | NY

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: brown thrasher, chipping sparrow, common yellowthroat, eastern towhee, field sparrow, ovenbird, pine warbler, prairie warbler, eastern whip-poor-will

HERPTILES: box turtle, eastern kingsnake, tiger salamander, northern pine snake, northern black racer, northern red-bellied cooter, red cornsnake, timber rattlesnake

INSECTS: comet darter, common sanddragon, cow path tiger beetle, pine woods underwing, spiny oakworm moth, The buckmoth

PLANTS: Few-flower Nutrush (*Scleria pauciflora*), Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*), Little Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes tuberosa*), Northern Blazingstar (*Liatris scariosa* var. *novae-angliae*), Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Purple Needlegrass (*Aristida purpurascens*), Nuttall's Milkwort (*Polygala nuttallii*)

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

BIRDS: long-eared owl (winter)

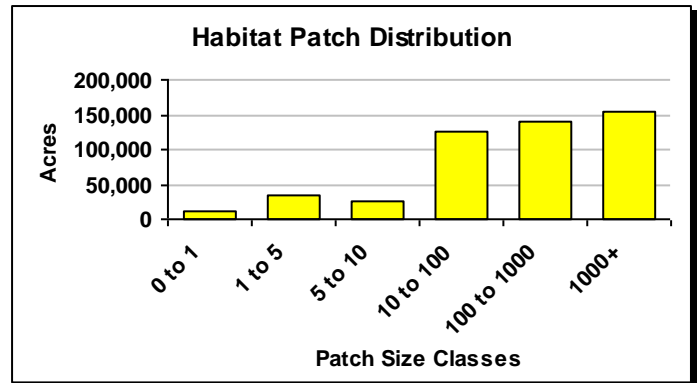
HERPTILES: pine barrens treefrog

INSECTS: barrens dagger moth, Barrens itame, Blueberry gray, Coastal barrens buckmoth, Frosted elfin, Karner blue butterfly, Pine barren bluet, Pine barren lycia, Pine barren underwing, Pine barren zale, Precious underwing

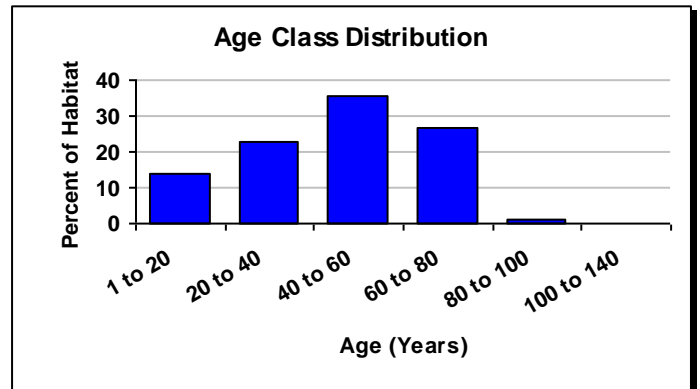
PLANTS: bicknell's hawthorn (*Crataegus bicknellii*), broom crowberry (*Corema conradii*), eastern silvery aster (*Symphyotrichum concolor*), pine barren gentian (*Gentiana autumnalis*), pine barrens boneset (*Eupatorium resinosum*), plymouth gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*), sandplain flax (*Linum intercursum*), stiff tick-trefoil (*Desmodium obtusum*), tall bushclover (*Lespedeza stuevei*), white-bracted boneset (*Eupatorium leucolepis*)



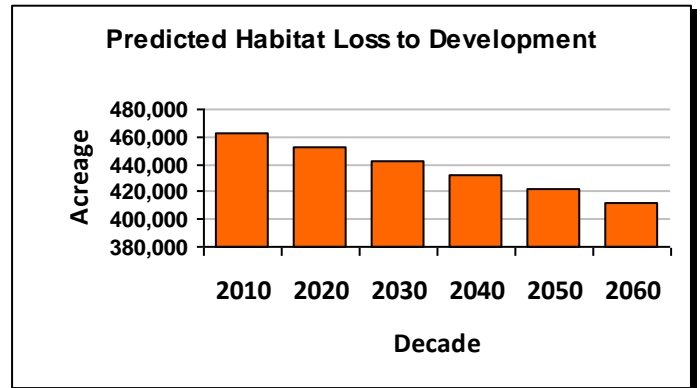
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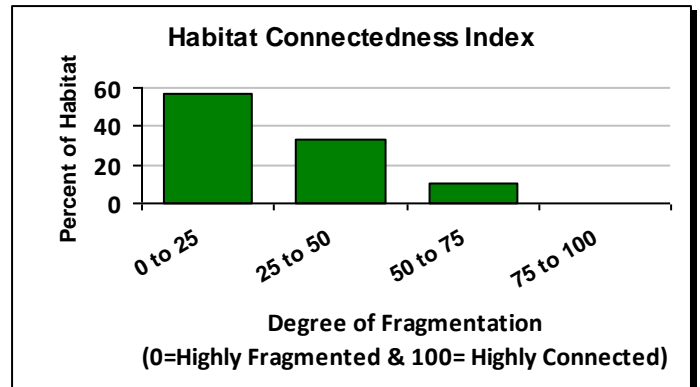
The average patch size for this habitat is 7 acres and the largest single patch is 6,876 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (50,993 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 1,020 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.