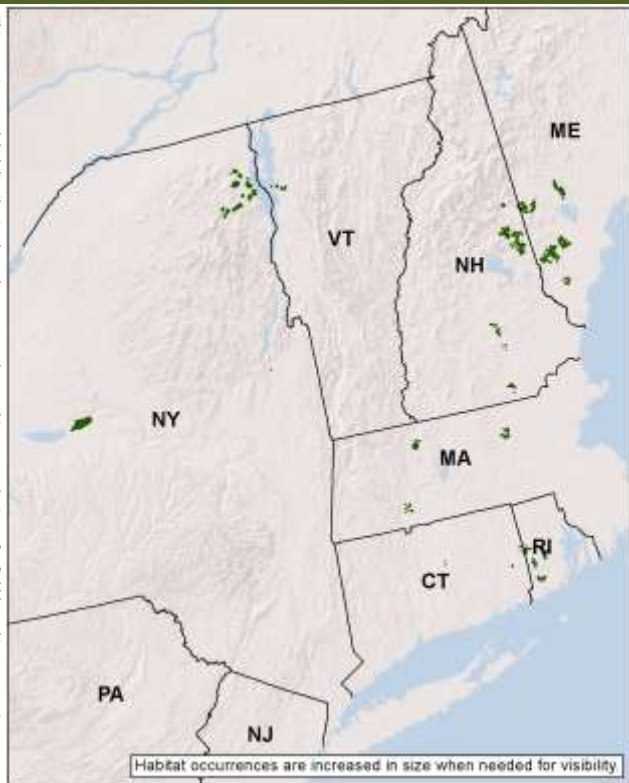


## Macrogroup: Central Oak-Pine

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.



© Jennifer Case (The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania)

### Description:

A fire-adapted system of Northeast glacial sandplains, typically an open woodland but sometimes including patches of closed-canopy forest and herbaceous openings. Pitch pine is the usual dominant; red oak, white pine, and gray birch are common associates. A tall-shrub layer of scrub oak or dwarf chinkapin oak is characteristic, as is a low-shrub layer of heath and sweetfern. Small changes in elevation create pockets with saturated soil, where shrubs such as hazelnut, buttonbush, highbush blueberry, and alder form dense cover. Grassy areas dominated by little bluestem, native lupine, and other forbs, provide habitat for rare invertebrates like the frosted elfin. Black racer and eastern ribbon snake are associated with this habitat.

**State Distribution:** CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 42,742

**Percent Conserved:** 28.4%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NY	54%	22,911	2,732	1,641	18,538
ME	21%	9,151	762	2,573	5,816
NH	13%	5,722	703	1,266	3,753
RI	5%	2,228	9	1,523	696
MA	5%	2,049	0	762	1,287
VT	1%	534	0	79	454
CT	0%	147	43	38	65

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs on outwash plains, stabilized sand dunes, and glacial till. Soils are coarse-textured, acidic, well-drained to xeric, and low in nutrients. These barrens always have a history of recurrent fires, and fire is required to maintain them. Favorable sites tend to be ideal for development, and because of this and the suppression of fire, high quality remnant patches of any size are rare. Largest remaining patches are a few hundred to about 1000 acres.

### Similar Habitat Types:

With similar ecological dynamics, this system could be regarded as an inland version of the North Atlantic Coastal Plain Pitch Pine Barrens.

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Upland Woodland And Shrub - Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak Woodlands (CT), Pitch-Pine Scrub Oak Community (MA), Pitch Pine - Scrub Oak Barren (ME), Pitch Pine - Scrub Oak Woodland (NH), Pitch Pine-Heath Barrens (NY), Pitch Pine Communities - Evergreen Forest Pitch Pine-Oak Barren (RI), Pine-Oak-Heath Sandplain Forest (VT)

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Upland Woodland and Shrub - Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak Woodlands (CT), Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak (MA), Dry Woodlands and Barrens (ME), Pine Barrens (NH), Pine Barrens (NY), Thicket/Shrub Habitats - Naturally occurring barrens (PA), Pitch Pine Communities - Evergreen Forest Pitch Pine-Oak Barren (RI), Oak-Pine-Northern Hardwood Forest - Pine-Oak-Heath Sandplain Forest (VT)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

Waterboro Barrens Preserve | ME  
 White Lake State Park | NH  
 Macomb State Forest | NY  
 Rome Sand Plains Preserve | NY  
 Arcadia Management Area | RI

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** american woodcock, blue jay, common nighthawk, common yellowthroat, eastern towhee, field sparrow, pileated woodpecker, pine warbler, prairie warbler, ruffed grouse, whip-poor-will

**HERPTILES:** blanding's turtle, eastern box turtle, eastern ribbonsnake, northern black racer

**INSECTS:** big sand tiger beetle (*Cicindela formosa*), inland barrens buckmoth (*Hemileuca maia*), midland clubtail (*Gomphus fraternus*), pine woods underwing (*Catocala* sp.), similar underwing (*Catocala similis*), sleepy duskywing (*Erynnis brizo*)

**PLANTS:** Canada frostweed (*Helianthemum canadense*), hairy lettuce (*Lactuca hirsuta*), large whorled pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*), plains frostweed (*Helianthemum bicknellii*), racemed milkwort (*Polygala polygama*), Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

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

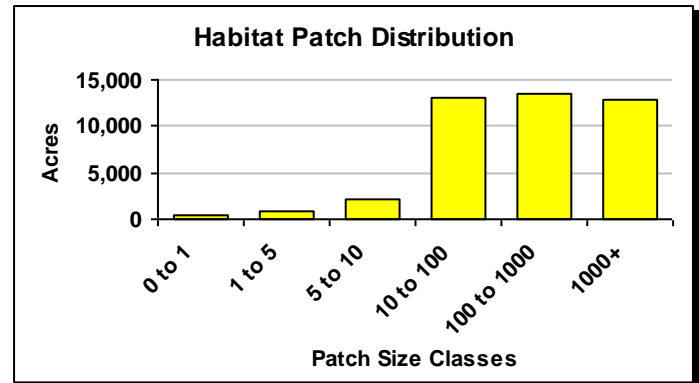
**BIRDS:** whip-poor-will

**INSECTS:** barrens daggermoth, barrens metarranthis moth, blueberry sawfly, chain dot geometer, coastal barrens buckmoth, coastal heathland cutworm, Edward's hairstreak, Gerhard's underwing, imperial moth, melsheimer's sack bearer, noctuid moth, oblique zale, pine barrens itame, pine barrens lycia, pine barrens zale, pine barrens zanclognatha, pine pinion, pine-devil moth, pink sawfly, similar underwing, southern pine sphinx, spiny oakworm, the buckmoth, twilight moth

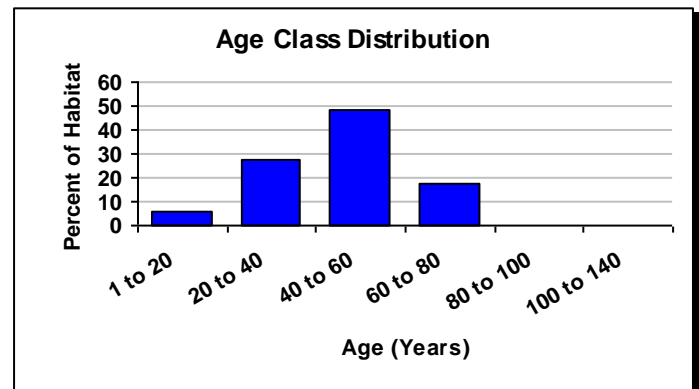
**PLANTS:** low bindweed (*Calystegia spithamea*), broom crowberry (*Corema conradii*)



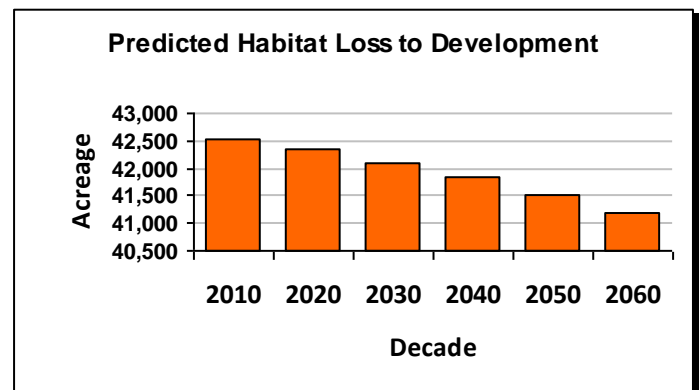
© Robert Popp (Vermont Fish & Wildlife)



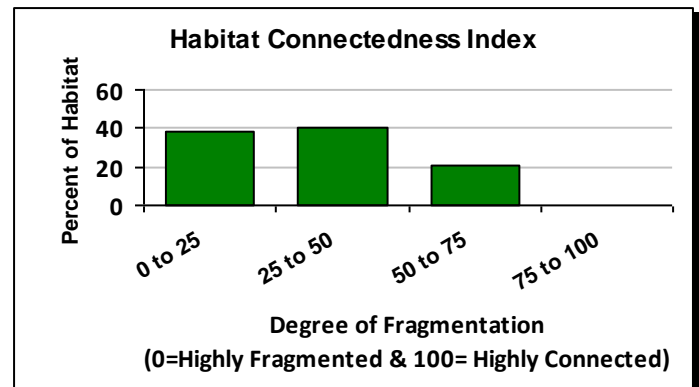
The average patch size for this habitat is 14 acres and the largest single patch is 1,247 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (1,328 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 27 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.