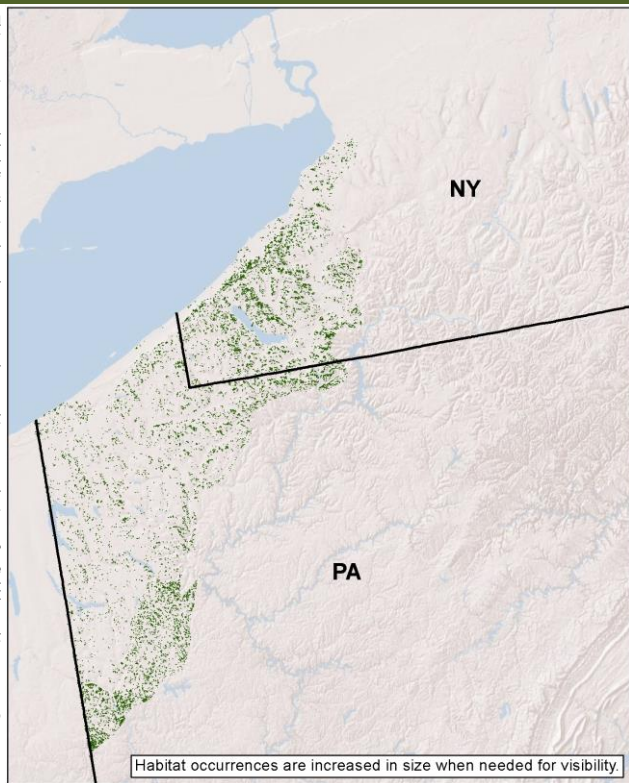




Macrogroup: Northern Hardwood & Conifer

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 hardwood forest in which American beech and sugar maple make up most of the canopy. Associates can include red oak, basswood, white ash, yellow buckeye, hornbeam, and hop-hornbeam. This forest is characterized by a dense tree canopy that forms a thick layer of humus and leaf litter leading to a rich herbaceous layer, typically including many spring ephemerals. Saplings of canopy trees are often the most abundant component of the shrub layer; other common shrubs include various viburnums, witch hazel, and spicebush. Found primarily along the southern Great Lakes, it is peripheral to our region, occurring only in a small area near Lake Erie. Conversion to agriculture has significantly decreased the range of this system, and very few large stands remain intact.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

This forest is typically found in rich loam soils that formed in glacial till, on flat to rolling uplands, though it favors lower slope positions. The primary natural disturbance and replacement processes influencing this system are wind-driven gap dynamics. Examples in which ecological processes are intact may be difficult to find, as it occurs mostly as small patches in an agricultural landscape.

Similar Habitat Types:

The South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest is very similar ecologically, but occurs to the south of the glacial boundary on the Cumberland and Allegheny plateaus. Examples in relatively natural landscapes generally give way to Appalachian (Hemlock-)Northern Hardwoods at higher land positions.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Mixed Northern Hardwoods (NY), Deciduous/Mixed Forest (upland) (PA)

State Distribution: NY, PA

Total Habitat Acreage: 72,645

Percent Conserved: 6.9%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
PA	58%	41,812	489	2,476	38,848
NY	42%	30,833	22	2,018	28,793

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Beech-Maple Mesic Forest (NY), Deciduous/Mixed Forest (Upland) (PA)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Boutwell Hill State Forest | NY
 Harris Hill State Forest | NY
 North Harmony State Forest | NY
 Stockton State Forest | NY
 McConnells Mill State Park | PA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: american redstart, eastern wood-pewee, hooded warbler, great crested flycatcher, ovenbird, red-bellied woodpecker, rose-breasted grosbeak, scarlet tanager, wood thrush, yellow-bellied sapsucker

MAMMALS: beaver, black bear, gray fox, indiana myotis, mink, raccoon, virginia possum, woodland jumping mouse

HERPTILES: jefferson salamander, marbled salamander, northern slimy salamander, eastern hognose snake, northern redbelly snake, northern ringneck snake, ribbon snake

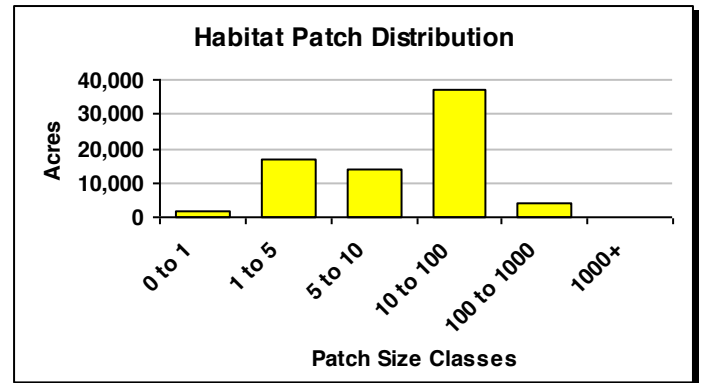
PLANTS: Smooth Beardtongue (*Penstemon laevigatus*)

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

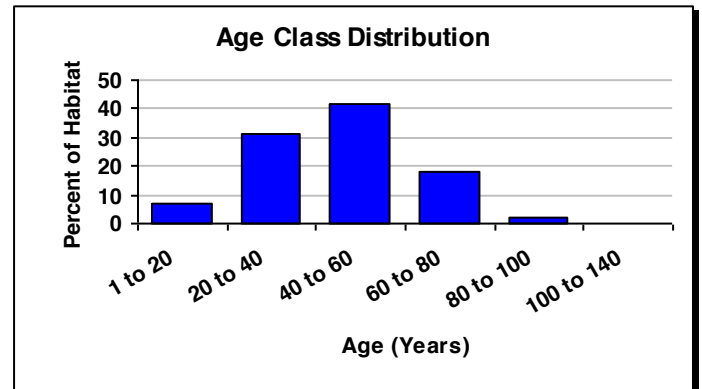
PLANTS: nodding rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes crepidinea*)



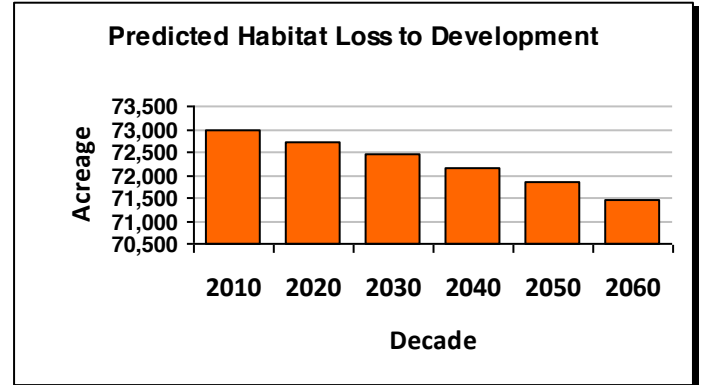
© Shane Gebauer (New York Natural Heritage Program)



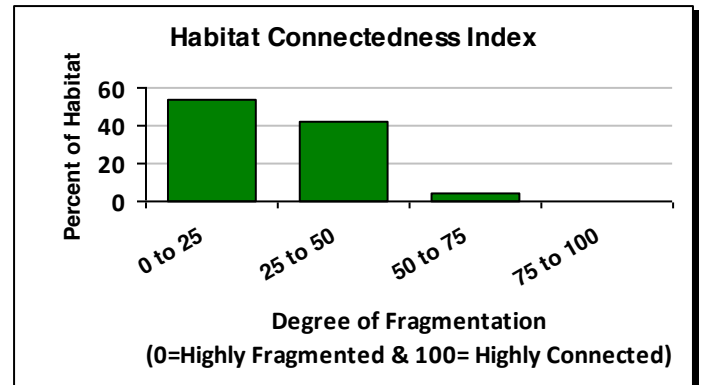
The average patch size for this habitat is 5 acres and the largest single patch is 484 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (1,517 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 30 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.