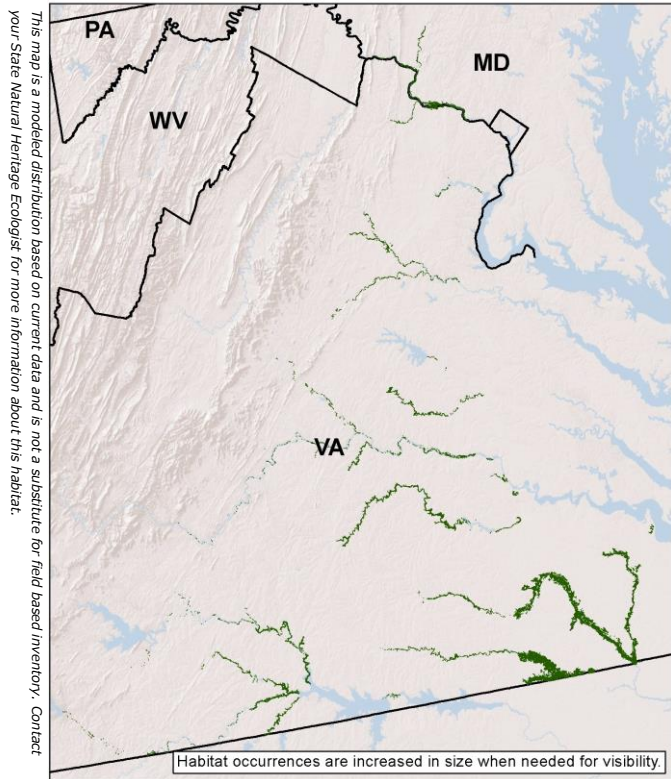




Macrogroup: Large River Floodplain



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Description:

A complex of wetland and upland vegetation on floodplains along larger rivers, where temporary to seasonal flooding affects vegetation composition and dynamics. Vegetation includes both non-forested bar and scour communities and a diverse group of more extensive forests. Microtopographic heterogeneity is high, and forests tend to be differentiated by depositional landforms such as levees, sloughs, terraces, and abandoned channels. Better drained soils may support wet site oaks, shagbark hickory, and sweetgum. Wettest swamps are often dominated by green ash and red maple. Bald cypress may occur, but does not dominate. Understories are generally open, with sedges and grasses or moisture-loving forbs in the herb layer.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs along large rivers or streams where topography and alluvial processes have resulted in a well-developed floodplain. River gradients tend to be a bit higher in the Piedmont than on the blackwater and brownwater rivers in the coastal plain. The alluvial soils are variable in texture. High-energy flooding can rework bar and bank communities, while windthrow dominates canopy dynamics.

Similar Habitat Types:

Like other floodplain types in the Northeast, long linear examples of this habitat in good condition are rare because of their rich alluvial soils, settings favorable to agriculture, and vulnerability to invasive plants. Similar in structure to floodplains in higher valleys to the west, but with a somewhat different suite of bottomland species.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Wetland Habitat - Forested (VA)

State Distribution: MD, VA

Total Habitat Acreage: 131,403

Percent Conserved: 9.3%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	97%	127,421	1,320	8,163	117,938
MD	3%	3,982	1,350	1,346	1,287

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Coastal Plain - Piedmont Bottomland Forest (MD), Coastal Plain / Piedmont Floodplain Swamp (VA)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

C & O Canal National Historical Park | MD
 Mckee Beshers Wildlife Management Area | MD
 Chub Sandhill State Natural Area Preserve | VA
 Cumberland State Forest | VA
 Powhatan State Park | VA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

HERPTILES: dwarf waterdog (Necturus punctatus)

PLANTS: American elm (Ulmus americana), black walnut (Juglans nigra), boxelder, Canada waterleaf (Hydrophyllum canadense), clear-weed (Pilea pumila), hackberry (Celtis occidentalis), large solomon's-seal (Polygonatum biflorum), miami-mist (Phacelia purshii), paw-paw (Asimina triloba), ravenfoot sedge (carex crus-corvi) spicebush (Lindera benzoin), striped violet (Viola striata), sweet-shrub (calycanthus floridus), sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), Virginia bluebells (Mertensia virginica), white snakeroot (Ageratina altissima), wild blue phlox (Phlox divaricata), wild ginger (Asarum canadense), wood-nettle (Laportea canadensis), yellow trout-lily (Erythronium americanum)

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

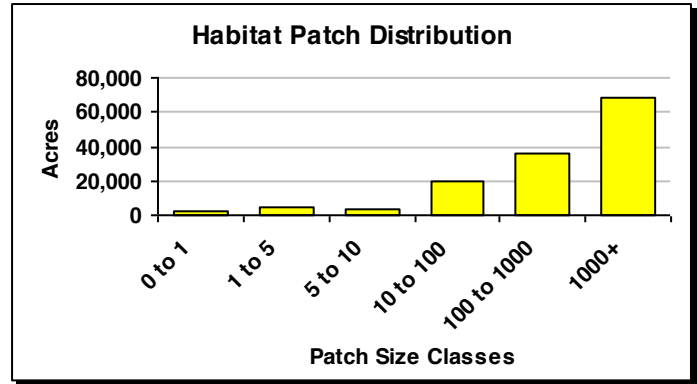
HERPTILES: dwarf waterdog (Necturus punctatus)

INSECTS: numerous rare mussels: atlantic pigtoe (fusconaia masoni), roanoke slabshell (elliptio roanokensis), spine-crowned clubtail (gomphus abbreviatus), yellow lampmussel (lampsilis cariosa), yellow lance (elliptio lanceolata)

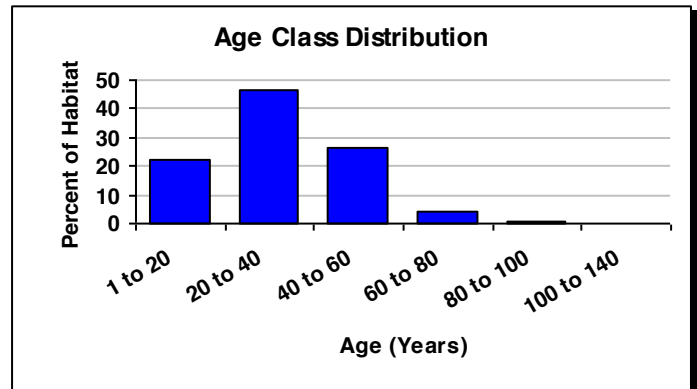
PLANTS: Baldwin's spikerush (Eleocharis baldwinii), bog rush (Juncus elliotii), large marsh st. john's-wort (Triadenum tubulosum), reclining bulrush (Scirpus flaccidifolius)



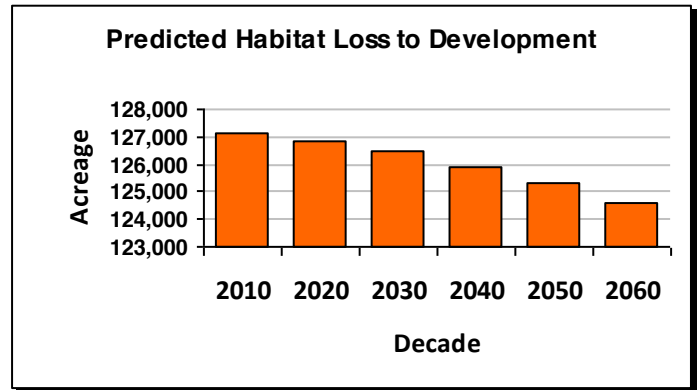
© Katharine Derge (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)



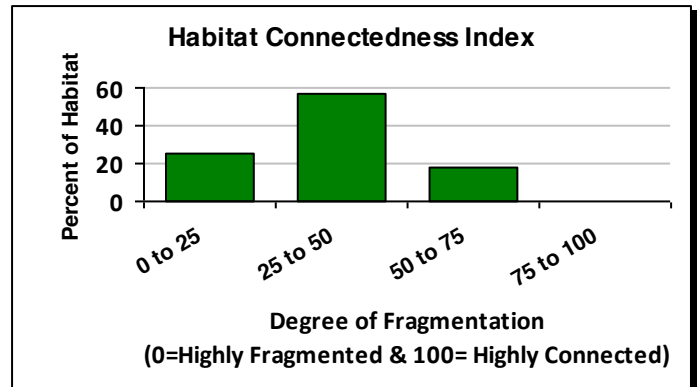
The average patch size for this habitat is 14 acres and the largest single patch is 12,142 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (2,517 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 50 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.