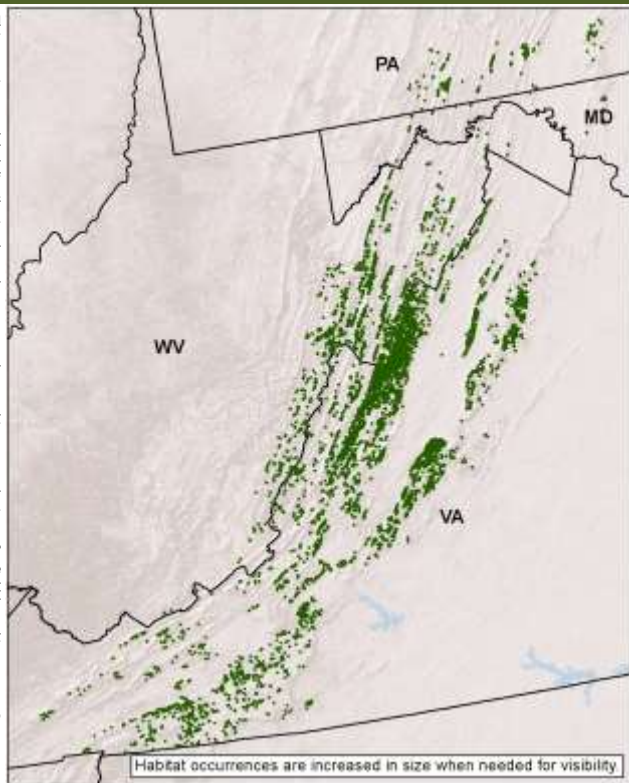


Macrogroup: Central Oak-Pine

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 conifer forest of slopes and ridges at high elevations in the Southern Appalachians. Table mountain pine is typical and often dominant, occurring with pitch pine, Virginia pine, or Carolina hemlock. Chestnut oak, scarlet oak, and scrub oak are usually present and are sometimes abundant in examples that have not burned recently. A dense heath shrub layer is typical; herbs are usually sparse but may be more abundant and shrubs less dense when fires occurred more frequently. Periodic fire presumably also maintained a more open woodland canopy structure in these communities. In some areas pines may be able to maintain dominance due to edaphic conditions, such as very shallow soil or extreme exposure, but most sites appear eventually to succeed to oak in the absence of fire.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

This system occurs on the most extreme of convex landforms-- sharp ridges and adjacent upper slopes. At the northern end of its range in the central Appalachians, it is found from elevations of about 1750 to 4000 feet. Underlying rocks are acidic and soils are infertile, shallow and droughty. A thick duff layer and volatile heath shrubs create a strongly fire-prone habitat. Disturbance from southern pine beetle outbreaks can be system-changing.

Similar Habitat Types:

Settings are similar to those for Central Appalachian Pine-Oak Rocky Woodland and Central and Southern Appalachian Montane Oak Forest, and if the pines are lost, the distinction between those systems (and other adjacent oak or oak-pine systems) and the current one becomes blurred.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Dry Oak-Pine Forests (MD), Coniferous Forest (upland) (PA), Forest Habitat - Coniferous Forest (VA), Dry Rocky Pine/Oak Forests and Woodlands (WV)

State Distribution: MD, PA, VA, WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 33,532

Percent Conserved: 69.8%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	75%	25,281	12,297	6,698	6,286
WV	21%	7,014	230	3,390	3,394
PA	3%	1,079	161	511	407
MD	0%	159	48	67	43

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Dry Oak-Pine Forests (MD), Coniferous Forest (Upland) (PA), Carolina Hemlock Forest (VA), Dry Rocky Pine/Oak Forests And Woodlands (WV)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Rocky Gap State Park | MD
 Buchanan State Forest | PA
 Michaux State Forest | PA
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA
 Monongahela National Forest | WV

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: golden-crowned kinglet, red-breasted nuthatch

PLANTS: bristly sarsaparilla (*Aralia hispida*), canada frostweed (*Helianthemum canadense*), fragile fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*), green alder (*Alnus viridis*), heart-leaved paper birch (*Betula papyrifera* var. *cordifolia*), roundleaf dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*), sharp-scaled mannagrass (*Glyceria acutiflora*), virginia least trillium (*Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum*), yellow nodding ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes ochroleuca*)

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

BIRDS: black vulture, peregrine falcon

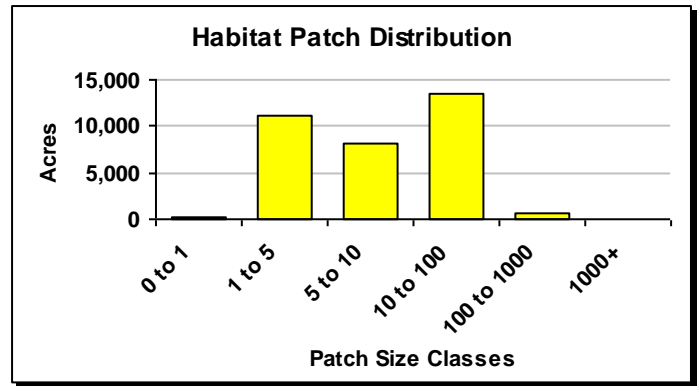
HERPTILES: big levels salamander, white-spotted salamander

INSECTS: boreal fan moth

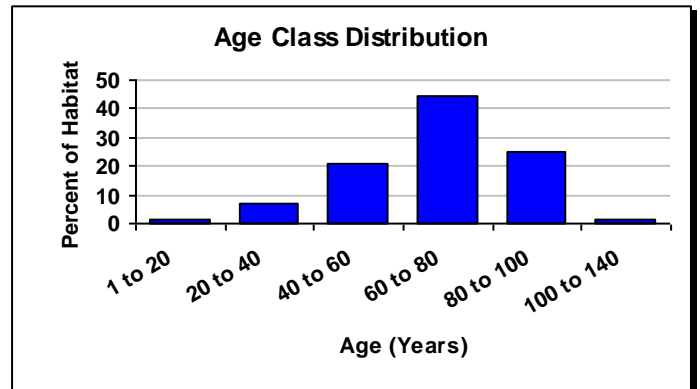
PLANTS: silverling (*Paronychia argyrocoma*)



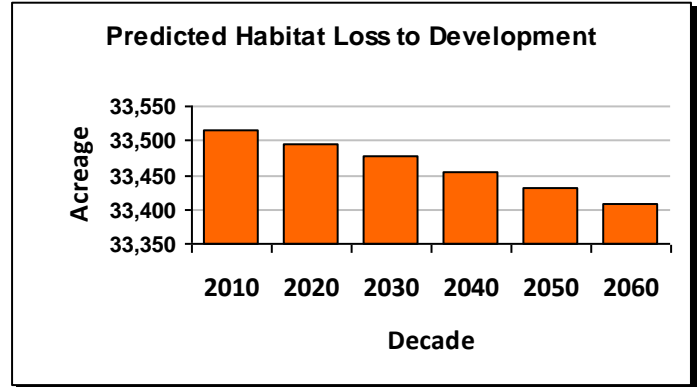
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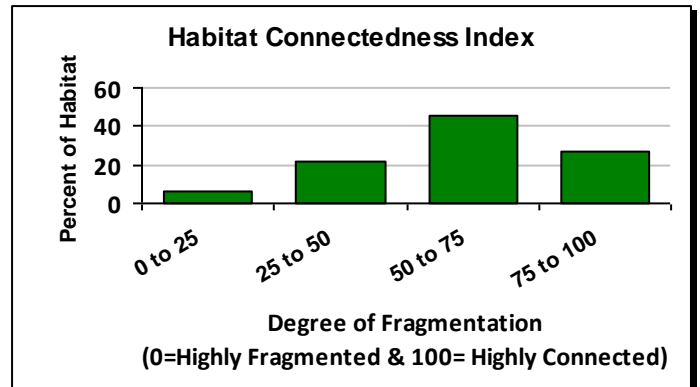
The average patch size for this habitat is 5 acres and the largest single patch is 228 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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