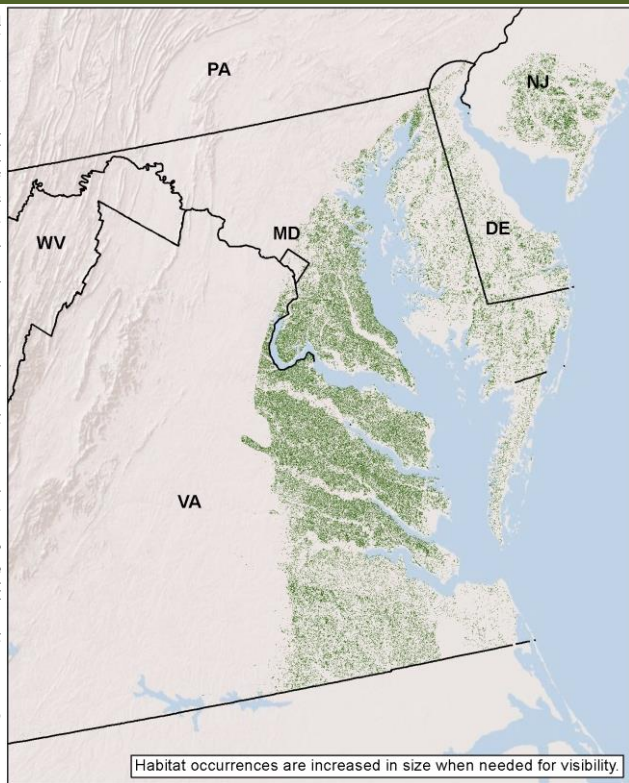




## Macrogroup: Northern Hardwood & Conifer

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 of the coastal plain with a significant component of mesophytic (moist but non-wetland) species, such as American beech or southern sugar maple. Upland and bottomland oaks at the mid range of moisture tolerance are usually also present, particularly white oak, but sometimes also southern red oak, cherrybark oak, or Shumard oak. Loblolly pine is sometimes present, but it is unclear if it is a natural component or has entered only as a result of past cutting. Understories are usually well-developed. Shrub and herb layers may be sparse or moderately dense. Ranging south from New Jersey to Georgia, these mostly large patch coastal plain forests occupy a variety of moist sites that are naturally sheltered from frequent fire.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Found on lower slopes, along streams and rivers, on mesic flats between drier pine-dominated uplands and floodplains, and on local raised areas within bottomland terraces or wet flats. Soils are variable in texture and pH, excluding only the coarsest sands. Fire is not an important disturbance in this system.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Often adjacent to North Atlantic Coastal Plain Hardwood Forests (in lower landscape position). Differences from mesic forests of the Piedmont are sometimes fairly subtle; substantial floristic differences, however, can exist between examples of this system on acidic and basic substrates.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Hardwood Forest - Mixed oak-beech forests (DC), Coastal Plain Upland Forests - Tuliptree Rich Wood (Coastal Plain variant) (DE), Mesic Deciduous Forests (MD), Forest Habitat - Deciduous Forest (VA)

**State Distribution:** DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 1,932,352

**Percent Conserved:** 12.1%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	58%	1,116,922	11,491	76,722	1,028,709
MD	29%	568,784	22,712	73,354	472,719
NJ	7%	137,699	23,430	8,031	106,238
DE	6%	107,687	3,634	14,012	90,041
DC	0%	1,122	0	11	1,111
PA	0%	139	0	0	139

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Coastal Plain Oak - Beech Forest (MD), Southern Coastal Plain Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest (VA)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

Blackbird State Forest | DE  
 Redden State Forest | DE  
 Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge | MD  
 Belleplain State Forest | NJ  
 Caledon State Park | VA

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

PLANTS: American holly (*Ilex opaca*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), American strawberry-bush (*Euonymus americanus*), big-leaf snowbell (*Styrax grandifolius*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), downy rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*), Virginia heartleaf (*Hexastylis virginica*), Small-flower Baby-blue-eyes (*Nemophila aphylla*), Yellow-eyed Grass (*Xyris difformis*), Broad-leaved Beardgrass (*Gymnopogon brevifolius*), Evergreen Bayberry (*Morella caroliniensis*), Black Snakeroot (*Zigadenus densus*), Capitata Beakrush (*Rhynchospora cephalantha*), *Seymeria* (*Seymeria cassioides*), Wand-like Three-awn Grass (*Aristida purpurascens*)

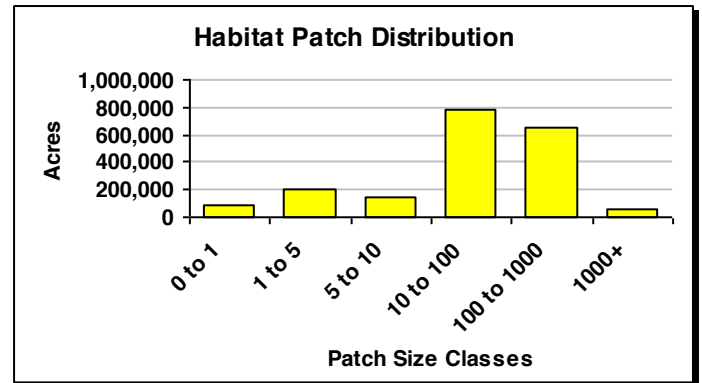
## Species of Concern (G1-G4): *Appendix lists scientific names*

INSECTS: sesh forest water scavenger beetle (*hydrochus spangleri*)

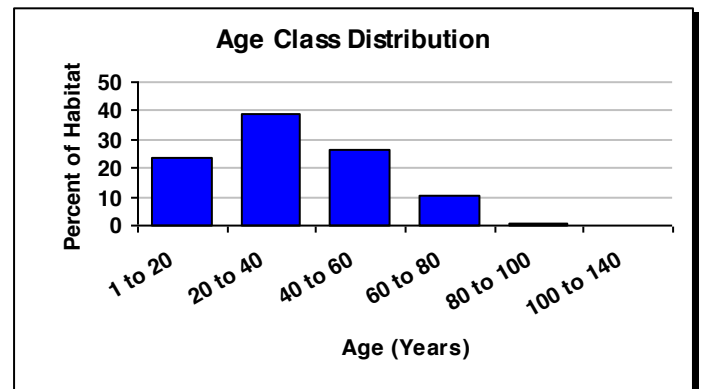
PLANTS: Canby's bulrush (*Schoenoplectus etuberculatus*), Canby's lobelia (*Lobelia canbyi*), early paspalum (*Paspalum praecox*), spiked hoary-pea (*Tephrosia spicata*), virginia heartleaf (*Hexastylis virginica*)



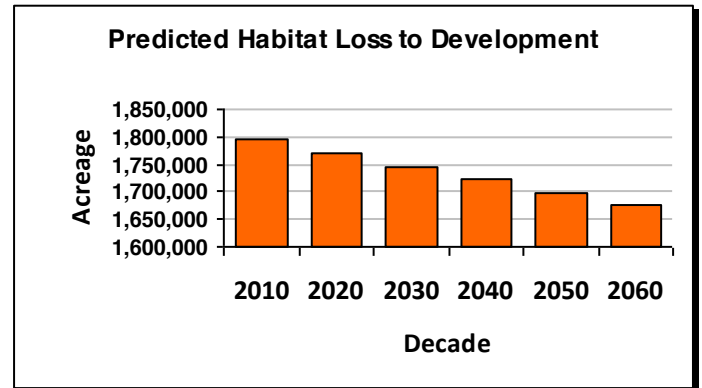
© Robert Coxie (Delaware Species Conservation & Research Program)



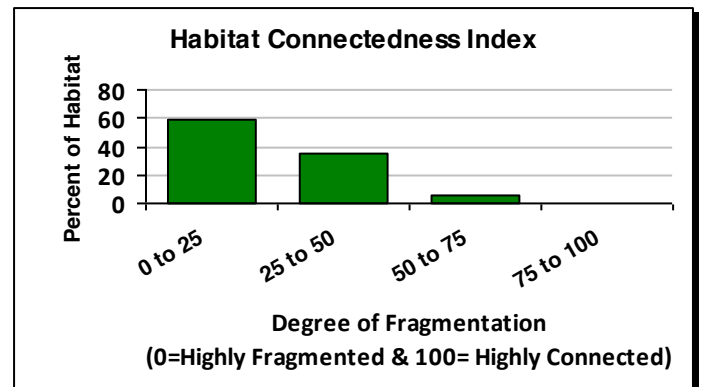
The average patch size for this habitat is 4 acres and the largest single patch is 1,277 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (120,282 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 2,406 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.