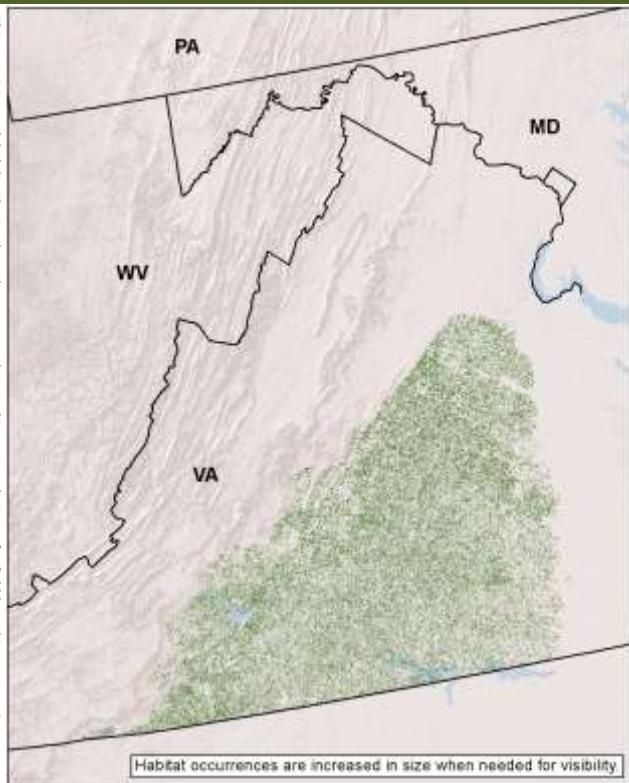# Southern Piedmont Dry Oak-Pine Forest

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.

Habitat occurrences are increased in size when needed for visibility

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Description:

A hardwood or mixed forest of rocky ridges and upper slopes in the Southern Piedmont. Upland oaks dominate, sometimes with pine as a significant component. Once the dominant matrix-forming forest of the Piedmont, much of it is now composed of large patches of post-clearing successional forests in which pines (shortleaf, Virginia, loblolly) often dominate for a number of decades. Understory and shrub layers are generally well developed, and herb layers may be sparse to moderate. Species vary with soil chemistry. This forest occurs in a variety of dry to dry-mesic habitats, but historic and remnant high quality examples are rare. An unusual expression of this in Virginia consists of old loblolly pine savanna that has developed after frequent burns on military lands.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs on upland ridges and mid to upper slopes, occupying most of the uplands where soils are not rocky or otherwise extreme. This system may occur on any kind of rock type; rock chemistry is an important determinant of variation. Regular low intensity fire helped maintain the oak-pine balance historically.

State Distribution: VA

Total Habitat Acreage: 1,796,901

Percent Conserved: 3.0%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	100%	1,796,901	409	53,229	1,743,264

Similar Habitat Types:

Central Appalachian Dry Oak-Pine Forests are to the west and north of this system, and tend to be more exposed and drier. Most commonly associated with Southern Piedmont Mesic Forest, which occupies adjacent lower landscape positions.

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Piedmont / Central Appalachian Mixed Oak / Heath Forest (VA)

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forest Habitat - Mixed Forest (VA)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest | VA
Cumberland State Forest | VA
Occoneechee State Park | VA
Pocahontas State Park | VA
Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest | VA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: brown-headed nuthatch, chuck-will's-widow, carolina wren, great-crested flycatcher, pine warbler, prairie warbler, red-headed woodpecker, summer tanager, yellow-throated warbler

INSECTS: barrens dagger moth

PLANTS: black huckleberry (Gaylussacia baccata), Catawba rhododendron (Rhododendron catawbiense), dwarf iris (Iris verna), flame azalea (Rhododendron calendulaceum), galax (Galax urceolata), gay-wing milkwort (Polygala paucifolia), goat's-rue (Tephrosia virginiana), Great laurel (Rododendron maximum), large whorled pogonia (Isotria verticillata), mountain-laurel (Kalmia latifolia), pink lady's-slipper (Cypripedium acaule), trailing arbutus (Epigaea repens), wintergreen (Gaultheria procumbens), yellow wild-indigo (Baptisia tinctoria)

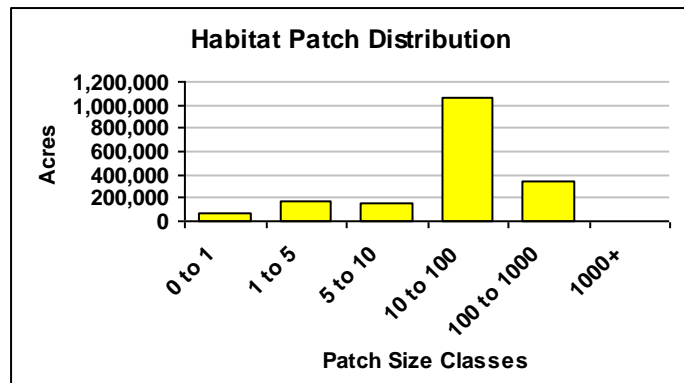## Species of Concern (G1-G4): *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: Bachman's sparrow
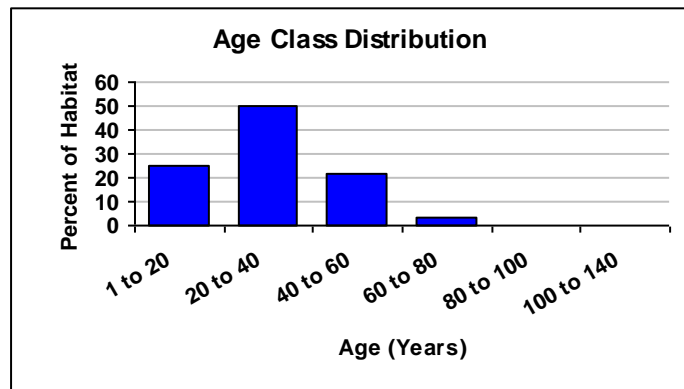
HERPTILES: southeastern crowned snake

PLANTS: Elliott's sida (Sida elliottii), Michaux's sumac (Rhus michauxii), nestronia (Nestronia umbellula)

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Habitat Patch Distribution

Acres / Patch Size Classes (0 to 1, 1 to 5, 5 to 10, 10 to 100, 100 to 1000, 1000+)
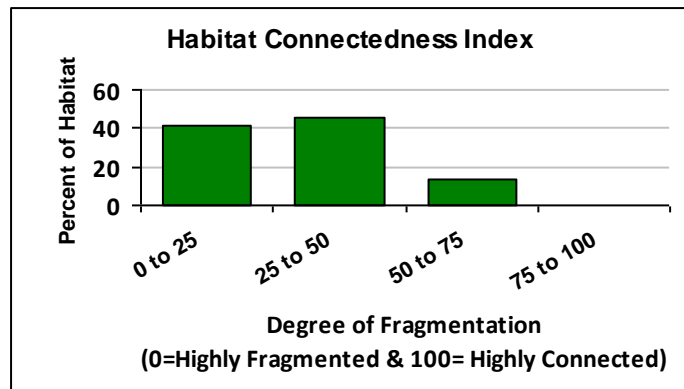
The average patch size for this habitat is 5 acres and the largest single patch is 493 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.

Age Class Distribution

Percent of Habitat / Age (Years) (1 to 20, 20 to 40, 40 to 60, 60 to 80, 80 to 100, 100 to 140)

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.

Predicted Habitat Loss to Development

Acreage / Decade (2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060)
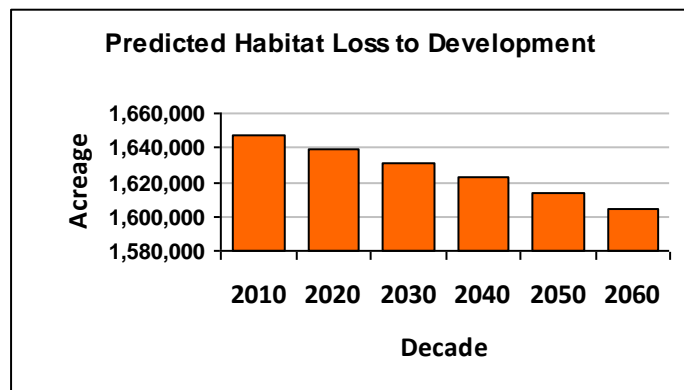
This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (42,381 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 848 acres per year.

Habitat Connectedness Index

Percent of Habitat / Degree of Fragmentation (0=Highly Fragmented & 100= Highly Connected) (0 to 25, 25 to 50, 50 to 75, 75 to 100)

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.