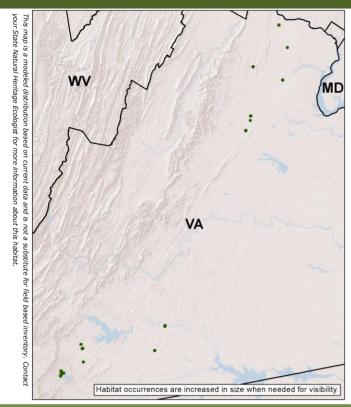
## **Southern Piedmont Glade and Barrens**



# Macrogroup: Glade, Barren and Savanna





# **Crosswalk to State Name Examples:**

Southern Piedmont Mafic / Calcareous Barren (VA)



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### **Description:**

A mosaic of open woodland, shrubland, and herbaceous vegetation occurring on thin soils over igneous or metamorphic bedrock. Vegetation includes a significant woody component, including species such as eastern red cedar and various oaks and pines that are tolerant of dry, shallow soils in the canopy, and white ash, winged elm, and eastern redbud in less acidic areas. Shrubs may be dense, with species determined by soil chemistry. The herb layer is usually fairly dense and dominated by grasses or a mix of grasses and forbs, both in treeless areas and beneath open canopy. This system is structurally intermediate between nonforested rock outcrops and forests, and may occur as a fine mosaic of different structural characteristics. It extends from Virginia down to Alabama.

## **Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:**

Found on dry, shallow soils on moderate slopes and flats on a variety of igneous and metamorphic bedrock types, including diabase and shale. Micro-scale soil depth on an irregular rock surface and presence of seepage, along with rock and soil chemistry, are important factors in determining vegetation pattern and type. Prone to periodic drought, windstorms, and low intensity fire, which may in the long run help maintain an open vegetation structure.

### Similar Habitat Types:

This system of the eastern and central Piedmont is analogous to Southern and Central Appalachian Mafic Glade and Barrens, but distinguished by climate, flora, and landscape setting from that system, which occurs in the hilly upper Piedmont. Surrounded by forest systems on deeper soils less influenced by bedrock, most typically Southern Piedmont Dry Oak-(Pine) Forest.

#### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forest Habitat - Mixed Forest (VA)

#### **Places to Visit this Habitat:**

N/A

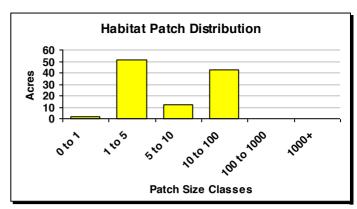
#### Associated Species: Appendix lists scientific names

PLANTS: American alumroot (Heuchera americana), Appalachian phacelia (Phacelia dubia), aromatic sumac (Rhus aromatic), eastern prickly-pear (Opuntia humifusa), eastern red cedar (Juniperus virginiana), hairy lipfern (Cheilanthes lanosa), hoary mountain-mint (Pycnanthemum incanum), ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius), nodding onion (Allium cernuum), Pennsylvania sedge (Carex pensylvanica), rusty woodsia (Woodsia ilvensis), slender knotweed (Polygonum tenue), staghorn sumac (Rhus typhina), tiny lovegrass (Eragrostis capillaris), white ash (Fraxinus americana)

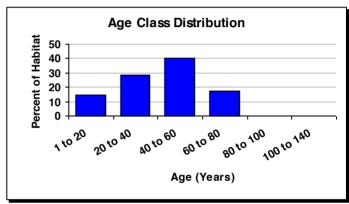
### Species of Concern (G1-G4): Appendix lists scientific names



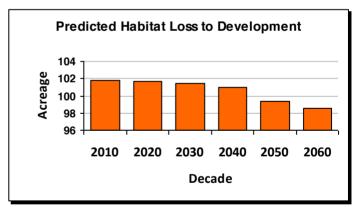
© Gary P. Fleming (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natura



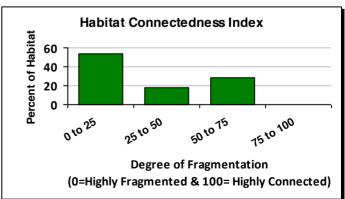
The average patch size for this habitat is 5 acres and the largest single patch is 18 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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