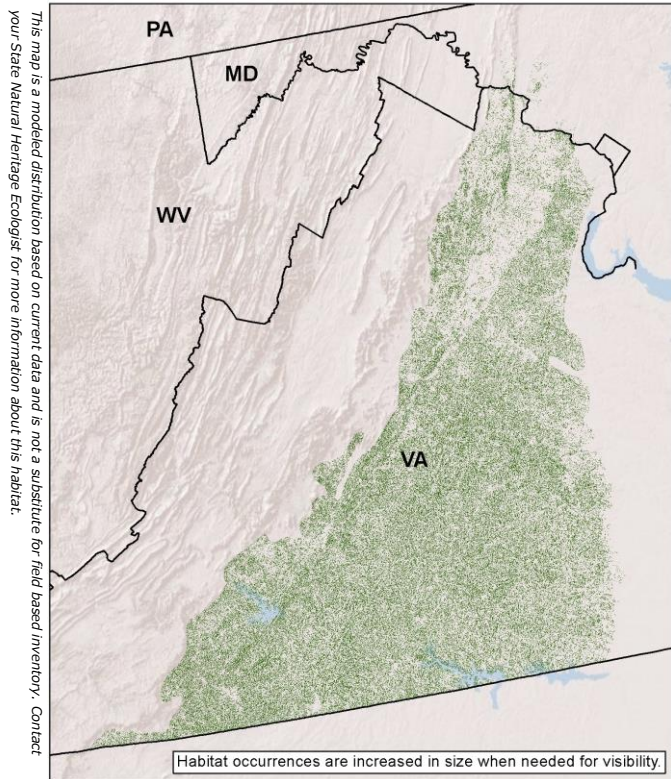


## Macrogroup: Northern Hardwood & Conifer



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### Description:

A hardwood forest of moist low or north-facing slopes in the Piedmont. Vegetation is dominated by trees that favor conditions of moderate moisture (sweetgum, white oak, red oak, tuliptree, basswood), with American beech most prominent. Conifers are occasionally abundant. A few places support dense heath shrubs; otherwise shrubs layers tend to be sparse to moderate. Rock chemistry is an important determinant of variation, with denser and more diverse herb layers on richer examples. This system is a prominent part of the ecological mosaic of the Piedmont down to Alabama and Georgia, and only the northernmost part of its range is in our region. It often follows along slopes in stream-dissected areas. Most examples are large patches of tens to hundreds of acres.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurring on mesic sites in the Piedmont from Virginia southward. Most examples occur on lower or north-facing slopes where topography creates moister and cooler conditions. Fire is naturally infrequent in this system, due to the slopes and moist conditions. If fire does penetrate, it is likely to be low in intensity and may not have significant ecological effects.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Related to Southern Atlantic Coastal Plain Mesic Hardwood Forest, and to the cove forest system of the central and southern Appalachians, but lacks a number of species of those regions. Many occurrences interfinger with Southern Piedmont Dry Oak-(Pine) Forests, on lower, more sheltered sites, and with more mesophytic, less drought-tolerant tree species.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forest Habitat - Deciduous Forest (VA)

**State Distribution:** MD, VA

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 2,438,858

**Percent Conserved:** 3.4%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	100%	2,433,644	3,579	78,717	2,351,347
MD	0%	5,214	921	454	3,839

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Southern Piedmont Basic Mesic Forest (VA)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

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

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** acadian flycatcher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, chuck-will's-widow, carolina wren, great-crested flycatcher, prairie warbler, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, summer tanager

**PLANTS:** American holly (*Ilex opaca*), 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*), partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*), Virginia heartleaf (*Hexastylis virginica*), white wood aster (*Aster divaricatus*)

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

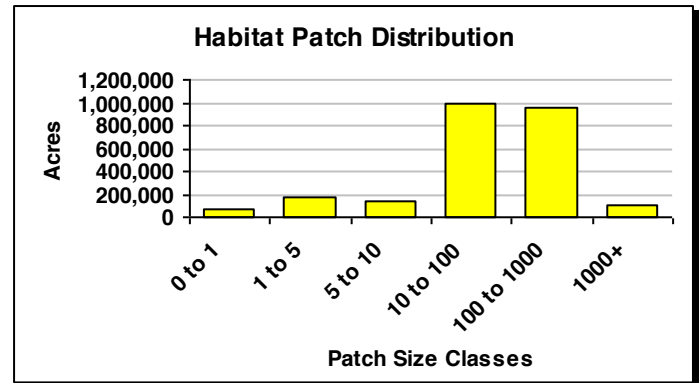
**HERPTILES:** dwarf waterdog, mole salamander, wood turtle

**INSECTS:** Appalachian jewelwing, gray petaltail, Laura's clubtail, mottled duskywing, piedmont clubtail, rapids clubtail, regal fritillary, Selys' sundragon, virginia piedmont water boatman

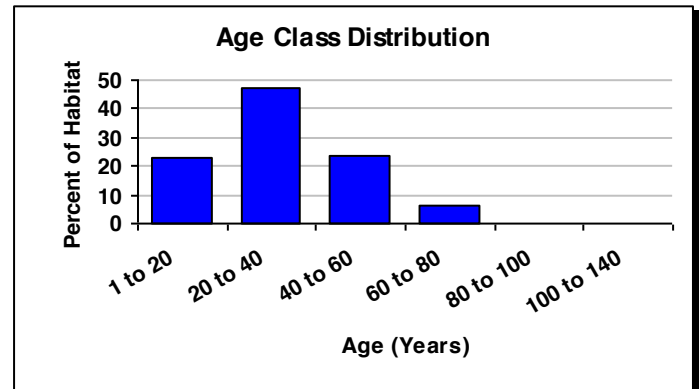
**PLANTS:** small anthered-bittercress (*Cardamine micranthera*)



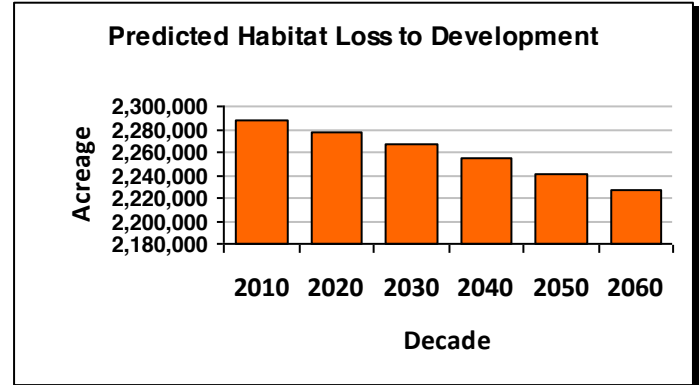
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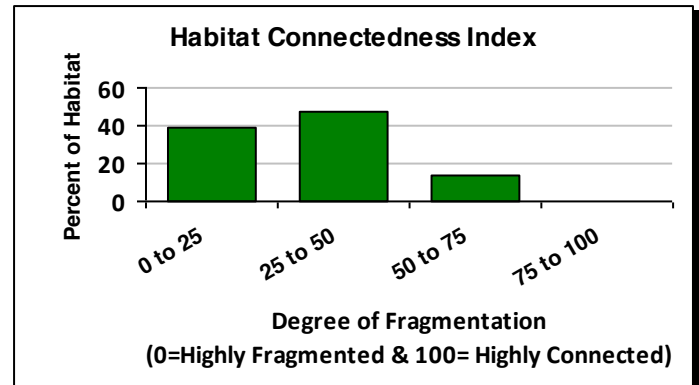
The average patch size for this habitat is 7 acres and the largest single patch is 2,780 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (61,818 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 1,236 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.