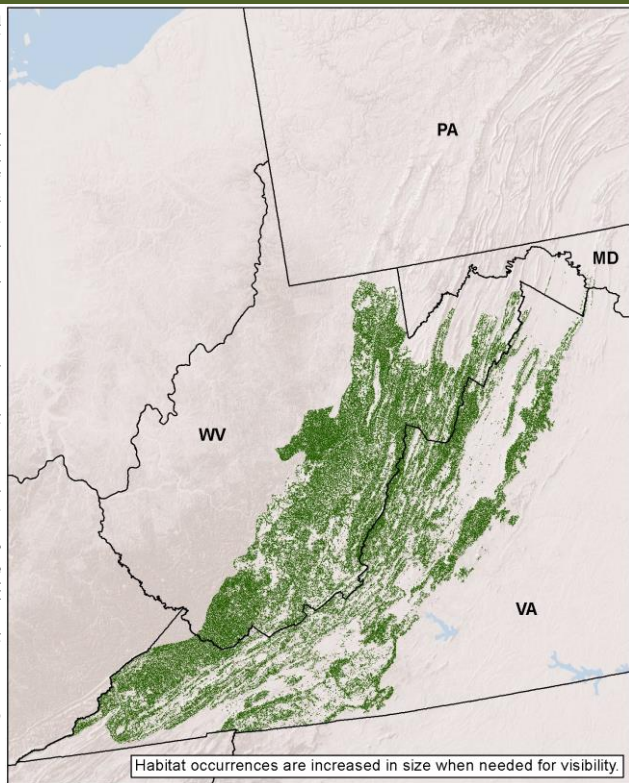




Macrogroup: Northern Hardwood & Conifer

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 or mixed forest with a high diversity of mesophytic (moisture loving but non-wetland) trees. Canopy species commonly include yellow buckeye, sugar maple, white ash, basswood, tuliptree, cucumber tree, and American beech, sometimes in a single stand. Hemlock is sometimes present, mostly in acidic coves. Shrub and herb layers are similarly rich, and calcium-bearing and circumneutral bedrock tends to support the richest examples. This forest is typical of sheltered, shady places in the Blue Ridge and central Appalachian Mountains, forming large patches (tens to hundreds of acres) on concave slopes that accumulate nutrients and moisture. These are communities of high diversity and often great structural complexity.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Found on sheltered coves and concave slopes. Soils are often rocky and may be coarse or fine-textured, and may be residual, alluvial, or colluvial. Single tree gap-phase regeneration drives stand dynamics; occasional more extreme wind or ice disturbance may operate at a larger scale. Fire is probably not often a significant factor.

Similar Habitat Types:

The South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest system is similar to this one but occurs west of the Allegheny Mountains. Dry-mesic forests like Appalachian (Hemlock-)Northern Hardwood and Southern Appalachian Oak tend to occur immediately above, and riparian or floodplain systems just below cove landforms.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Mesic Deciduous Forests (MD), Forest Habitat - Deciduous Forest (VA), Mixed Mesophytic Forest (WV)

State Distribution: MD, VA, WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 1,014,832

Percent Conserved: 33.0%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
WV	56%	571,349	25,693	118,872	426,784
VA	44%	443,212	84,241	105,502	253,469
MD	0%	271	47	47	177

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Mesic Deciduous Forests (MD), Appalachian Rich Cove Forest (VA), Mixed Mesophytic Forest (WV)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Blue Ridge Parkway National Park | VA
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA
 Holly River State Park | WV
 Kumbrabow State Forest | WV
 Monongahela National Forest | WV

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: acadian flycatcher, black-throated blue warbler, cerulean warbler, hooded warbler, louisiana waterthrush, scarlet tanager, blue-headed vireo, swainson's warbler, wood thrush, worm-eating warbler, yellow-throated vireo

MAMMALS: allegheny woodrat, appalachian cottontail, eastern small-footed myotis, indiana myotis, long-tailed shrew, southern pygmy shrew, southern rock vole, virginia big-eared bat, virginia northern flying squirrel

HERPTILES: common map turtle, eastern hog-nosed snake, eastern ribbonsnake, eastern wormsnake, mountain earth snake, northern coal skink, spiny softshell

PLANTS: Loesel's Twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*), Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Linear-leaved Willowherb (*Epilobium leptophyllum*)

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

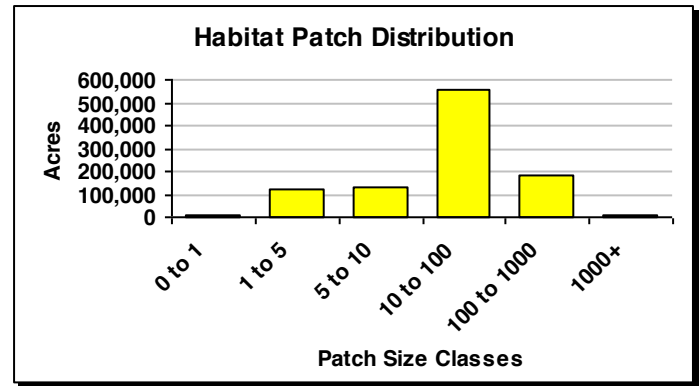
HERPTILES: big levels salamander, black mountain salamander, blue ridge two-lined salamander, bog turtle, cheat mountain salamander, common black-bellied salamander, green salamander, midland mud salamander, northern pygmy salamander, peaks of otter salamander, red salamander, shenandoah salamander, shovelnose salamander, upland chorus frog, white-spotted salamander

INSECTS: American emerald, northern spreadwing

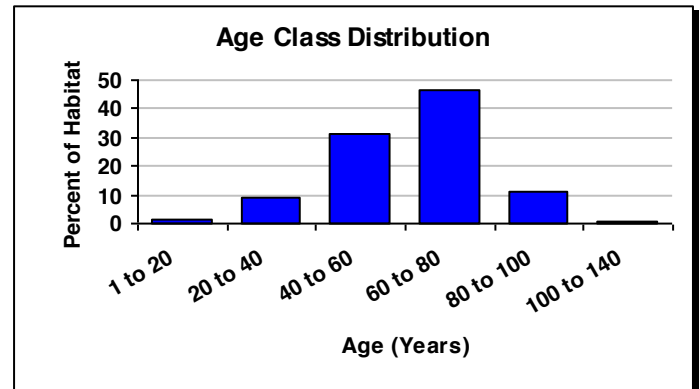
PLANTS: appalachian blue violet (*Viola appalachiensis*), appalachian gentian (*Gentiana austromontana*), blue ridge bittercress (*Cardamine flagellifera*), blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*), fire-pink (*Silene virginica*) running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), smoke hole bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



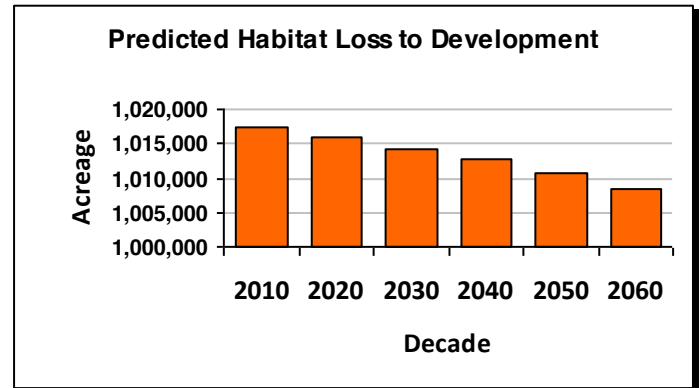
© Jim Vanderhorst (West Virginia Division of Natural Resources)



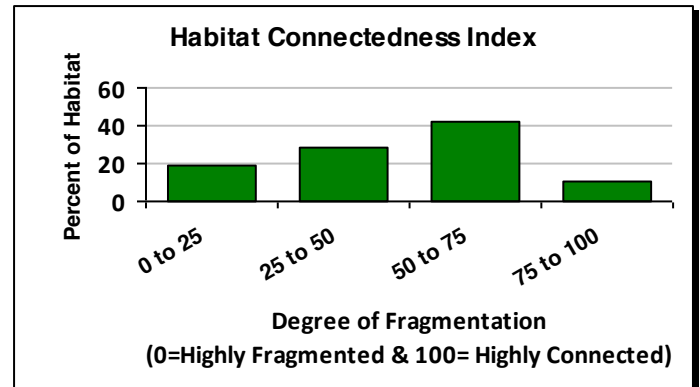
The average patch size for this habitat is 7 acres and the largest single patch is 1,905 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (8,843 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 177 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.