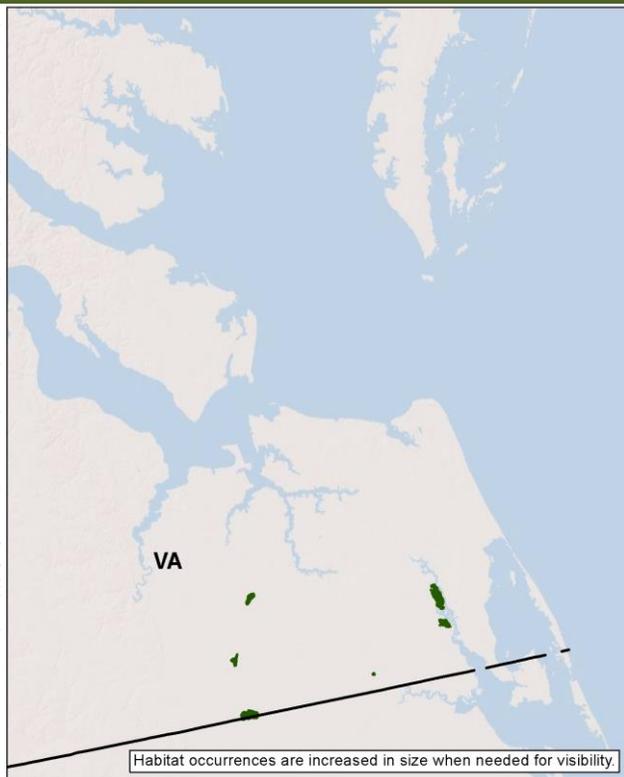


## Macrogroup: Coastal Plain Peatland

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.



© Tom Rawinski (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)

### Description:

A shrub-dominated wetland on the outer terraces of the Mid Atlantic coastal plain, occurring in small to large basins and swales, and only in the very southeast corner of our region. Characteristically, a suite of evergreen shrubs, greenbriars, and pond pine dominates, forming dense scrublands or shrubby open woodlands (pocosins). Shrubs include inkberry, fetterbush, staggerbush, littleleaf titi, big gallberry, honeycups, and laurel greenbrier. Pond pine is the characteristic tree, along with loblolly-bay, sweetbay, and swamp bay. Herbs are scarce and largely limited to small open patches. Soil saturation, sheet flow, and peat depth create a distinct zonation, with the highest stature woody vegetation on the edges and the lowest in the center.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Substrates range from muck over wet mineral soils to peats several meters deep. Nutrient levels are low. Catastrophic fires of moderate frequency maintain this habitat, killing large patches of above-ground vegetation, which re-sprouts rapidly. Many pocosin communities are of low viability due to fragmentation and fire suppression. Fire is believed to have been more frequent historically, and extensive stands of switch cane would have been more common.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Floristically similar to Central Atlantic Coastal Plain Nonriverine Swamp and Wet Hardwood Forest. They differ from the former in overstory dominance, greater shrub density, and association with peatlands that formerly were subject to much shorter fire return intervals.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Wetland Habitat - Emergent (VA), Wetland Habitat - Forested (VA)

### State Distribution: VA

Total Habitat Acreage: 2,274

Percent Conserved: 99.1%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	100%	2,274	2,254	0	20

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Pond Pine Woodland / Pocosin (VA)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

Great Dismal Swamp | VA  
North Landing River Preserve | VA

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

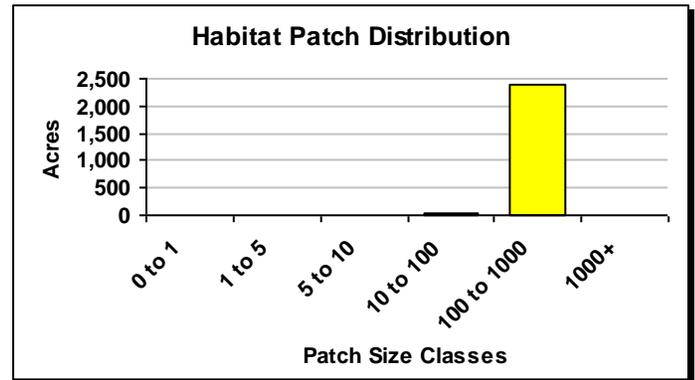
**BIRDS:** prairie warbler, prothonotary warbler, red-headed woodpecker, red-shouldered hawk, swainson's warbler, white-eyed vireo, wood duck, yellow-breasted chat

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

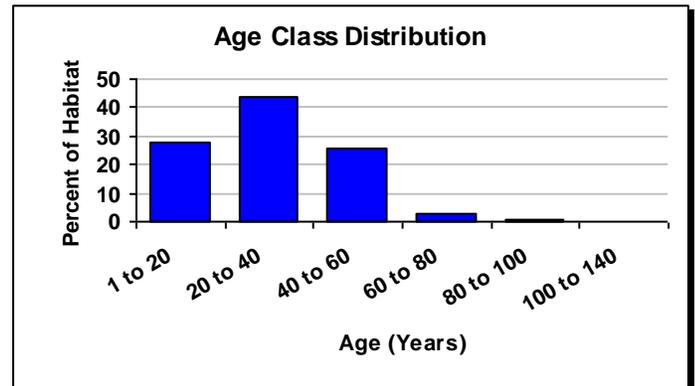
**PLANTS:** sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), spreading pogonia (*Cleistes divaricata*)



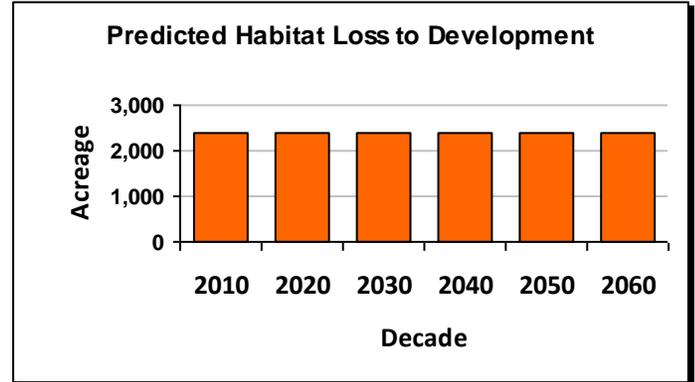
© Caren Caljouw (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)



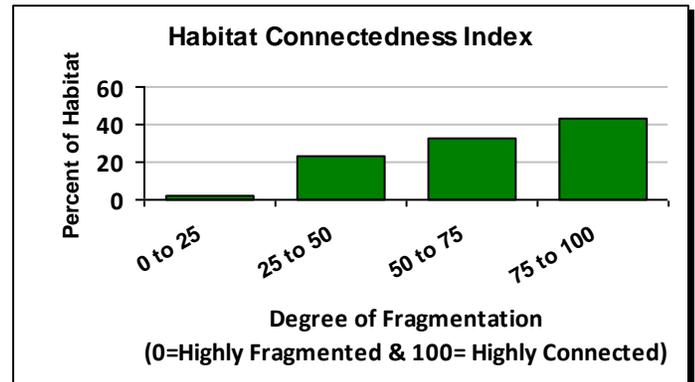
The average patch size for this habitat is 401 acres and the largest single patch is 895 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (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.