

Macrogroup: Large River Floodplain

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 complex of wetland and upland vegetation on floodplains of medium to large rivers in Atlantic drainages. They are typical of larger rivers but they can occur on smaller rivers where the stream gradient is low and a broad floodplain develops. The vegetation complex includes floodplain forests in which silver maple, sycamore, box elder, and cottonwood are characteristic, as well as herbaceous sloughs, shrub wetlands, ice scours, riverside prairies, and woodlands. Most areas are underwater each spring; microtopography determining how long the various habitats are inundated. Depositional and erosional features may both be present depending on the particular floodplain.

State Distribution: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 254,862

Percent Conserved: 19.8%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NY	56%	142,677	10,582	15,936	116,158
PA	24%	59,967	2,733	5,826	51,409
ME	4%	11,047	479	2,413	8,155
MA	4%	10,054	1,693	2,251	6,110
NJ	4%	9,846	4,177	520	5,149
NH	2%	4,646	131	778	3,737
CT	2%	4,024	251	980	2,793
MD	1%	3,708	708	298	2,702
VT	1%	3,430	199	324	2,906
VA	1%	3,290	56	131	3,103
WV	1%	1,982	9	70	1,903
DC	0%	90	1	0	89
DE	0%	82	10	30	42
RI	0%	19	0	2	17

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Floodplain Forest (CT), Silver Maple-Elm Floodplain Forest (DE), Major-River Floodplain Forest (MA), Montane - Piedmont Bottomland Forest (MD), Silver maple-wood nettle-ostrich fern floodplain forest (NH), Floodplain Forest (NJ), Floodplain Forest (NY), Silver Maple Floodplain Forest (PA), Silver Maple/Sycamore Floodplain Forest (RI), Piedmont / Central Appalachian Floodplain Swamp (VA), Silver Maple-Ostrich Fern Riverine Floodplain Forest (VT), Floodplain Forests And Swamps (WV)

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Floodplains form on land adjacent to a stream or river that experiences periodic flooding when the river overflows its banks. A variety of microtopographic features form as a result of annual river activity. This broadly-defined system includes vegetation on deep alluvial deposits, on depositional levees and bars, in backwater sloughs, and (rarely) on bedrock where rivers cut through resistant geology.

Similar Habitat Types:

Shares dynamic processes with all other large river floodplain systems. Most similar to the silver maple-dominated Northern Appalachian-Acadian Large River type. Human impacts on this and other floodplain habitats regionally have made large, high quality occurrences rare.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forested Inland Wetland - Floodplain Forests (CT), Floodplains (DC), Riparian Forests (MA), Floodplain Forests (MD), Floodplains - Major river silver maple floodplains (NH), Floodplains (NJ), Floodplain Forests (NY), Riparian Thickets/Forests (PA), Wetland Habitat - Forested (VA), Floodplain Forests - Silver Maple-Sensitive Fern Riverine Floodplain Forest (VT), Floodplain Forests and Swamps (WV)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge | ME
 Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge | NY
 Allegheny National Forest Non-Reserved | PA
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA
 Bald Mountain Natural Area | VT

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: alder flycatcher, bald eagle, cerulean warbler, northern waterthrush, red-shouldered hawk, veery, warbling vireo, willow flycatcher, wood duck, yellow warbler, yellow-throated vireo

MAMMALS: big brown bat, eastern pipistrelle, little brown myotis, long-tailed weasel, mink, moose, northern long-eared bat, northern short-tailed shrew, raccoon, red bat, river otter, silver-haired bat, virginia possum

HERPTILES: copperhead, leopard frog, northern water snake, marbled salamander, mole salamander, pickerel frog

INSECTS: brook snaketail, lake emerald, riffle snaketail, riverine clubtail

PLANTS: basil beebalm (*Monarda clinopodia*), green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), canada moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*), nodding trillium (*Trillium flexipes*), smooth bur-marigold (*Bidens laevis*)

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

BIRDS: american bittern, prothonotary warbler

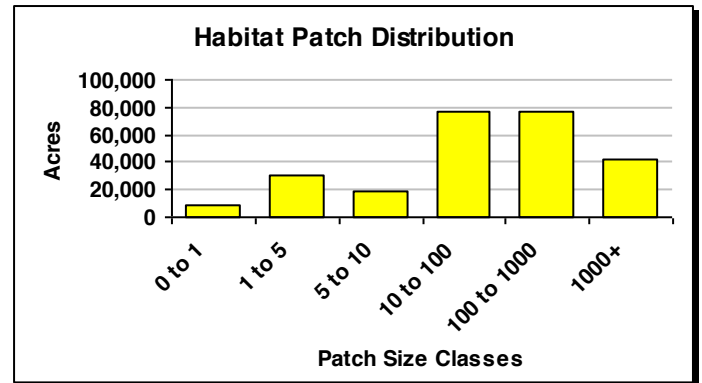
HERPTILES: blandings turtle, jefferson salamander, wood turtle

INSECTS: cobblestone tiger beetle, Newman's brocade, A ground beetle, little bluet, Maine snaketail, riverine clubtail

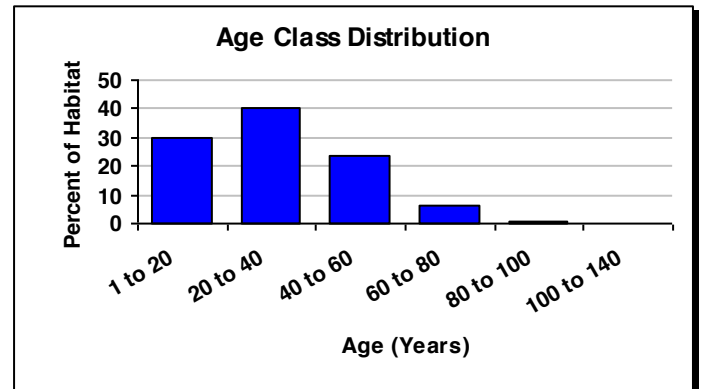
PLANTS: american lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), coast violet (*Viola brittoniana*), eastern prairie white-fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), heartleaf plantain (*Plantago cordata*), limestone wild petunia (*Ruellia strepens*), long's bulrush (*Scirpus longii*), maryland bur-marigold (*Bidens bidentoides*), navel-shape corn-salad (*Valerianella umbilicata*), stalked bulrush (*Scirpus pedicellatus*), tidal spikerush (*Eleocharis aestuum*)



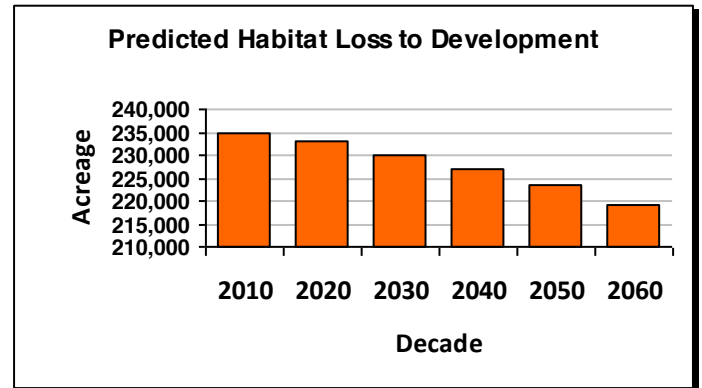
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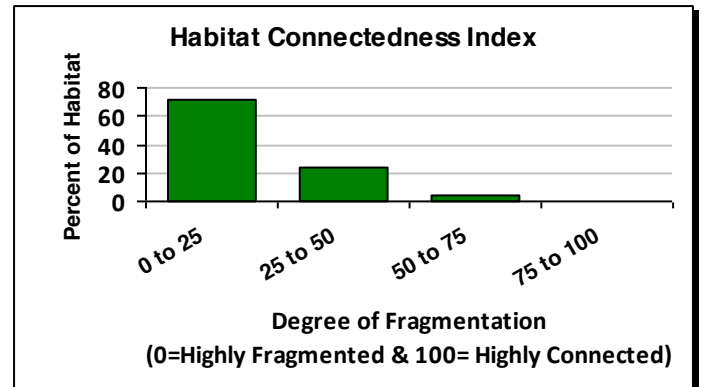
The average patch size for this habitat is 5 acres and the largest single patch is 3,512 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (15,637 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 313 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.