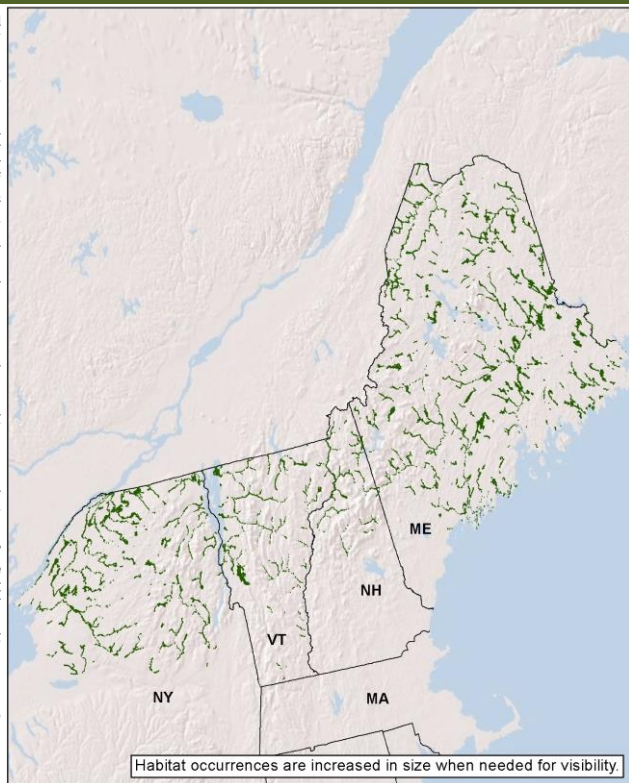




Macrogroup: Large River Floodplain

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.



© Elizabeth Thompson (Vermont Land Trust)

Description:

A complex of wetland and upland vegetation on floodplains of medium to large rivers in the northeastern US and adjacent Canada, north of the range of sycamore. Vegetation includes silver maple floodplain forests as well as herbaceous sloughs and shrub wetlands. Green ash, American elm, red maple and musclewood are typical associates, and black willow is characteristic of levees adjacent to the channel. On terraces, sugar maple, red oak or ash may be locally prominent. The herb layer includes abundant spring ephemerals, often giving way to fern dominance by mid-summer. In the far north, this system includes ice-scour rivershores dominated by herb and shrubs, and boreal floodplain forests characterized by balsam poplar.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs along medium to large rivers where topography and process have resulted in the development of a complex of upland and wetland vegetation. Variable alluvial soils. Most areas are underwater each spring, the length of inundation dependent on both overall water level and local microtopography. Dam operations alter flooding regimes and pose significant threats, and invasive plants often degrade floodplain communities.

Similar Habitat Types:

Has many plant species, landforms, and active river area processes in common with other floodplain systems, like Central Appalachian River Floodplain. And like other floodplains, has to a large extent been converted to agriculture and other human uses.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forested Wetland (ME), Floodplains - Major river silver maple floodplains (NH), Floodplain Forests (NY), Floodplain Forests - Silver Maple-Ostrich Fern Riverine Floodplain Forest (VT), Floodplain Forests - Silver Maple-Sensitive Fern Riverine Floodplain Forest (VT)

State Distribution: ME, NH, NY, VT

Total Habitat Acreage: 431,558

Percent Conserved: 24.5%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
ME	59%	253,552	12,000	40,531	201,020
NY	27%	116,558	18,971	17,416	80,171
VT	11%	49,267	6,293	6,673	36,300
NH	3%	12,181	1,263	2,719	8,198

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Silver Maple Floodplain Forest (ME), Silver Maple - False Nettle - Sensitive Fern Floodplain Forest (NH), Floodplain Forest (NY), Silver Maple-Sensitive Fern Riverine Floodplain Forest (VT)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Allagash Wilderness Waterway State Park | ME
 Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge | NH
 Brasher Falls State Forest | NY
 Deer River State Forest | NY
 Otter Creek Swamps (The Nature Conservancy) | VT

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: alder flycatcher, bald eagle, barred owl, green heron, northern waterthrush, warbling vireo, willow flycatcher, wood duck, yellow warbler, yellow-throated vireo

MAMMALS: mink, racoon, river otter, silver-haired bat

HERPTILES: fowler's toad, green frog, northern dusky salamander, northern two-lined salamander, blanding's turtle, eastern spiny softshell, ribbon snake

INSECTS: jutta arctic

PLANTS: bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*), green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), hare figwort (*Scrophularia lanceolata*), hudson bay anemone (*Anemone multifida*), lance-leaved loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum*), mild water-pepper (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*), purple clematis (*Clematis occidentalis*), virginia bugleweed (*Lycopus virginicus*), yellow water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus flabellaris*)

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

BIRDS: american bittern, black tern, cerulean warbler, Wilson's warbler, yellow rail

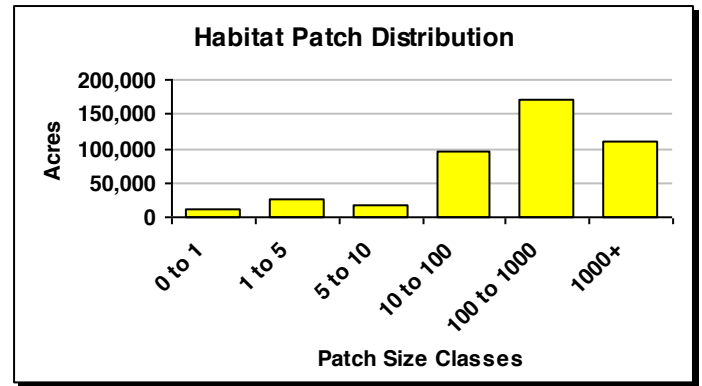
HERPTILES: Blanding's turtle, wood turtle

INSECTS: Clayton's copper butterfly, tomah mayfly, pygmy snaketail

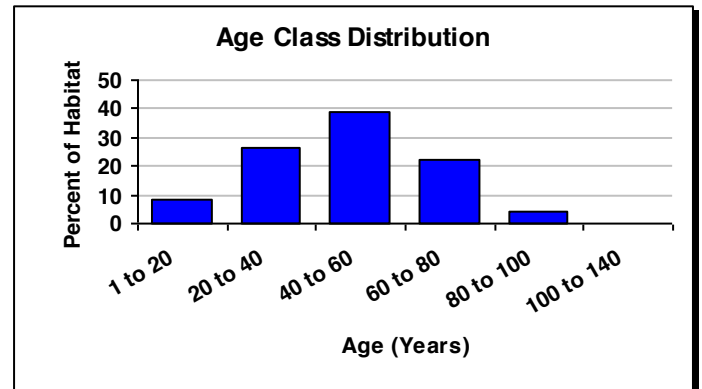
PLANTS: creeping rush (*Juncus subtilis*), Eaton's beggarticks (*Bidens eatonii*), furbish lousewort (*Pedicularis furbishiae*), New England violet (*Viola novae-angliae*), rough-fruit amaranth (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*), Wiegand's wild rye (*Elymus wiegandii*)



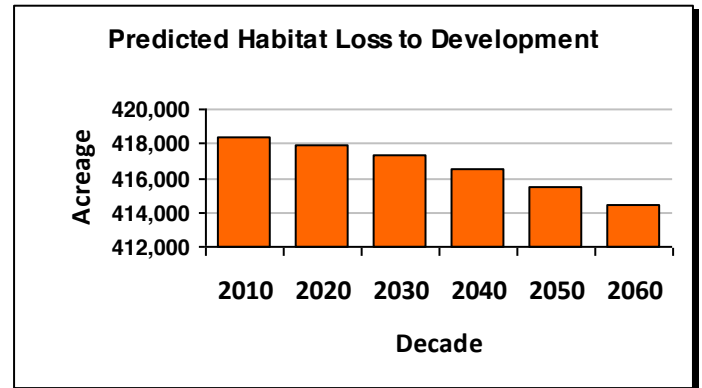
© Elizabeth Thompson (Vermont Land Trust)



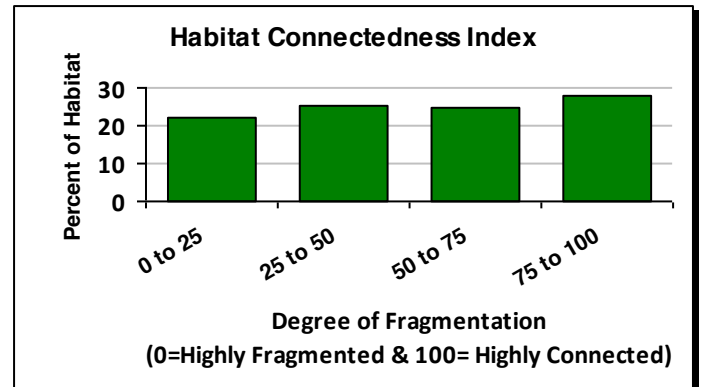
The average patch size for this habitat is 8 acres and the largest single patch is 4,151 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (4,041 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 81 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.