

Macrogroup: Central Oak-Pine

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.



© Robert Coxe (Delaware Species Conservation & Research Program)

Description:

A hardwood forest largely dominated by oaks, often mixed with pine. White, red, chestnut, black, and scarlet oaks are typical, and american holly is sometimes present. Sassafras, birch, aspen, and hazelnut are common associates in earlier-successional areas. In the northern half of the range, conditions can grade to dry-mesic, reflected in the local abundance of beech. A heath shrub layer is common; the herbaceous layer is sparse. In southern-more occurrences in Maryland or Virginia, pines (shortleaf, Virginia, and particularly loblolly) may be important, even strongly dominant canopy trees. The pine component is usually an indication of past human disturbance.

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

Total Habitat Acreage: 2,145,627

Percent Conserved: 16.1%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	30%	640,887	6,989	58,455	575,442
MD	18%	390,546	15,217	63,378	311,950
NJ	14%	307,871	33,545	21,502	252,824
MA	12%	263,921	7,480	56,949	199,492
CT	9%	193,794	10,721	15,363	167,709
NY	4%	87,825	4,814	9,065	73,946
ME	4%	76,298	1,516	4,818	69,964
DE	3%	72,016	2,951	10,883	58,182
RI	3%	65,305	5,315	6,166	53,825
NH	2%	35,847	2,181	5,113	28,553
PA	0%	10,632	478	1,637	8,517
DC	0%	687	0	2	684

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

These forests occur on sandy to gravelly glacial deposits and outwash from Long Island north, and on deep, acidic, coarse-textured soils on the flat to rolling landscapes of the coastal plain to the south. A thick duff layer and dry conditions make this system subject to periodic fires, which in turn encourage oak regeneration.

Similar Habitat Types:

In the northern 2/3 of its range, this system shares dry sandy coastal plain landscapes with Pitch Pine Barrens. From southern New Jersey south, it forms a mosaic with Southern Atlantic Coastal Plain Mesic Hardwood Forest, which occupies lower, moister positions in a stream-dissected landscape.

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Upland Forest - Dry Oak Forests (CT), North Atlantic Coastal Oak-Holly Forest (DE), Coastal Forest/Woodland (MA), Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest (MD), Deciduous And Mixed Forest (ME), Appalachian Oak Pine Forest (NH), Mesic Coastal Plain Mixed Oak Forest (NJ), Coastal Oak-Beech Forest (NY), Sweet Gum - Oak Coastal Plain Forest (PA), Mixed Oak - American Holly Forest (RI), Coastal Plain Mixed Oak / Heath Forest (VA)

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Upland Forest - Dry Oak Forests (CT), Hardwood Forest - Chestnut oak forests (DC), Coastal Plain Upland Forests (DE), Upland Forest (MA), Loblolly Pine - Oak Forests (MD), Deciduous and Mixed Forest (ME), Appalachian Oak Pine Forest (NH), Upland forests - deciduous forest (NJ), Coastal Hardwoods (NY), Deciduous/Mixed Forest (upland) (PA), Deciduous Forests - Deciduous Forest Oak/Holly (RI), Forest Habitat - Deciduous Forest (VA)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Nehantic State Forest | CT
 Redden State Forest | DE
 Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge | NH
 Connetquot River State Park Preserve | NY
 James River National Wildlife Refuge | VA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: barred owl, brown-headed nuthatch (south), black-and-white warbler, carolina wren, eastern towhee, great crested flycatcher, ovenbird, pine warbler, prairie warbler, scarlet tanager, veery (north), wood thrush

MAMMALS: masked shrew, meadow vole, red-backed vole, southern flying squirrel, white footed mice, woodland jumping mouse

HERPTILES: mole salamander, spotted turtle

PLANTS: Lion's-foot (*Prenanthes serpentaria*), Northern Blazingstar (*Liatris scariosa*), Redtop Panicgrass (*Panicum rigidulum*), Few-flower Nutrush (*Scleria pauciflora*), Eastern Silvery Aster (*Symphotrichum concolor*), Purple Needlegrass (*Aristida purpurascens*), Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*), Pale Green Orchid (*Platanthera flava*), Large Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*)

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

BIRDS: yellow-throated warbler

MAMMALS: delmarva fox squirrel

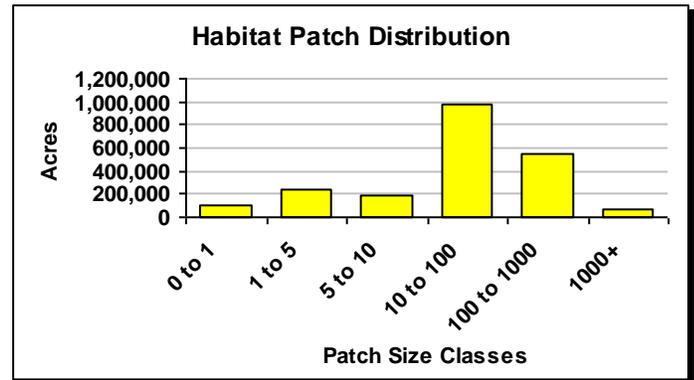
HERPTILES: eastern box turtle, green snake, marbled salamander

INSECTS: frosted elfin

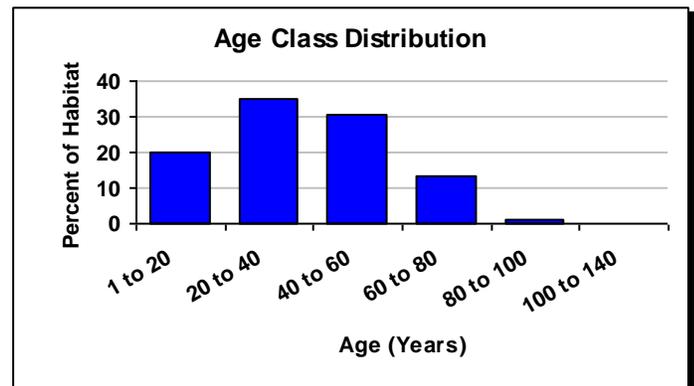
PLANTS: Featherfoil (*Hottonia inflata*), Sandplain Flax (*Linum intercursum*), Bushy Rockrose (*Helianthemum dumosum*), Swamp-pink (*Helonias bullata*), Rose Coreopsis (*Coreopsis rosea*), Cranefly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), Allegheny Mountains Crowfoot (*Ranunculus allegheniensis*), Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), Creeping St. John's-wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), Long-beaked Baldrush (*Rhynchospora scirpoides*), Tall Bushclover (*Lespedeza stuevei*)



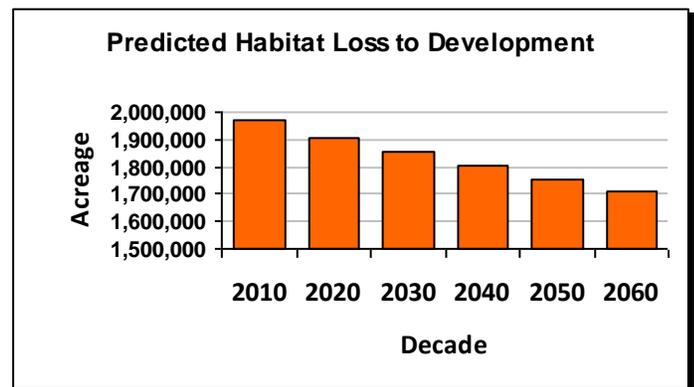
© Robert Coxie (Delaware Species Conservation & Research Program)



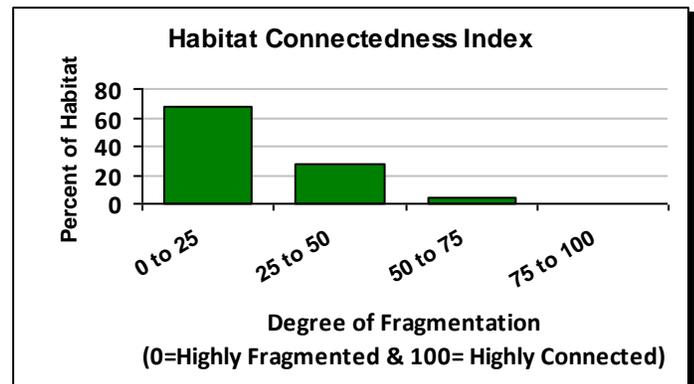
The average patch size for this habitat is 4 acres and the largest single patch is 3,742 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (261,920 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 5,238 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.