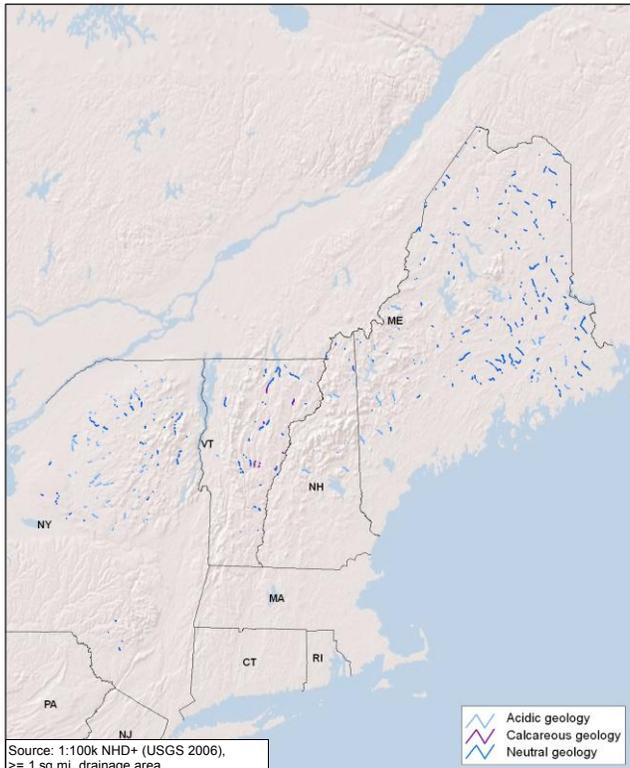


Low Gradient, Cold, Small River

Macrogroup: Small River

This map is based on a model and has had little field-checking. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist or State Fish Game Agency for more information about this habitat.



West Branch Sacandaga River, © Andy Arthur

Description:

Cold, slow-moving, small rivers of flat, marshy settings at high elevations or in areas of substantial cold groundwater inflow. These small rivers of northern regions drain watersheds up to 200 sq.mi and have an average bankfull width of 72 feet. The slow-moving waters are dominated by runs with interspersed pool sections and a few short or no distinct riffles. Their substrate is usually dominated by silt, sand, and fine gravel, and they may exhibit high turbidity and be somewhat poorly oxygenated. These low-gradient rivers are often described as unconfined and have moderate to high sinuosity with broader valleys. They are typically surrounded by floodplain forest, wetlands, or eroded sand or clay banks or fine sediment bars. Permanent cold water temperatures in these rivers means coldwater fish species, such as brook trout, likely represent over half of the fish community. Additional variation in the biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota.

Similar Habitat Types:

Small rivers also occur at higher elevations and on higher slopes, but these tend to have coarser substrates and faster water. Cold low gradient small rivers typically flow into low gradient cold and cool medium rivers.

State Distribution: ME, NH, NY, VT

Total Habitat (mi): 989

% Conserved: 24.6 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

State	State Habitat %	Miles of Habitat	Acres GAP 1 - 2	Acres GAP 3	Total Acres Unsecured
ME	59	653	13	58	300
NY	24	261	49	15	74
VT	12	137	5	5	68
NH	4	48	1	6	22

Places to Visit this Habitat:

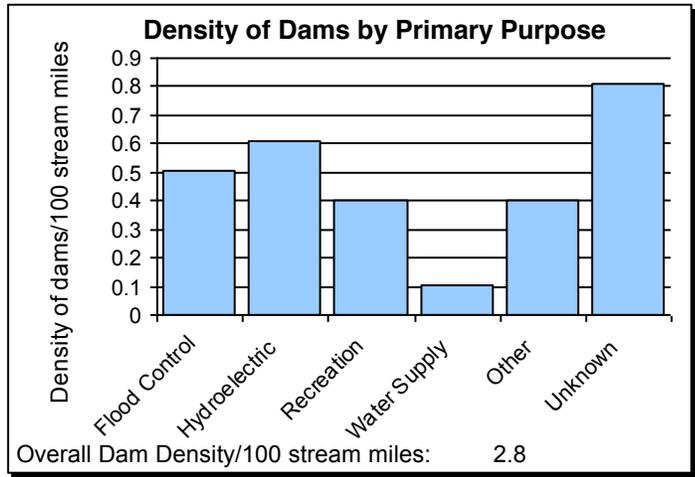
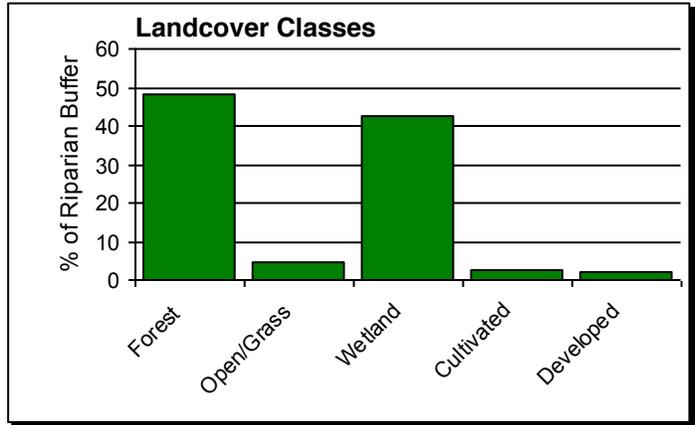
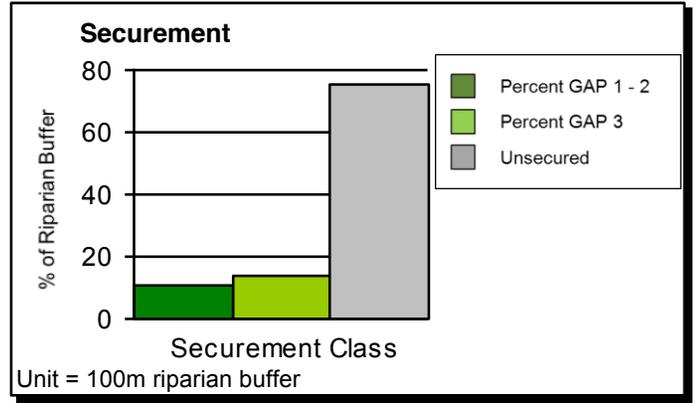
Sunkhaze Stream, Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge | ME Moose River, Holeb Public Land | ME Saint Regis River, Debar Mountain | NY West Branch Sacandaga River, Silver Lake | NY Black River, Vermont Land Trust Easement | VT

Associated Fish:

Most Abundant: white sucker, common shiner, eastern blacknose dace, redbreast sunfish, creek chub, brook trout, fallfish, burbot, longnose sucker. Less Abundant: longnose dace, bluntnose minnow, american eel, smallmouth bass.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

Fishes: none
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: brook floater, yellow lampmussel, eastern pearlshell
 See Appendix 2 for scientific names



Crosswalk to State Names:

Vermont: Blacknose dace-White sucker, Blacknose dace-Creek chub. New York: Marsh headwater stream, Unconfined river, Backwater slough.



Longnose Sucker, © USFWS

