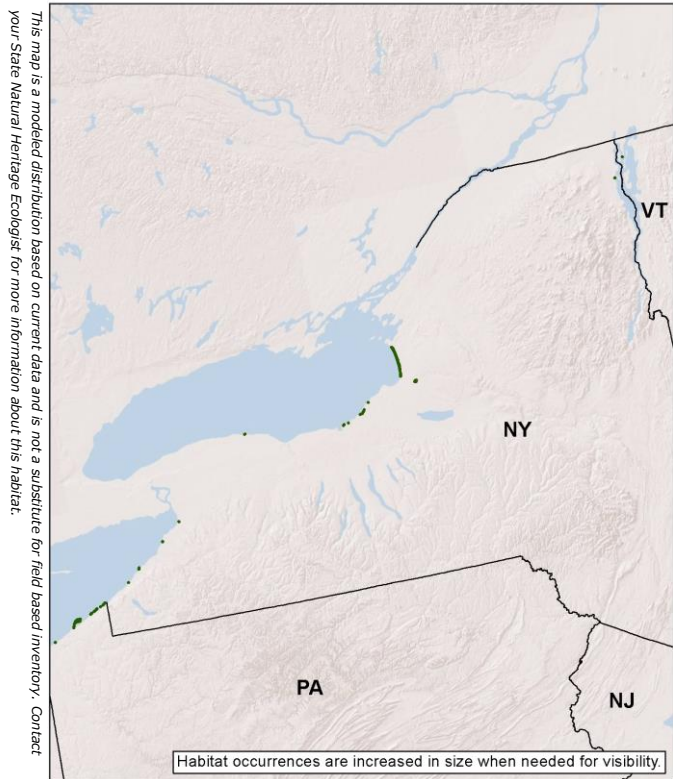




Macrogroup: Coastal Grassland & Shrubland



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Description:

A sparsely vegetated dune complex on unconsolidated sand and shell sediments on the shores of the Great Lakes. Plant cover varies from sparse on active dunes to moderate depending on the degree of sand deposition, sand erosion, and distance from the lake. Beachgrass dominates the most active areas; on more stable portions, low shrubs including beach heather, juniper, and sand cherry predominate. Backdunes may grade into wooded cover of pines and other sandy soil trees. Jack pine, white pine, and red pine often form a scattered overstory canopy, and juniper and bearberry form a dwarf shrub layer. Wet swales are usually graminoid-dominated, but partly forested swales of red maple, alder, willow, and northern white cedar, may be interspersed with the back-dune ridges.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

This vegetated dune system, limited in the Northeast to the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and Lake Champlain, consists of a foredune and a series of low to high backdunes and low swales, and is best developed where post-glacial streams entered an embayment, providing a dependable sand source. Along-shore currents, waves, and winds sustain the foredunes. High quality examples of any size are very rare in our region.

Similar Habitat Types:

Its maritime cousin, Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Dune and Swale, is subject to different and probably more extreme stresses, and consequently has different form and vegetation. Usually in areas of residential development and agriculture, and high quality examples of any size are very rare in our region.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Great Lakes Dune and Swale (NY), Sandy Beach Habitats (PA), Upland Shores - Sand dune (VT)

State Distribution: NY, PA, VT

Total Habitat Acreage: 1,805

Percent Conserved: 62.5%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NY	74%	1,337	20	812	505
PA	26%	461	290	3	168
VT	0%	6	0	3	3

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Great Lakes Dunes (NY), Great Lakes Region Dry Sandplain (PA), Lake Sand Beach (VT)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Altmar State Forest | NY
 Black Pond Wildlife Management Area | NY
 Lakeview Wildlife Management Area | NY
 Sandy Island Beach | NY
 Presque Isle State Park | PA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: backbacked gull, herring gull, spotted sandpiper

MAMMALS: raccoon

PLANTS: Beach pea (*Lathyrus maritimus*), beach heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*), beach wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* ssp. *caudate*), creeping love grass (*Eragrostis hypnoides*), matted spikerush (*Eleocharis intermedia*), ovate spikerush (*Eleocharis ovata*), sand dropseed (*sporobolus cryptandrus*), vetchling peavine (*Lathyrus palustris*), umbrella flatsedge (*Cyperus diandrus*)

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

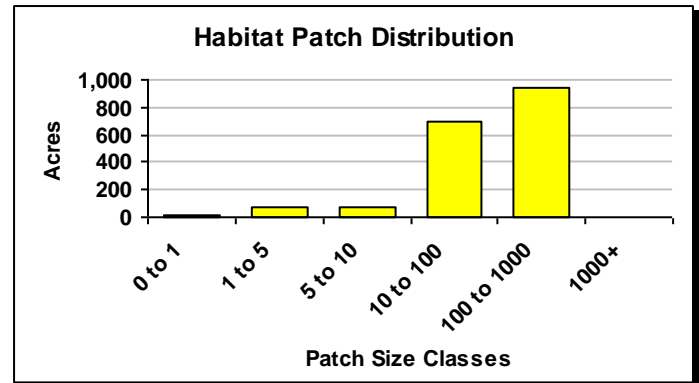
BIRDS: piping plover

INSECTS: A notcuid moth (*Euxoa pleuritica*), tiger beetle (*Cicindela hirticollis*)

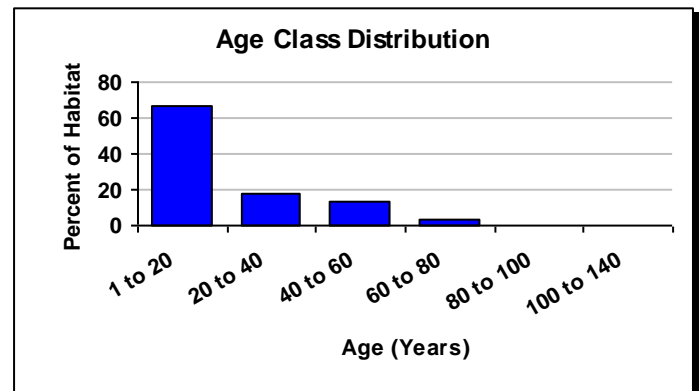
PLANTS: Champlain beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata* var. *champlainensis*)



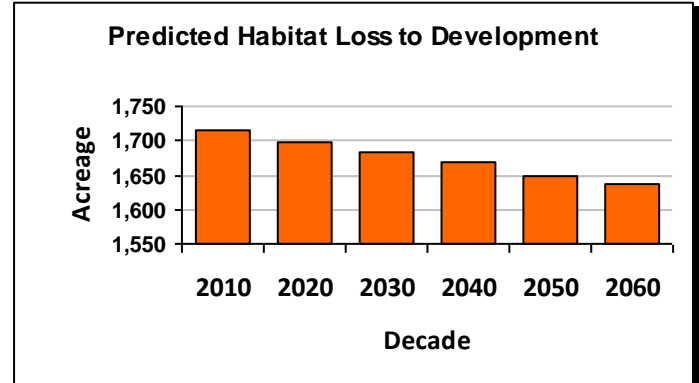
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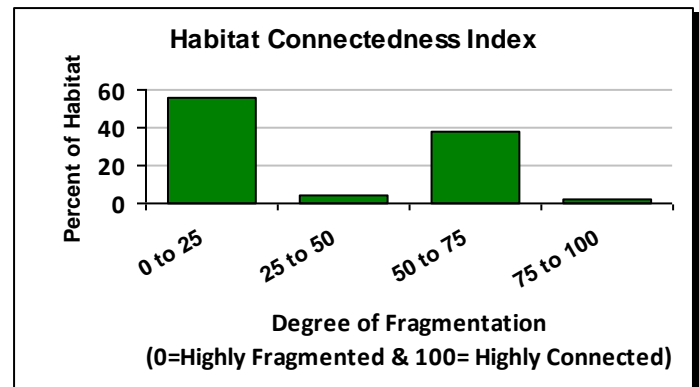
The average patch size for this habitat is 10 acres and the largest single patch is 224 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (77 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 2 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.