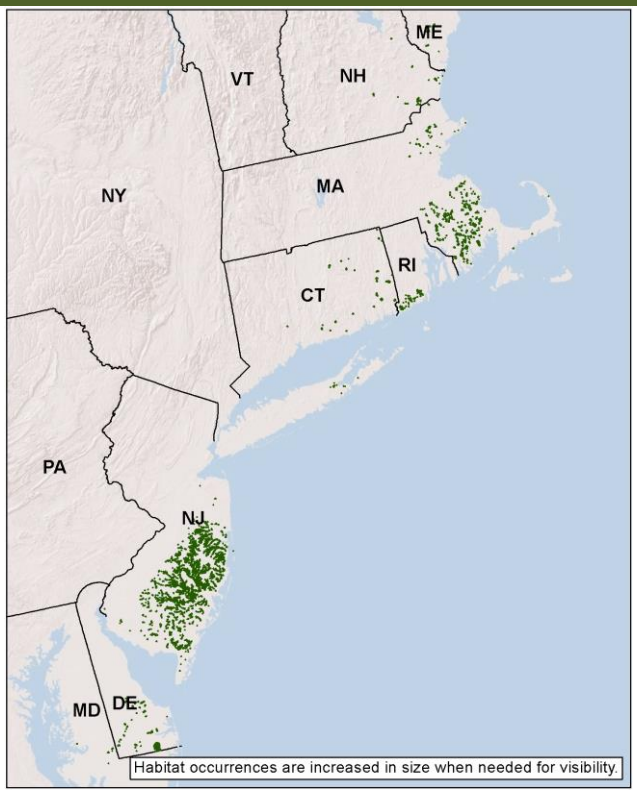
North Atlantic Coastal Plain Basin Peat Swamp

Macrogroup: Coastal Plain Swamp



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

Total Habitat Acreage: 58,301

Percent Conserved: 53.5%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NJ	61%	35,366	9,187	10,781	15,398
MA	20%	11,830	1,820	3,750	6,259
DE	8%	4,845	127	3,191	1,527
CT	4%	2,480	221	596	1,663
RI	3%	1,750	156	444	1,150
NH	2%	1,158	259	434	464
ME	1%	654	0	106	548
MD	0%	121	15	52	54
NY	0%	97	50	14	33

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Acidic Atlantic White Cedar Basin Swamp (CT), Coastal Plain Atlantic White Cedar-Red Maple Swamp (DE), Coastal Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (MA), Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (MD), Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (ME), Atlantic white cedar-yellow birc -pepperbush swamp (NH), Forested Wetlands - White Cedar Swamps (NJ), Coastal Plain Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (NY), Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (RI)

Description:

A forested swamp of peat-accumulating basins in the coastal plain from southern Maine down to the Delmarva Peninsula. Atlantic white cedar is characteristic and often dominant; red maple may also be an important species, especially after logging. Black spruce is occasional in examples in the northern part of the region. Herbaceous species are typically more abundant than dwarf shrubs in the understory, which includes alder, great laurel, high-bush blueberry, winterberry, swamp azalea, and sphagnum moss. The saturated hydrology is evidenced by sphagnum-based hummock-and-hollow microtopography.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Basins are often configured along streams and rivers of the coastal plain. Relatively shallow water-saturated peat overlies mineral sediments in these swamps. Standing water generally occurs for half of the growing season or longer. The acidic soils are poor in nitrogen and phosphorus and often have a high iron content.

Similar Habitat Types:

May be similar compositionally to other acidic swamps in shallow basins in the region (like North-Central Appalachian Acidic Swamp), except for the prominence of Atlantic white cedar. The peat layer is deeper, and the canopy trees shorter and less dense, in the more northerly Boreal-Laurentian-Acadian Acidic Basin Fen.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forested Inland Wetland - Atlantic White Cedar Swamps (CT), Atlantic White Cedar Non-tidal Wetlands (DE), Forested Swamps (MA), Forested wetlands - white cedar swamps (NJ), Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (NY), Forested Wetlands - Forested Coniferous Wetland White Cedar (RI)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Pachaug State Forest | CT
James Branch Nature Preserve | DE
Freetown-Fall River State Forest | MA
Brendan T. Byrne State Forest | NJ
Wharton State Forest | NJ

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: northern waterthrush, veery, wood duck

INSECTS: ebony boghaunter, elfin skimmer, great purple hairstreak, owlet moth, pennsylvania firefly, spatterdock darner, sphagnum sprite

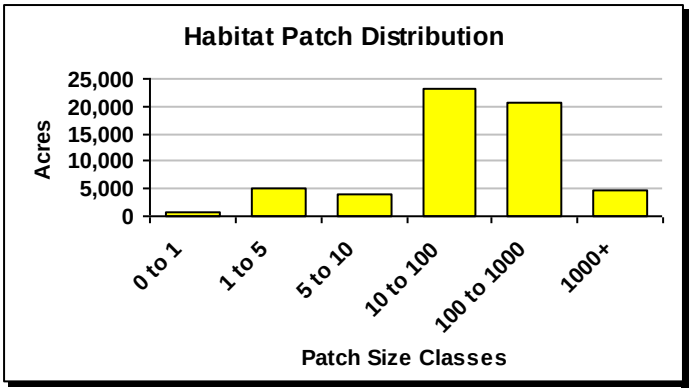
PLANTS: bayonet rush (Juncus militaris), bushy bluestem (Andropogon glomeratus), coast sedge (Carex exilis), fibrous bladderwort (Utricularia fibrosa), heartleaf twayblade (Listera cordata), seaside alder (Alnus maritima), smooth winterberry holly (Ilex laevigata), southern bladderwort (Utricularia juncea), ten-angle pipewort (Eriocaulon decangulare), tickseed sunflower (Bidens coronata), white beakrush (Rhynchospora alba)

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

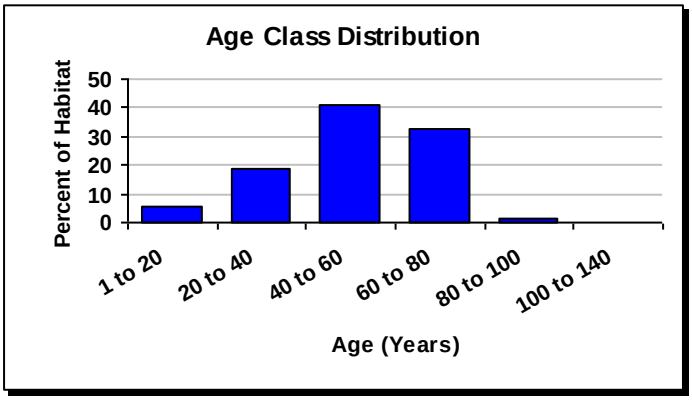
HERPTILES: blue-spotted salamander, carpenter frog, four-toed salamander, spotted turtle

INSECTS: coastal swamp metarranthis moth, Hessel's hairstreak, pitcher plant borer moth, plant hopper, spatterdock darner, sphagnum sprite, a firefly (photuris tremulans), a moth (Exyra fax)

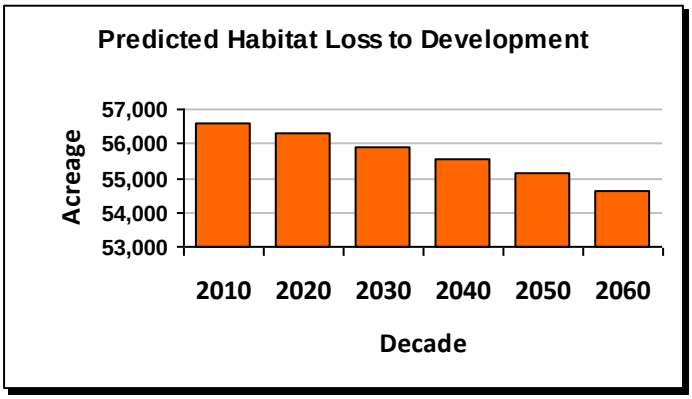
PLANTS: swamp-pink (Arethusa bulbosa), yellow nodding ladies'-tresses (Spiranthes ochroleuca)



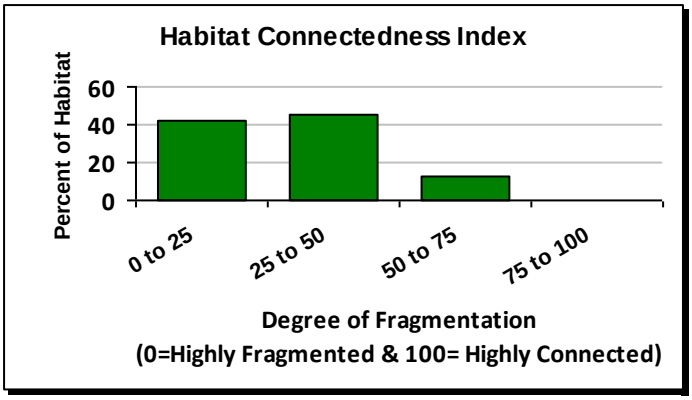
The average patch size for this habitat is 10 acres and the largest single patch is 1,791 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (1,960 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 39 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.