



## Macrogroup: Alpine

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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### Description:

A sparsely vegetated system near or above treeline in the Northern Appalachian Mountains, dominated by lichens, dwarf-shrubland, and sedges. At the highest elevations, the dominant plants are dwarf heaths such as alpine bilberry and cushion-plants such as diapensia. Bigelow's sedge is characteristic. Wetland depressions, such as small alpine bogs and rare sloping fens, may be found within the surrounding upland matrix. In the lower subalpine zone, deciduous shrubs such as nannyberry provide cover in somewhat protected areas; dwarf heaths including crowberry, Labrador tea, sheep laurel, and lowbush blueberry, are typical. Nearer treeline, spruce and fir that have become progressively more stunted as exposure increases may form nearly impenetrable krummholz.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

High winds, snow and ice, cloud-cover fog, and intense summer sun exposure are common and control ecosystem dynamics. Found mostly above 4000' in the northern part of our region, alpine tundra may also occur in small patches on lower ridgelines and summits and at lower elevations near the Atlantic coast.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Acadian-Appalachian Montane Spruce-Fir-Hardwood Forests typically occur downslope. Similar to Southern Appalachian Shrub and Grass Balds, and less obviously to systems like Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Heathland and Grassland and glade and barrens systems to the south, in that extreme environmental conditions make it very difficult for even small trees to develop.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Alpine (ME), Alpine (NH), Alpine (NY), Outcrops and Upland Meadows - Alpine Meadows (VT), Open Peatlands - Alpine Peatland (VT), Spruce-Fir-Northern Hardwood Forest - Subalpine Krummholz (VT)

**State Distribution:** ME, NH, NY, VT

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 8,185

**Percent Conserved:** 98.1%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NH	51%	4,160	4,126	0	34
ME	44%	3,624	2,510	1,082	33
NY	3%	285	194	0	91
VT	1%	115	115	0	0

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Spruce - Fir - Birch Krummholz (ME), Black Spruce - Balsam Fir Krummholz (NH), Alpine Krummholz (NY), Spruce-Fir-Northern Hardwood Forest - Subalpine Krummholz (VT)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

Baxter State Park | ME  
 Mahoosuc | ME  
 Tumbledown Mount Blue | ME  
 White Mountain National Forest | NH  
 High Peaks Wilderness Area | NY

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** blackpoll warbler, common raven, dark-eyed junco, golden eagle, red-breasted nuthatch, white-throated sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler

**MAMMALS:** northern red-backed vole

**INSECTS:** katahdin arctic butterfly, crowberry blue butterfly

**PLANTS:** Alpine-azalea (*Loiseleuria procumbens*), alpine blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*), alpine bittercress (*Cardamine bellidifolia*), alpine sweet grass (*Hierochloa alpina*), balsam willow (*Salix pyrifolia*), bearberry willow (*Salix uva-ursi*), black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), highland rush (*Juncus trifidus*), lapland diapensia (*Diapensia lapponica*), lapland azalea (*Rhododendron lapponicum*), mountain cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), mountain sandwort (*Minuartia groenlandica*), mountain timothy (*Phleum alpinum*)

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

**BIRDS:** Bicknell's thrush, american pipit

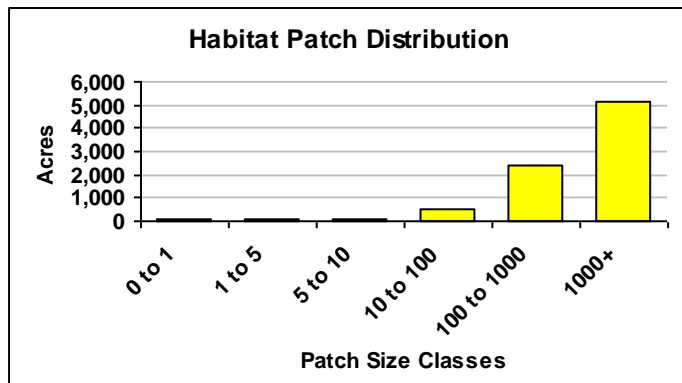
**MAMMALS:** northern bog lemming

**INSECTS:** Katahdin arctic butterfly, crowberry blue butterfly

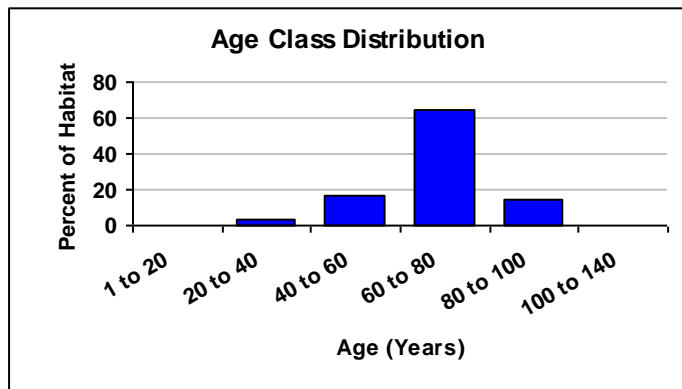
**PLANTS:** alpine goldenrod (*Solidago multiradiata*), Appalachian fir-clubmoss (*Huperzia appalachiana*), Bigelow's sedge (*Carex bigelowii*), capitate Sedge (*Carex capitata*), Cutler's Goldenrod (*Solidago cutleri*), dwarf White Birch (*Betula minor*), lapland diapensia (*Diapensia lapponica*), mountain avens (*Geum peckii*), northern blueberry (*Vaccinium boreale*), Pickering's reed bentgrass (*Calamagrostis pickeringii*), Robbins' cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*), silverling (*Paronychia argyrocoma*)



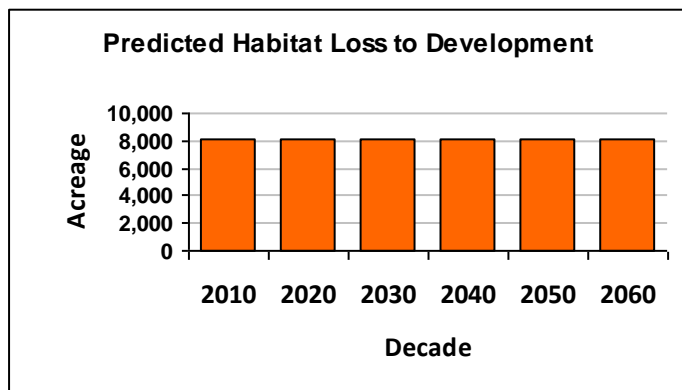
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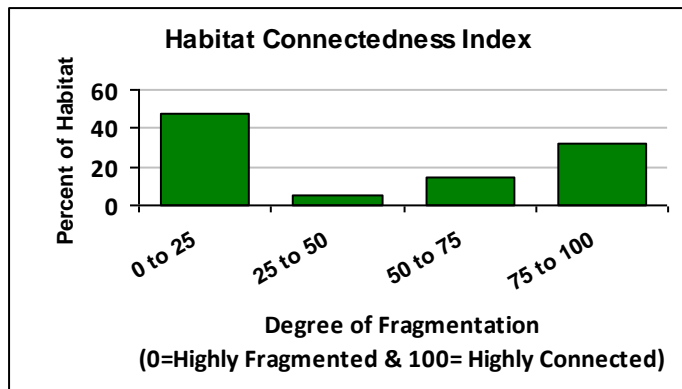
The average patch size for this habitat is 38 acres and the largest single patch is 3,949 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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