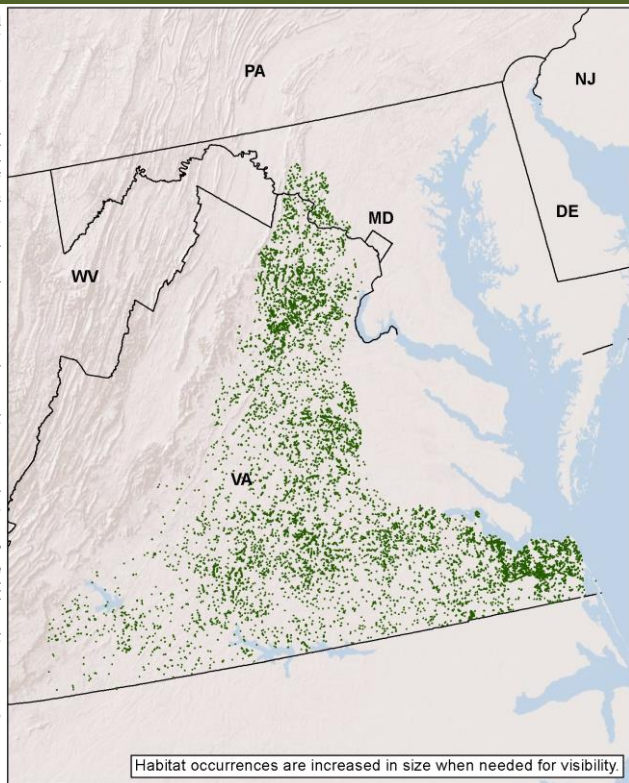


Macrogroup: Emergent Marsh

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.



© Irvine Wilson (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)

Description:

An herbaceous wetland that occurs in small basins and alluvial environments in the Piedmont and coastal plain of Virginia. Vegetation is zoned according to water depth, length of inundation, and substrate; submergent plants in the deepest water like pondweeds and water lilies give way to emergents like cattails and bulrushes, then shallower water species like arrow-aram and American bur-reed, and finally to species of periodically flooded shorelines like marsh St. John's-wort and various sedges. Most examples are semi-natural, a result of clearing and impoundments by humans and beavers in settings that would normally be swamps. It can fill with sediments over time, allowing woody shrub vegetation to get established, and is often associated with shrub swamps and wet meadows.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs most commonly in alluvial settings, at margins of streamways, but also in headwater basins and in small, permanently flooded isolated basins and non-alluvial spring-heads. Substrates are generally muck over mineral soil; water chemistry and available nutrients vary. These systems are dynamic and highly variable; unpredictable perturbations to them can operate on short time scales, like flooding and draining from beaver or human activity.

Similar Habitat Types:

Similar to Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marshes in their hydrologic characteristics and their intimate association with shrub swamps and other wetland types. Difference in biogeography leads to some regionally distinct vegetation. A higher proportion of these marshes are alluvial, and their semi-natural character may make them less stable over time.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

State Distribution: MD, VA

Total Habitat Acreage: 45,739

Percent Conserved: 6.4%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	98%	44,788	610	2,143	42,035
MD	2%	951	20	135	796

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Emergent Marsh (MD)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Seneca Creek State Park | MD
Great Dismal Swamp | VA
North Landing River | VA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

HERPTILES: oak toad (*Bufo quercicus*), lesser siren (*Siren intermedia*)

PLANTS: beakrushes (*Rhynchospora* spp.), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), crossleaf milkwort (*Polygala cruciata*), hairy umbrella-sedge (*Fuirena squarrosa*), highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), large white fringed orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*), large-flowered camas (*Zigadenus glaberrimus*), manna-grasses (*Glyceria* spp.), Meadow beauties (*Rhexia nashii*, *R. petiolata*, *R. mariana*), Nuttall's reed-grass (*Calamagrostis coarctata*), overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), panic grasses (*Dichanthelium dichotomum*)

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

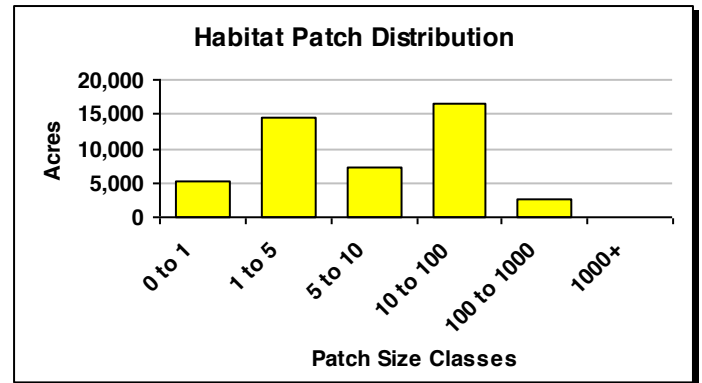
MAMMALS: dismal swamp southeastern shrew (*Sorex longirostris fisheri*)

INSECTS: Dukes' skipper (*Euphyes dukesi*)

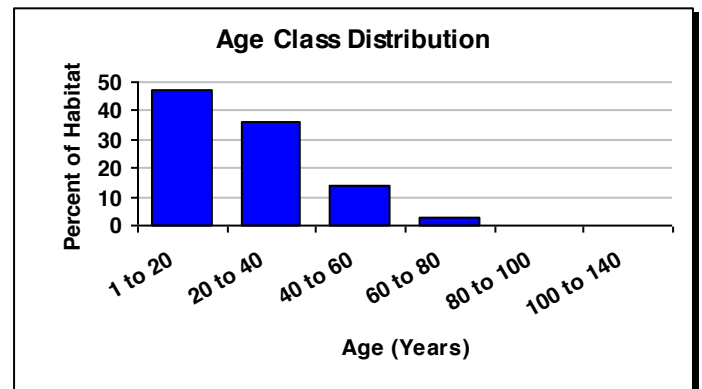
PLANTS: Cuthbert's turtlehead (*Chelone cuthbertii*), Hairy seedbox (*Ludwigia pilosa*), Walter's paspalum (*Paspalum dissectum*)



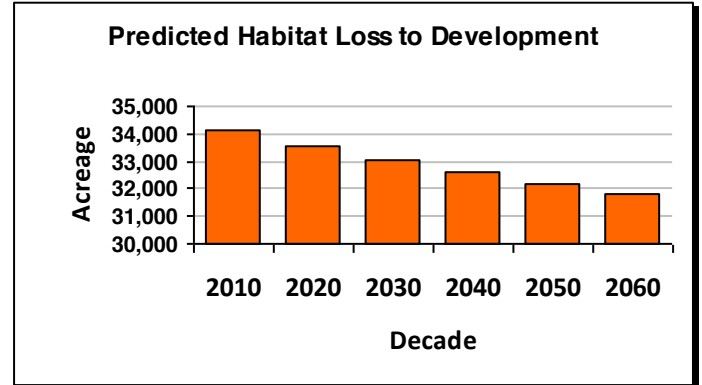
© Irvine Wilson (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)



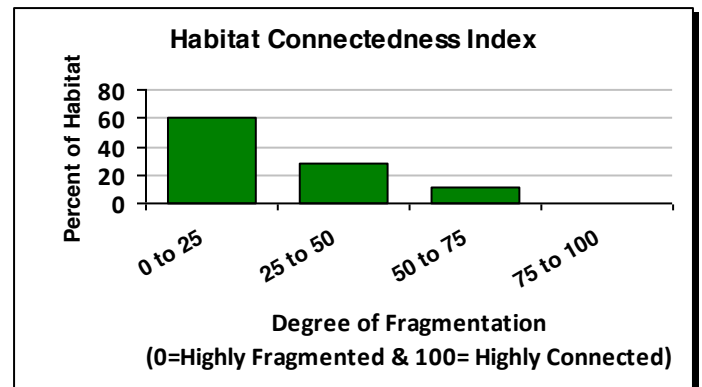
The average patch size for this habitat is 2 acres and the largest single patch is 735 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (2,319 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 46 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.