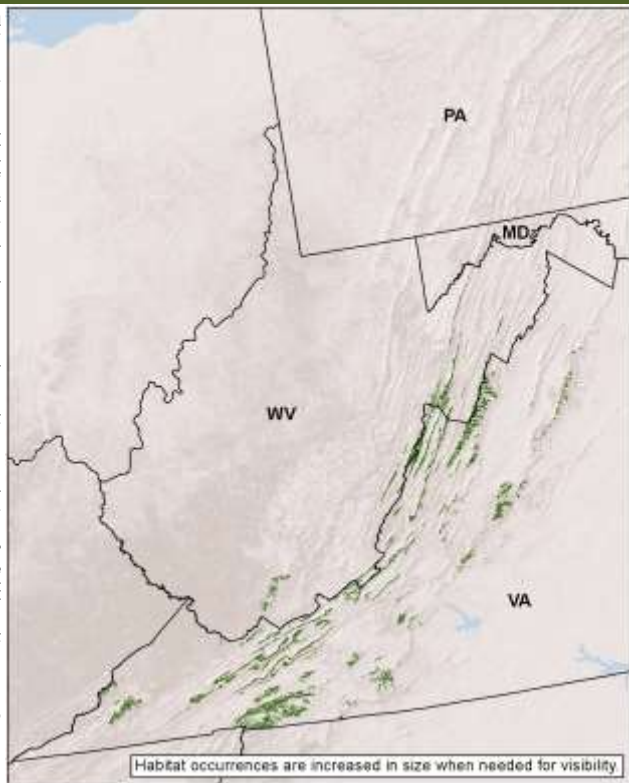




## Macrogroup: Central Oak-Pine

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.



© West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

### Description:

A high elevation hardwood forest dominated by red oak and white oak, with the individuals often stunted or wind-flagged. Chestnut oak and xeric hickories are also sometimes present. Chestnut trees were important in this system historically, but are now found only as stumps and sprouts. Early azalea and other heath shrubs, along with mountain holly, are common in understory vegetation, though graminoid species and ferns dominate in some examples. At the northern end of its range in our region, patches of this habitat type are often less than 10 acres, but can be much larger on very long or broadly convex ridges.

**State Distribution:** VA, WV

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 147,890

**Percent Conserved:** 63.7%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	86%	126,521	31,074	52,139	43,307
WV	14%	21,369	714	10,296	10,359

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

This forest mostly occurs on exposed, inhospitable sites from about 3000 to 4500 feet. The weathered soils are thin, nutrient-poor, low in organic matter, and acidic. High winds and ice storms are commonplace, which probably explains the stunted appearance of many of these communities. Lightning-caused fires may suppress heath shrub development in the understory.

### Similar Habitat Types:

This system grades upslope (or around slope to less exposed areas) into Southern Appalachian Northern Hardwoods or Appalachian (Hemlock-)Northern Hardwoods. At lower elevation it most often grades into Central Appalachian Dry Oak-Pine Forest or Allegheny Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland, depending on location.

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Southern Appalachian Montane Mixed Oak Forest (VA), Oak/Heath And Oak/White Pine Forests (WV)

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forest Habitat - Deciduous Forest (VA), Oak/Heath and Oak/White Pine Forests (WV)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

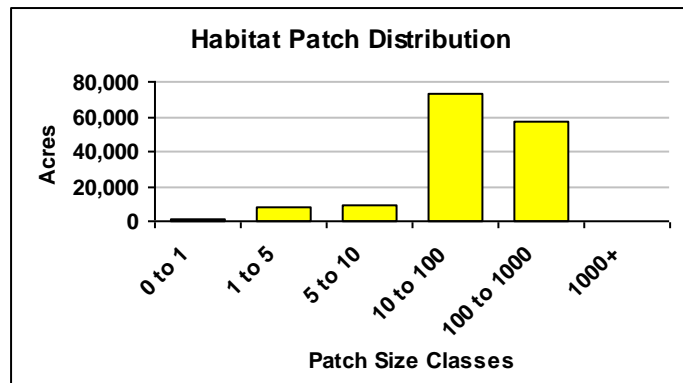
Appalachian Trail Corridor | VA  
 Blue Ridge Parkway National Park | VA  
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA  
 George Washington National Forest | WV  
 Monongahela National Forest | WV

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

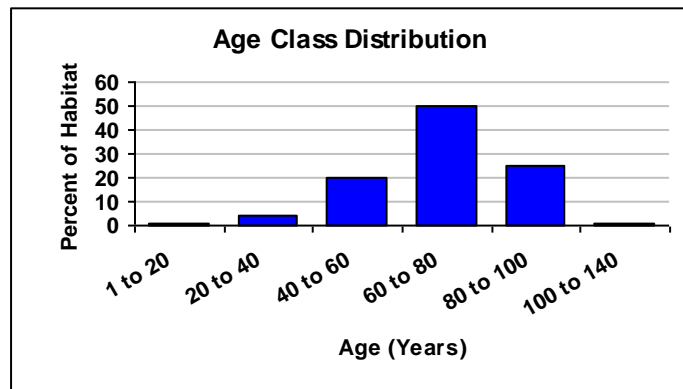
**BIRDS:** black-and-white warbler, eastern towhee, eastern wood-pewee, ovenbird, summer tanager

**MAMMALS:** eastern spotted skunk, southern pygmy shrew

**PLANTS:** old-pasture Bluegrass (*Poa saltuensis*), Porter's reedgrass (*Calamagrostis porteri*), purple clematis (*Clematis occidentalis*), three-toothed cinquefoil (*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*)



The average patch size for this habitat is 12 acres and the largest single patch is 902 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.

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

**BIRDS:** magnolia warbler, peregrine falcon, northern saw-whet owl, yellow-bellied sapsucker

**MAMMALS:** allegheny woodrat

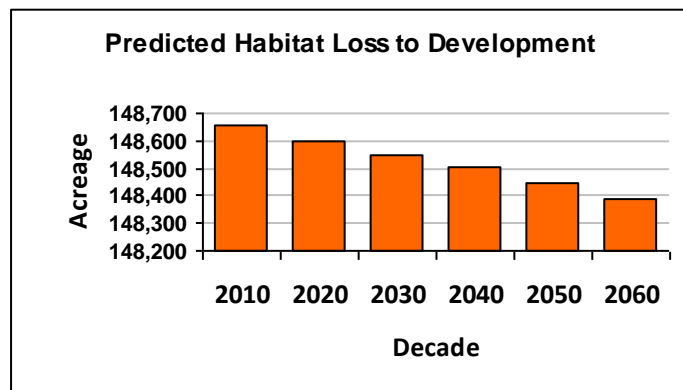
**HERPTILES:** big levels salamander, peaks of otter salamander, shovelnose salamander, timber rattlesnake, white-spotted salamander, wood turtle

**INSECTS:** black-tipped darner, boreal fan moth, currant spanworm, jefferson's short-nosed scorpionfly, northern pygmy clubtail

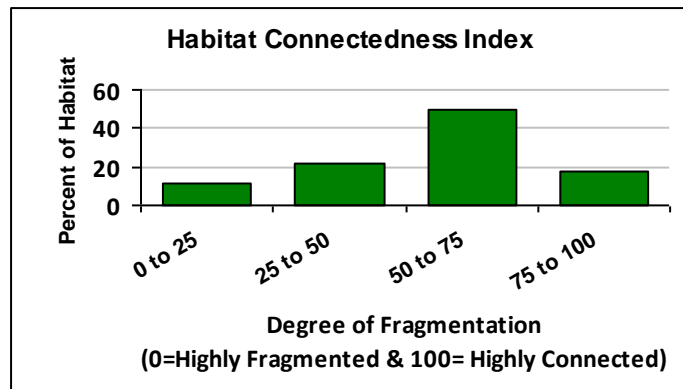
**PLANTS:** carolina lily (*Lilium michauxii*), creeping aster (*Eurybia surculosa*), eastern turkeybeard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*), large-leaved phlox (*Phlox amplifolia*), mountain fetterbush (*Pieris floribunda*), northern spleenwort (*Asplenium septentrionale*), ovate catchfly (*Silene ovata*)



© Gary P. Fleming (Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Program)



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (262 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 5 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.