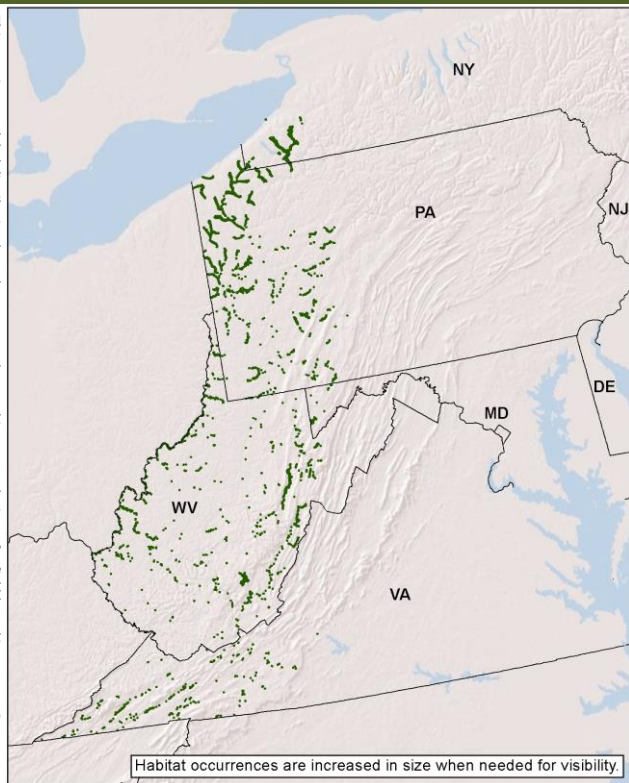


Macrogroup: Large River Floodplain

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 complex of wetland and upland vegetation on floodplains of medium to large rivers in the Ohio River drainages. Vegetation is variable, dominants often include silver maple, sycamore, green ash, American elm, sweet gum, pin oak, and swamp white oak. Understory species are mixed, but include sedges and shrubs such as buttonbush. A single occurrence may extend from river's edge across the outermost extent of the floodplain or to where it meets a wet meadow or upland system. Examples may contain well-drained levees, terraces and stabilized bars, herbaceous sloughs and shrub wetlands. Most areas are inundated at some point each spring; microtopography determines how long the various habitats are inundated.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs along large rivers or streams where topography and alluvial processes have resulted in a well-developed floodplain. Soils range from very well-drained sandy substrates to very dense clays. Occasional severe floods can alter the system; exotic shrubs and herbs are a greater threat to floodplain communities than to other terrestrial habitats.

Similar Habitat Types:

Natural processes are similar to those of other large river floodplain systems. Vegetation may be most similar to Central Appalachian Large River Floodplains. Only a small northeastern portion of the large geographic extent of this system is in our region.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Riparian Thickets/Forests (PA), Wetland Habitat - Forested (VA), Floodplain Forests and Swamps (WV)

State Distribution: MD, NY, PA, VA, WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 70,068

Percent Conserved: 15.6%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
PA	54%	37,533	1,842	6,623	29,068
NY	29%	20,643	8	951	19,685
WV	14%	9,906	90	1,294	8,522
VA	2%	1,672	44	110	1,518
MD	0%	314	4	0	310

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Montane - Piedmont Bottomland Forest (MD), Riparian Thickets/Forests (PA), Piedmont / Central Appalachian River Birch - Sycamore Forest (VA), Floodplain Forests And Swamps (WV)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Conewango Swamp Wildlife Management Area | NY
 Hartson Swamp Wildlife Management Area | NY
 Erie National Wildlife Refuge - Seneca Division | PA
 Meadow River Wildlife Management Area | WV
 Monongahela National Forest | WV

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: american bittern, bald eagle, cerulean warbler, green heron, prothonotary warbler, virginia rail, warbling vireo, willow flycatcher

HERPTILES: eastern hog-nosed snake, eastern massasauga, eastern ribbonsnake, northern leopard frog, red-eared slider, spiny softshell, upland chorus frog

INSECTS: blue-faced meadowhawk, broad-winged skipper

PLANTS: greater bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*), green arrow-arum (*Peltandra virginica*), hairy swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*), harbinger-of-spring (*Eriogonum bulbosum*), northern water-plantain (*Alisma triviale*), poison-sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), purple-rocket (*Iodanthus pinnatifidus*), river seedbox (*Ludwigia leptocarpa*), shootingstar (*Dodecatheon meadia*), sword bogmat (*Wolffiella gladiata*)

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

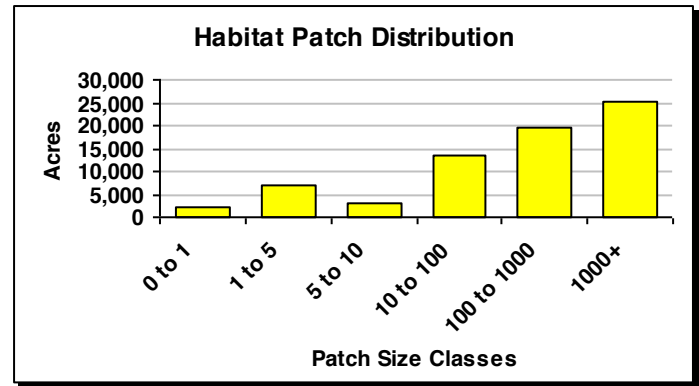
HERPTILES: green salamander, hellbender, jefferson salamander

INSECTS: eyed brown, two-spotted skipper

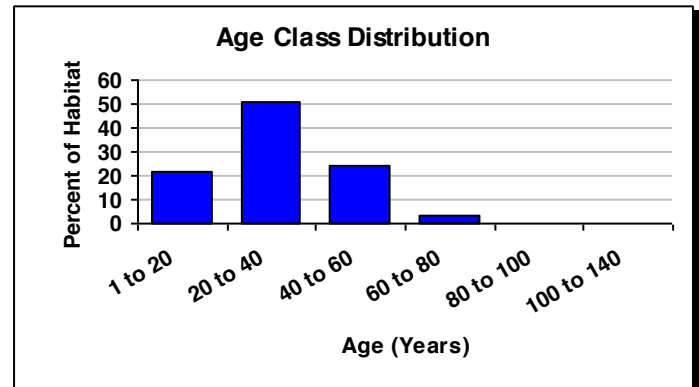
PLANTS: Appalachian sedge (*Carex appalachica*), hard-stemmed bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), large marsh St. John's-wort (*Triadenum tubulosum*), nodding rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes crepidinea*), stout smartweed (*Polygonum robustius*)



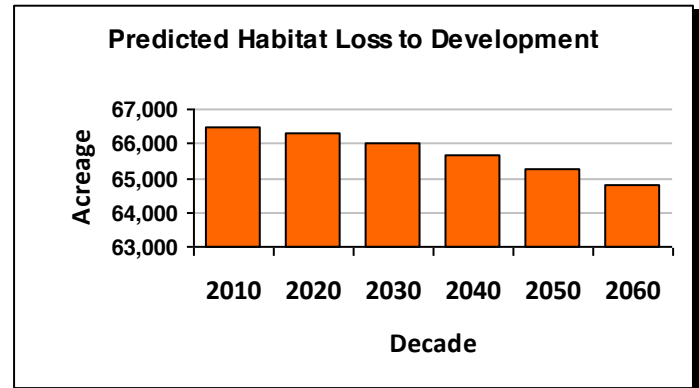
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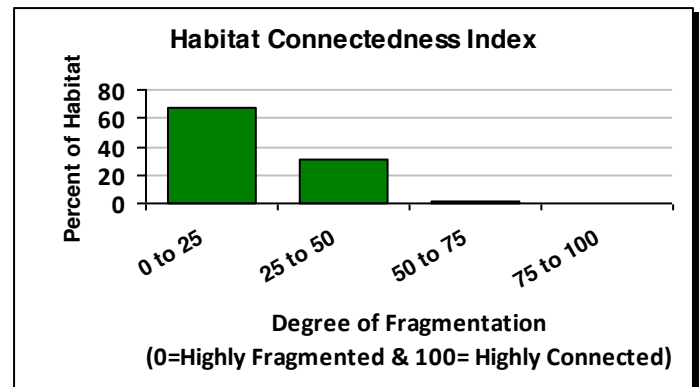
The average patch size for this habitat is 7 acres and the largest single patch is 2,249 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (1,659 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 33 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.