

## 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.



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### Description:

An oak forest of low to mid-elevations and low to moderate moisture dominated by white, red, black, chestnut, and scarlet oaks, with varying amounts of hickory, black gum, and red maple. Centered in the Southern Blue Ridge, it is found only in the very southwestern part of our region. Chestnut was commonly a dominant or codominant until its elimination in the early 1900s. Some areas have dense evergreen heath shrubs of mountain laurel or great rhododendron; others have deciduous heath layers of blueberry and/or huckleberry. Successional communities with heavy tuliptree, pine, and black locust are also included in this system. Oaks can be long-lived with typical age of mortality ranging from 200 to 400 years for most species. White oaks can live as long as 600 years

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Vegetation varies with substrate types, which can range from acidic to circumneutral or basic, and consist of deep residual soils that are often rocky. This system is naturally dominated by stable, uneven-aged forests, with gap-phase regeneration driving canopy dynamics.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Similar to Northeastern Interior Dry-Mesic Oak Forests, and separated from that system along purely geographic lines, in lieu of more natural ecological or floristic distinctions. The Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland system is often mapped above, the South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest or Southern and Central Appalachian Cove Forest system below.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

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

**State Distribution:** VA, WV

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 2,869,246

**Percent Conserved:** 13.4%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
WV	50%	1,438,548	29,185	76,587	1,332,776
VA	50%	1,430,698	32,298	245,038	1,153,363

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

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

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

Blue Ridge Parkway National Park | VA  
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA  
 Cabwaylingo State Forest | WV  
 Monongahela National Forest | WV  
 New River Gorge National River | WV

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** cerulean warbler, louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, red-bellied woodpecker, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, wood thrush, yellow-throated vireo

**MAMMALS:** golden mouse, meadow jumping mouse, southern bog lemming

**HERPTILES:** blanchard's cricket frog, cave salamander, common black-bellied salamander, midland mud salamander, mudpuppy, red salamander, upland chorus frog, upland chorus frog

**PLANTS:** celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), curtiss' milkwort (*Polygala curtissii*), field sedge (*Carex conoidea*), loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*), mcdowell's sunflower (*Helianthus occidentalis*), narrow melicgrass (*Melica mutica*), rusty blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*), large-flower heartleaf (*Hexastylis shuttleworthii*), dwarf rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera repens*)

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

**MAMMALS:** allegheny woodrat, eastern small-footed myotis, indiana myotis, long-tailed shrew, Rafinesque's big-eared bat, southern pygmy shrew, virginia big-eared bat

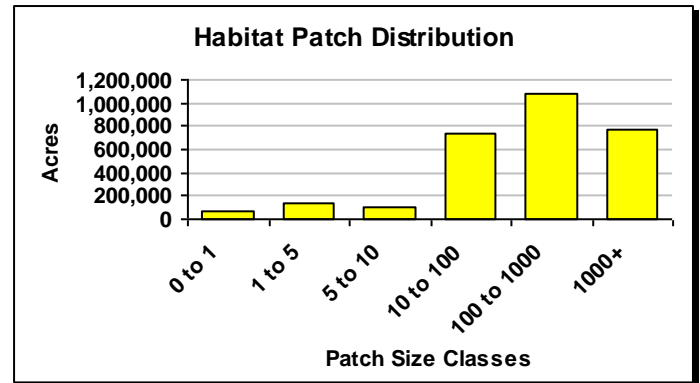
**HERPTILES:** bog turtle, timber rattlesnake

**INSECTS:** Appalachian grizzled skipper, diana fritillary, frosted elfin, green-faced clubtail, persius dusky wing, regal fritillary

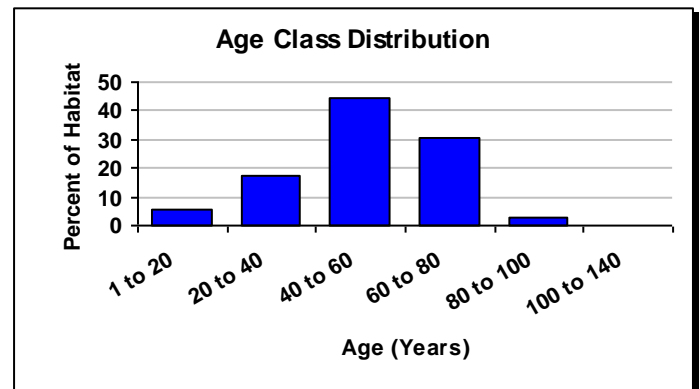
**PLANTS:** Addison's leatherflower (*Clematis addisonii*), smooth hedge-nettle (*Stachys tenuifolia*), smooth hedge-nettle (*Stachys tenuifolia*), small anthered-bittercress (*Cardamine micranthera*), canby's mountain-lover (*Paxistima canbyi*), carolina saxifrage (*Saxifraga caroliniana*), smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*), sword-leaved phlox (*Phlox buckleyi*), virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*)



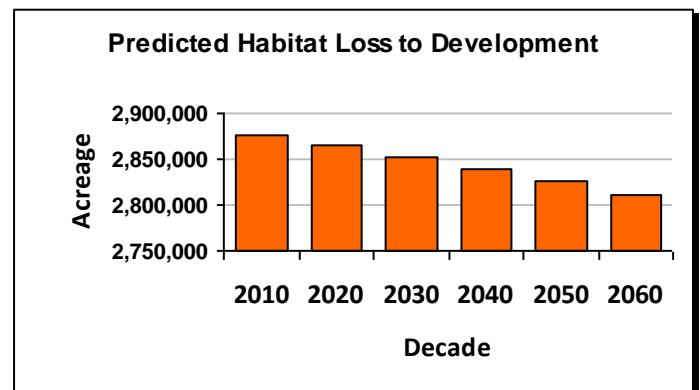
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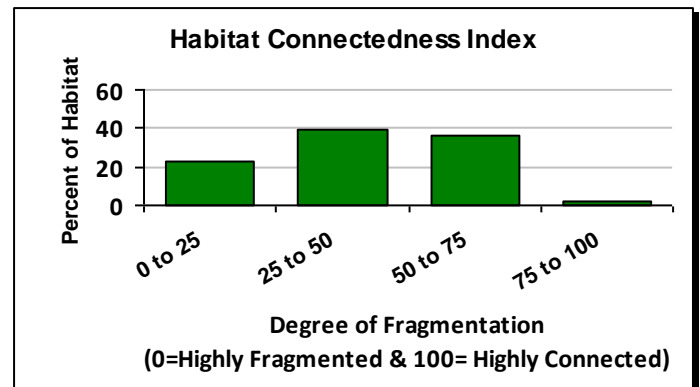
The average patch size for this habitat is 10 acres and the largest single patch is 9,777 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (65,652 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 1,313 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.