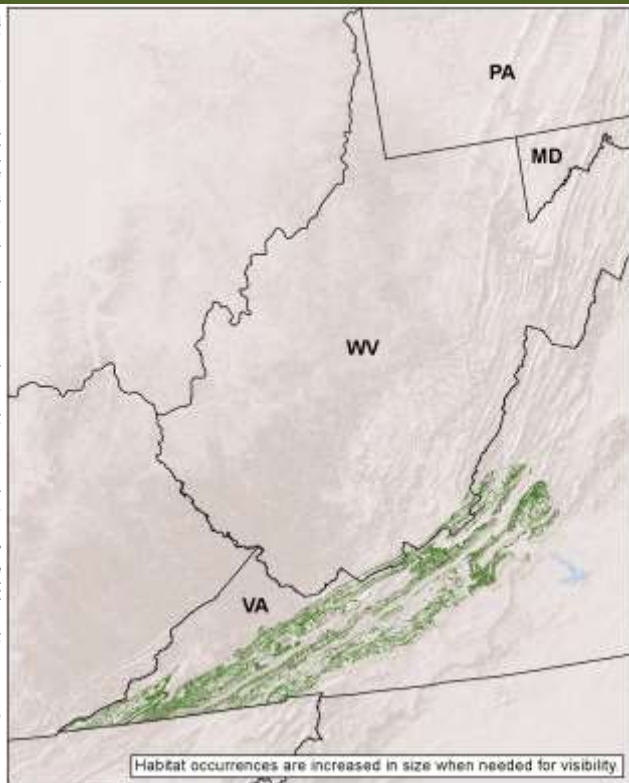


Southern Ridge and Valley / Cumberland Dry Calcareous Forest



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:

A hardwood forest of dry to dry-mesic calcareous substrates dominated by combinations of oaks (white, red, black, post, chinkapin), hickories, sugar maple, black maple, white ash, and sometimes pine and/or red-cedar. Tulip poplar and black locust are common trees in logged stands. Understory and herb layers vary from lush to sparse. These forests are the matrix vegetation type under natural conditions. Much of this system is currently composed of successional forests that have arisen after repeated cutting, clearing, and cultivation of the original forests. Endemic to the southern part of the Ridge and Valley province, it reaches only into the southwestern part of our region.

State Distribution: VA, WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 914,360

Percent Conserved: 9.5%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	97%	882,509	11,153	70,795	800,561
WV	3%	31,851	267	4,659	26,925

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Occurs on a variety of landscape positions including ridgetops and upper and midslopes, but on deeper soils than glade systems in the same area. Its range is primarily underlain by circumneutral substrates (limestone, dolomite, calcareous sandstones and shales), which influence the vegetation composition. Fire frequency and intensity are factors determining the relative mixture of hardwood and evergreen trees in this system.

Similar Habitat Types:

Southern Ridge and Valley Calcareous Glade and Woodland is a similar and overlapping system, but occurs as small patches of low canopy cover, on shallower soils at lower land positions. Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland is often on more acidic ridges upslope; Southern Appalachian Oak Forest and Southern and Central Appalachian Cove Forest are often below.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forest Habitat - Deciduous Forest (VA), Calcareous Forests and Woodlands (WV)

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Appalachian Sugar Maple - Chinkapin Oak Dry Calcareous Forest (VA), Calcareous Forests And Woodlands (WV)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Blue Ridge Parkway National Park | VA
 Falls Ridge Preserve | VA
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forest | VA
 Natural Tunnel State Park | VA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: cerulean warbler, ovenbird, red-bellied woodpecker, scarlet tanager, summer tanager

HERPTILES: black kingsnake, coal skink, common map turtle, loggerhead musk turtle, spiny softshell

PLANTS: chinkapin oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*), common eastern shooting-star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), mountain death-camas (*Zigadenus elegans*), northern leatherflower (*Clematis viorna*), purple sedge (*Carex purpurifera*), robin's-plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*), round-leaved ragwort (*Senecio obovatus*), slender muhly (*Muhlenbergia tenuiflora*), small-headed sunflower (*Helianthus microcephalus*), stiff-haired sunflower (*Helianthus hirsutus*)

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

BIRDS: appalachian Bewick's wren, black vulture

MAMMALS: allegheny woodrat, eastern small-footed myotis, gray myotis, indiana myotis, virginia big-eared bat

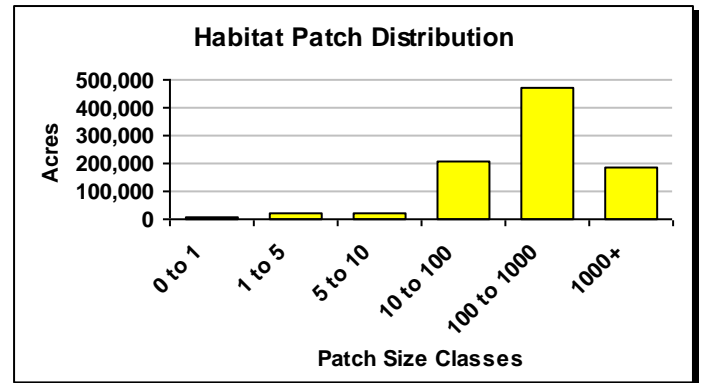
HERPTILES: hellbender, pinesnake, southern zigzag salamander

INSECTS: over 75 species of rare cave invertebrates, northern metalmark, cherokee clubtail

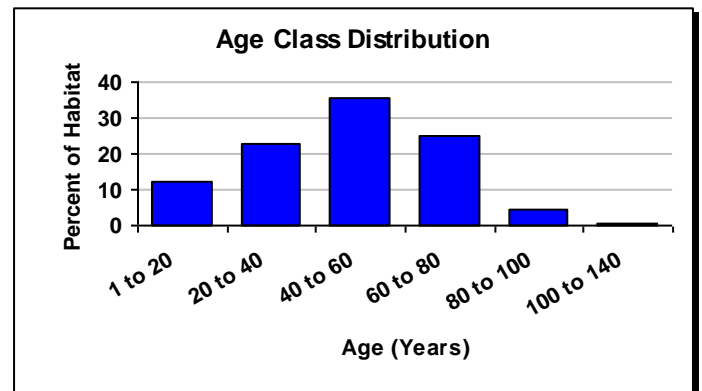
PLANTS: Addison's leatherflower (*Clematis addisonii*), appalachian bugbane (*Actaea rubifolia*), blue ridge ragwort (*Packera millefolia*), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), Canby's mountain-lover (*Paxistima canbyi*), carey's saxifrage (*Saxifraga careyana*), carolina saxifrage (*Saxifraga caroliniana*), cedar sedge (*Carex juniperorum*), Cooper's milk-vetch (*Astragalus neglectus*), flat-stemmed spikerush (*Eleocharis compressa*)



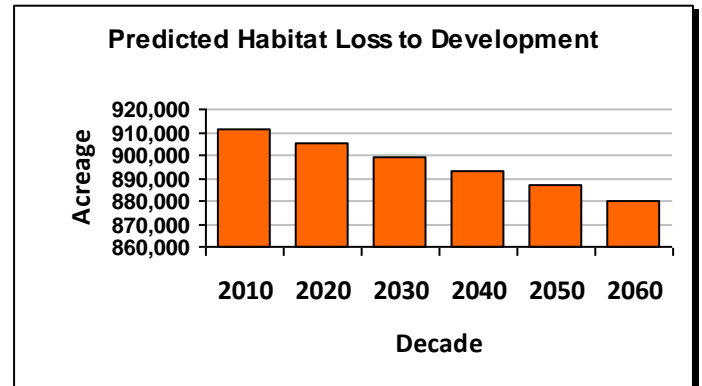
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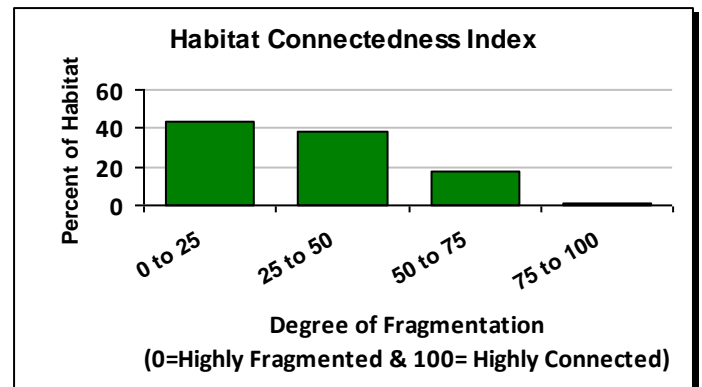
The average patch size for this habitat is 22 acres and the largest single patch is 4,828 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (31,219 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 624 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.