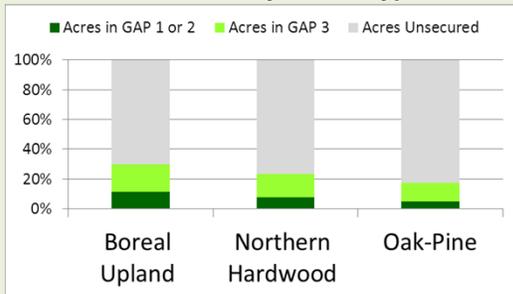


FOREST TYPES – Balancing Conservation

The huge success in forest conservation by public agencies and private entities - over 20 million acres - is cause for celebration. It is a good time to take stock of what we have accomplished and what challenges remain. We know from widespread sampling that the current forests are young and fragmented, and that they lack the key characteristics of old forests so important to natural diversity (see forest fact sheet). What do we know about the types of forests we have conserved?

Percent Secured by Forest Type



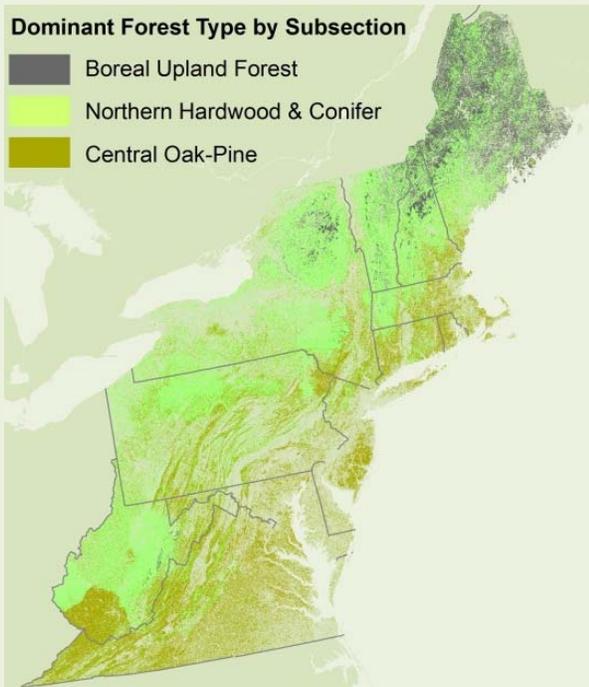
Northern Hardwood Forest



Oak-Pine Forest

Dominant Forest Type by Subsection

- Boreal Upland Forest
- Northern Hardwood & Conifer
- Central Oak-Pine



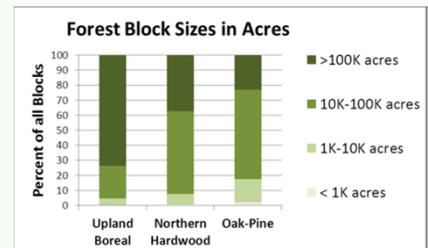
Unbalanced Conservation

Collectively, public and private entities have had the most success securing boreal upland forests (30 percent of total) and northern hardwood forests (23 percent of total).

Low elevation forests of oak and pine remain largely unsecured (17 percent of total) with only five percent secured for nature.



Boreal Upland Forest



Proportion of Large Forest Blocks

Fragmented Oak-Pine Forests

The 732,000 major roads that crisscross our region divide our forests into blocks. Oak-Pine forests have more roads and fewer large blocks than any other forest type. Small blocks of forest have less of the quiet, sheltered, and secluded forest interior habitat preferred by many forest dwelling species. Instead, each block has increased edge: exposed, noisy, and weedy regions that track the boundaries of major roads.

* The term "Northeast" and all statistics refer to the 13 New England and Mid-Atlantic states.

Underlying data developed by The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Science Office with support from the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.



Fact sheet supported by
Sweet Water Trust
www.sweetwatertrust.org

For the full report and large maps go to:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/edc/reportsdata/stateofnature>

Changing Oak–Pine Forests

Forest Birds In Transition: At least 45 bird species breed in oak-pine forests, taking advantage of the striking production of acorns and other nuts. But data indicate that the fauna of these forests are changing rapidly. Over the last four decades:

- 11 species of birds show steady declines across states
- 12 species show steep declining regional trends
- 10 species show steady increases across states
- 7 species show steep increasing regional trends*

This is markedly more change than seen in other forest types, and it may reflect the effects of fragmentation.

Change and Fragmentation: Why is there so much change in the bird populations of oak-pine forests? These forests do not differ from other forest types in average stand age or average tree diameter, and they have lower average harvest levels: 6 percent for Oak-Pine vs. 14 percent for Upland Boreal.

The increasing trends of some species - such as wild turkey and eastern bluebird - reflect successful conservation efforts. The declines and overall fauna change correlate with the degree of fragmentation. Two metrics, the percent of forest in small blocks surrounded by roads and the average fragmentation of a forest stand, reveal oak-pine forests to be more fragmented than northern hardwoods or upland boreal forests.

Steep Declines*

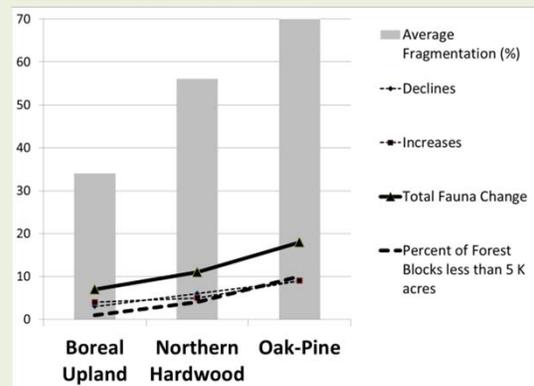


- Eastern towhee
- Northern flicker
- Brown thrasher
- Whip-poor-will
- Canada warbler

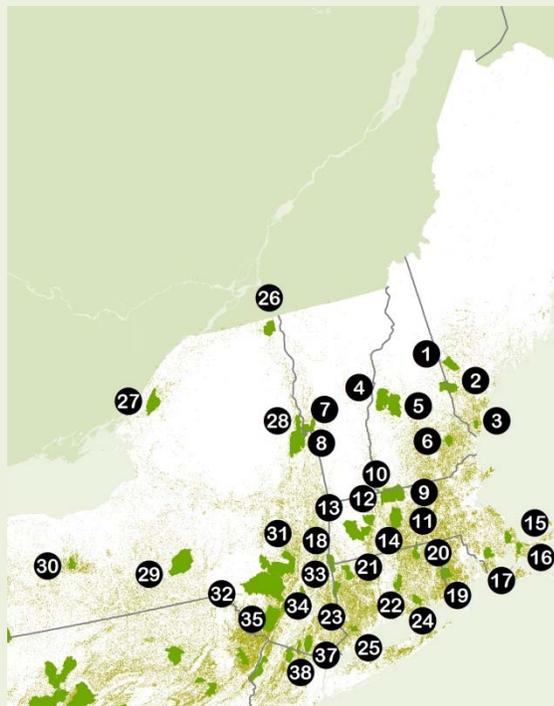
Steep Increases*



- Wild turkey
- Red-bellied woodpecker
- Pileated woodpecker
- White-breasted nuthatch



Oak-Pine Forests have the highest level of fragmentation and the least conservation.



Key Sites for Oak Pine Conservation

1. Pleasant Mountain, ME
2. Leavitt Forest, ME
3. Mt. Agamenticus Matrix, ME
4. Mascoma, NH
5. Mt. Cardigan, NH
6. Pawtuckaway, NH
7. Bomoseen, VT
8. Bald Mountain, VT
9. Royalston, MA
10. Warwick, MA
11. Quabbin, MA
12. Big Kitty/Whately, MA
13. Middlefield - Peru, MA
14. Westhampton, MA
15. Myles Standish Matrix, MA
16. Mass. Military Reservation, MA
17. Freetown-Fall River Matrix, MA
18. Mt. Washington - Mt. Riga, MA
19. Wood River Barrens/Pachaug, RI
20. Yale-Myers Forest, CT
21. Canaan Mountain, CT
22. Meshomasic State Forest, CT
23. Macedonia Brook, CT
24. Eight Mile Matrix, CT
25. Saugatuck Forest, CT
26. Lake Alice/Altona, NY
27. Black/Indian River Lakes, NY
28. Lake George/S. Bay, NY
29. Chenango Highlands, NY
30. Bristol Hills, NY
31. Sugarloaf, NY
32. Beaverkill, NY
33. Shaupeneak, NY
34. Northern Shawangunk, NY
35. Greater Bushkill, NY
36. Allegheny State Park, NY
37. Harriman, NY
38. Ringwood, NY

* Full sized map at <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/edc/reportsdata/stateofnature>

* Numbers are based on declines in 3 or more states, and regional trend over 2 degrees slope.