



Macrogroup: Southern 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 mosaic of forests and shrublands of Atlantic Coast barrier islands and similar coastal strands, from Virginia Beach to central South Carolina. Seldom more than 2 miles from the ocean, areas are influenced by salt spray, extreme disturbance events, and the distinctive climate of the immediate coast. Salt-tolerant evergreen tree species are most common, particularly live oak, wax-myrtle, and loblolly pine. Also included are embedded freshwater depressional wetlands dominated by shrubs or small trees, such as red maple, swamp tupelo, stiff dogwood, or swamp bay. The ocean's moderation of climate may be a significant factor in the character of this system; a number of plant species extend much farther north in the maritime forests than they do even a few miles inland.

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

This system requires some shelter from the ocean (high dunes or extensive sand flats) to develop. It may occur from the top of interior dunes to wet swales. Soils are sandy, except for mucks in the wettest swamps, and range from excessively drained to permanently saturated. The destruction of dunes by storms or slow movement of dunes may quickly or slowly destroy the environment this system needs. Fire is probably not an important disturbance.

Similar Habitat Types:

The prominence of evergreen trees distinguished this system from Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Maritime Forest. There is a zone where both evergreen and deciduous forests occur (from approximately Nags Head, North Carolina, to Virginia Beach, Virginia), making the geographic boundary between the two systems somewhat unclear.

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Forest Habitat - Coniferous Forest (VA)

State Distribution: VA

Total Habitat Acreage: 6,295

Percent Conserved: 88.7%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
VA	100%	6,295	525	5,059	711

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Maritime Mixed Deciduous Forest (VA)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge | VA
False Cape State Park | VA
First Landing State Park | VA

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: boat-tailed grackle, carolina wren, eastern towhee, fish crow, fox sparrow, great crested flycatcher, northern cardinal, northern parula, ruby-crowned kinglets, solitary vireo, yellow throated warbler, yellow-rumped warblers

MAMMALS: barking tree frog

HERPTILES: chicken turtle

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

BIRDS: bald eagle

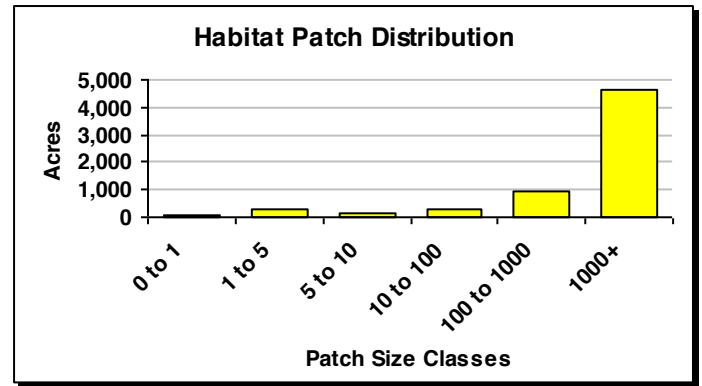
MAMMALS: Rafinesque's big-eared bat

INSECTS: a gnaphosid spider (*Drassylus louisianus*)

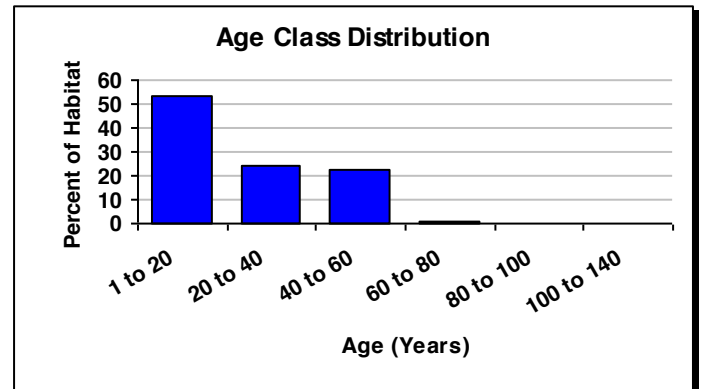
PLANTS: baldwin's spikerush (*Eleocharis baldwinii*), big-head rush (*Juncus megacephalus*), branching bur-reed (*Sparganium androcladum*), dixie broomspurge (*Chamaesyce bombensis*), Eaton's ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes eatonii*), elliott's aster (*Symphotrichum elliotii*), fasciculate beakrush (*Rhynchospora fascicularis*), fibrous bladderwort (*Utricularia fibrosa*), long beach seedbox (*Ludwigia brevipes*), long-beaked baldrush (*Rhynchospora scirpoides*), pineland tick-trefoil (*Desmodium strictum*), saltmarsh spikerush (*Eleocharis halophila*)



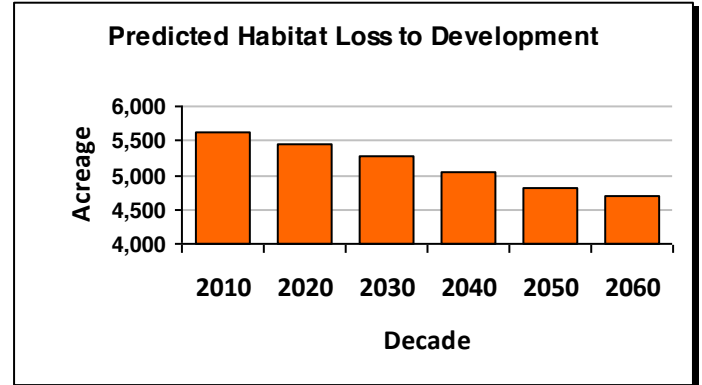
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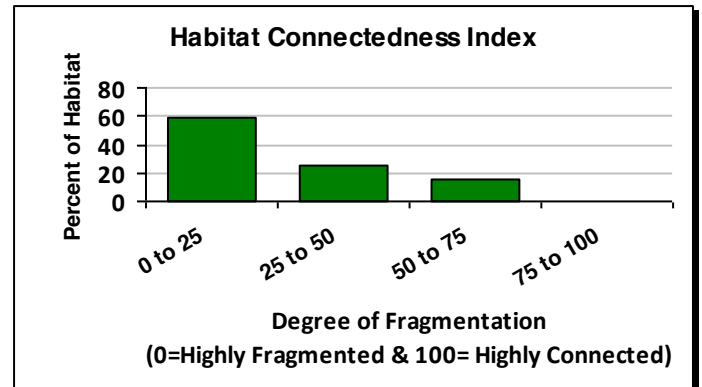
The average patch size for this habitat is 12 acres and the largest single patch is 2,447 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (933 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 19 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.