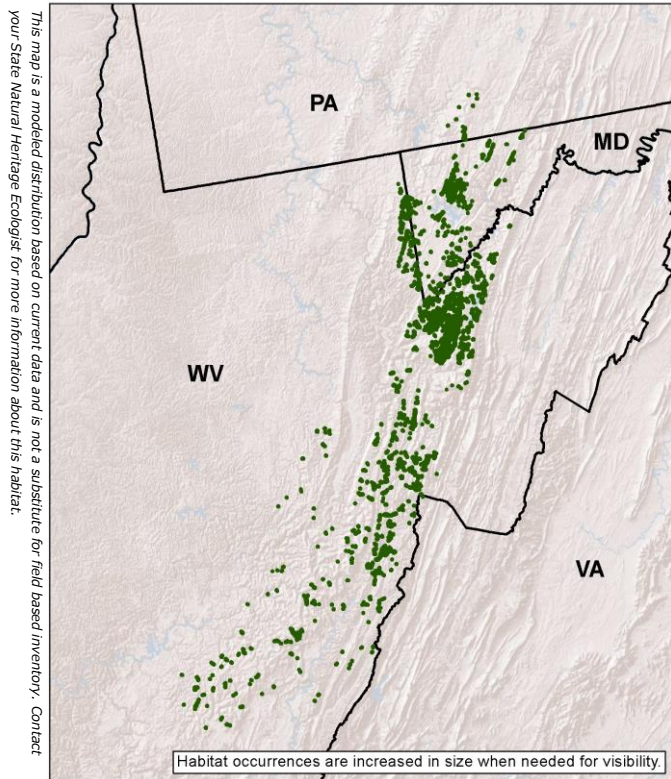


Macrogroup: Northern Swamp



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Description:

A wetland complex of forested swamps, shrub swamps, wet meadows and open marshes occurring at high elevations (2400 to 5000 feet) along the high plateau of the Allegheny Mountains. They are mostly in West Virginia, and range in size from a few hectares to about 6000 hectares. Forested swamps are dominated by red spruce, with red maple, hemlock, and yellow birch. Where calcareous bedrock influences seepage water, balsam fir and black ash are typical. Common shrubs are nannyberry, great rhododendron, alder, blueberry, bushy St. Johnswort, winterberry, and black chokeberry. Peat mosses and haircap mosses form a well-developed bryophyte layer. Bogs may occur in undisturbed portions of larger wetlands.

State Distribution: MD, PA, VA, WV

Total Habitat Acreage: 27,695

Percent Conserved: 52.0%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
WV	85%	23,437	11,076	2,253	10,109
MD	15%	4,143	959	118	3,066
PA	0%	112	0	4	108
VA	0%	3	3	0	0

Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

These wetlands form where drainage is impounded in high, flat-lying basins by natural dams of resistant sandstone. They are maintained by a mix of seepage, low-energy flooding, beaver activity, and plentiful rainfall. The poorly-drained soils, typically peat-based and acidic to circumneutral, are drained by low-gradient, meandering, headwater streams. Cold air frost pockets are common.

Similar Habitat Types:

The colder climates of high elevations, and the distinct environmental setting, drive the structure and composition of these wetlands and distinguish them from others in the region.

Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Bog And Fen Wetland Complexes (MD), Mixed Forb – Graminoid Wet Meadow (PA), Central Appalachian / High Allegheny Seepage Bog (VA), High Allegheny Bogs And Fens (WV)

Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Bog and Fen Wetland Complexes (MD), High Allegheny Bogs and Fens (WV), High Allegheny Swamp (WV)

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Canaan Valley State Park | WV
Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge | WV

Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: alder flycatcher, american woodcock, blackburnian warbler, black-throated green warbler, red-shouldered hawk, wilson's snipe

MAMMALS: snowshoe hare

PLANTS: retrorse sedge (*Carex retrorsa*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), cyperus-like sedge (*Carex pseudocyperus*), downy willowherb (*Epilobium strictum*), dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium pusillum*), hoary sedge (*Carex canescens*), purple fringeless orchid (*Platanthera peramoena*), rough-leaved aster (*Eurybia radula*), twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)

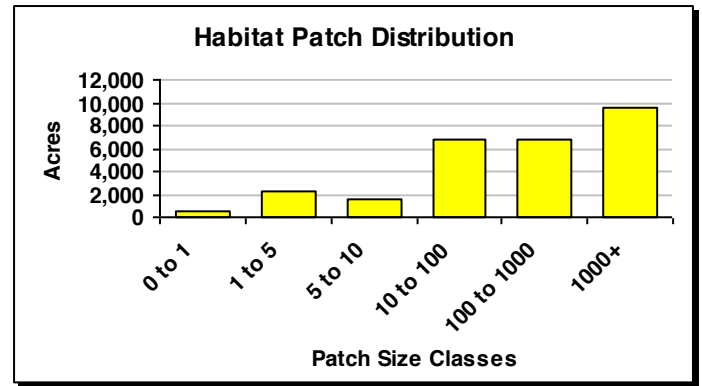
Species of Concern (G1-G4): *Appendix lists scientific names*

BIRDS: american bittern

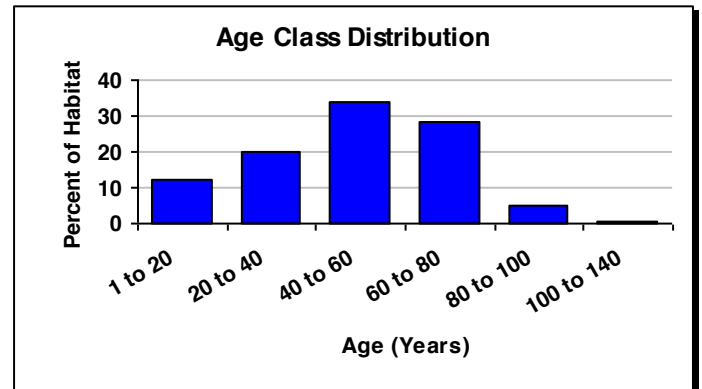
HERPTILES: bog turtle



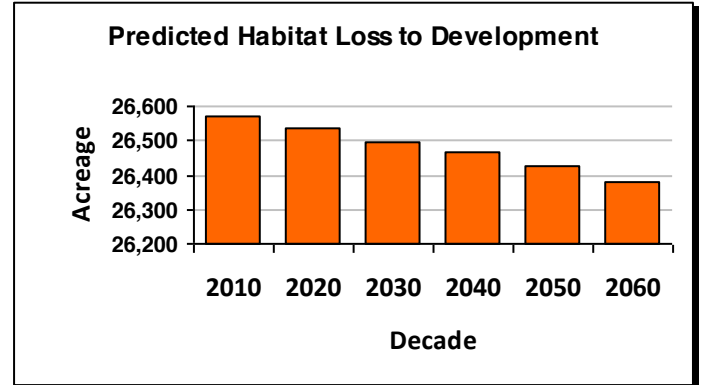
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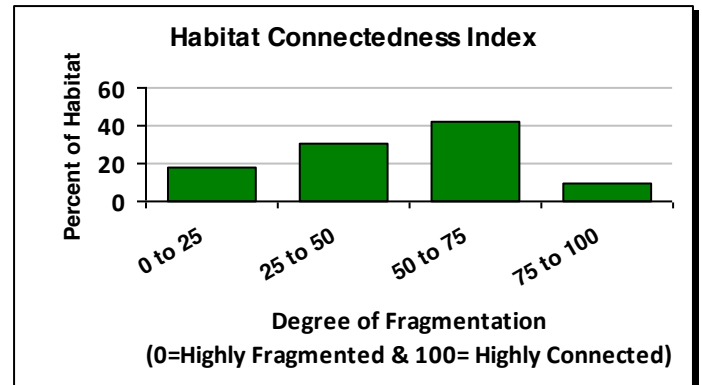
The average patch size for this habitat is 9 acres and the largest single patch is 6,345 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



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 (194 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 4 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.