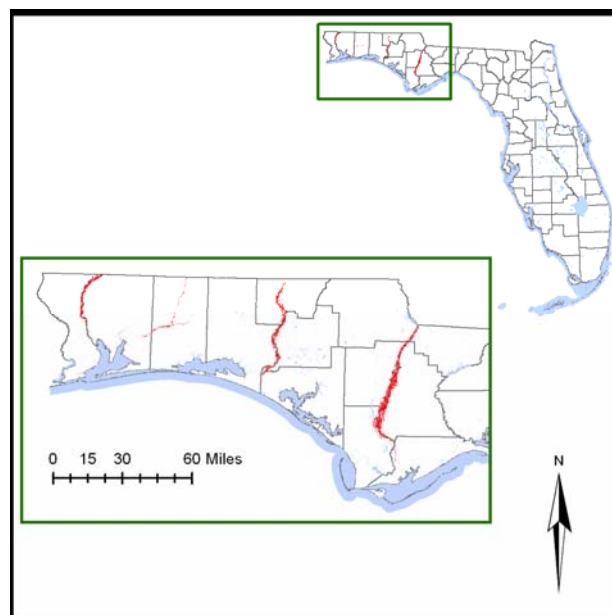


Bottomland Hardwood Forest



Status

Current condition: Good and unknown trend. According to the best available GIS information at this time (see Appendix D. GIS Data Tables), 84,141 acres (34,051 ha) of Bottomland Hardwood Forest habitat exist, of which 58% (48,778 ac; 19,740 ha) are in conservation or managed areas. Another 5% (4,721 ac; 1,911 ha) are in Florida Forever projects and 25% (20,647 ac; 8,356 ha) are in SHCA-designated lands. The remaining 12% (9,995 ac; 4,045 ha) are other private lands.



Some habitat distributions or locations may be misrepresented on this map due to size, resolution and insufficient data sources.

Habitat Description

FNAI type: Floodplain Forest, Floodplain Swamp, Freshwater Tidal Swamp

These seasonally flooded wetland forests are composed of a diverse assortment of hydric hardwoods which occur on the rich alluvial soils of silt and clay deposited along the floodplain of several Panhandle rivers including the Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, and Escambia. These communities are characterized by an overstory that includes water hickory, overcup oak, swamp chestnut oak, river birch, American sycamore, red maple, Florida elm, bald cypress, blue beech, and swamp ash. The understory can range from open and park-like to dense and nearly impenetrable. Understory plants can include bluestem palmetto, hackberry, swamp azalea, pink azalea lanceleaf greenbrier, poison ivy, peppervine, rattanvine, indigo bush, white grass, plume grass, redtop panicum, caric sedges, silverbells, crossvine, American wisteria, and wood grass. In Bottomland Hardwood Forests, soils and hydroperiods primarily determine the diverse temporary and

permanent species composition along with community structure. Additionally, the rich organic material that accumulates on the forest floor is carried off by flooding waters during the wet season, and therefore provides an essential source of minerals and nutrients for downstream ecosystems such as estuarine systems.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Mammals

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • <i>Myotis austroriparius</i> | Southeastern Bat |
| • <i>Myotis grisescens</i> | Gray Bat |
| • <i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> | Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat |
| • <i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i> | Eastern Pipistrelle |
| • <i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i> | Florida Black Bear |
| • <i>Lutra canadensis lataxina</i> | River Otter |
| • <i>Mustela vison mink</i> | Common Mink |

Birds

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| • <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i> | Yellow-crowned Night-Heron |
| • <i>Elanoides forficatus</i> | Swallow-tailed Kite |
| • <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i> | Mississippi Kite |
| • <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Bald Eagle |
| • <i>Buteo platypterus platypterus</i> | Broad-winged Hawk |
| • <i>Picoides villosus</i> | Hairy Woodpecker |
| • <i>Campephilus principalis</i> | Ivory-billed Woodpecker |
| • <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> | Wood Thrush |
| • <i>Dendroica dominica stoddardi</i> | Stoddard's Yellow-throated Warbler |
| • <i>Oporornis formosus</i> | Kentucky Warbler |
| • <i>Wilsonia citrina</i> | Hooded Warbler |

Amphibians

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • <i>Amphiuma pholeter</i> | One-toed Amphiuma |
| • <i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i> | Southern Dusky Salamander |
| • <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> | Four-toed Salamander |

Reptiles

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> | Alligator Snapping Turtle |
| • <i>Terrapene carolina major</i> | Gulf Coast Box Turtle |
| • <i>Nerodia cyclopion</i> | Mississippi Green Water Snake |
| • <i>Farancia erythrogramma</i> | Rainbow Snake |
| • <i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i> | Copperhead |

Fish

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| • <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i> | Gulf Sturgeon |
| • <i>Atractosteus spatula</i> | Alligator Gar |
| • <i>Hybognathus hayi</i> | Cypress Minnow |
| • <i>Etheostoma proeliare</i> | Cypress Darter |

Invertebrates

- *Utterbackia peninsularis* Peninsular Floater
- *Sphodros rufipes* Red-legged Purse-web Spider

Conservation Threats

Threats to Bottomland Hardwood Forest habitat that were also identified for multiple other habitats are addressed in the Chapter Multiple Habitat Threats and Conservation Actions. These threats include:

- Invasive animals
- Invasive plants
- Roads

No habitat-specific threats to Bottomland Hardwood Forest were identified.

The following stresses and sources of stress threaten this habitat:

Stresses		Habitat Stress Rank
A	Altered species composition/dominance	High
B	Altered community structure	Medium
C	Missing key communities, functional guilds, or seral stages	Medium
D	Altered hydrologic regime	Medium
E	Fragmentation of habitats, communities, ecosystems	Medium

The sources of stress, or threats, were used to generate conservation actions.

Sources of Stress		Habitat Source Rank	Related Stresses (see above)
1	Roads	Medium	A
2	Invasive plants	Medium	A
3	Invasive animals	Medium	A
Statewide Threat Rank of Habitat		Medium	

Conservation Actions

Actions to abate the threats to Bottomland Hardwood Forest that were also identified as statewide threats (Invasive animals, Invasive plants, Roads) are in the Chapter Multiple Habitat Threats and Conservation Actions. Because the experts did not identify any Bottomland Hardwood Forest habitat-specific threats, no specific actions were identified.