

Red Pine Woodland

State Rank S3

Community Description

These open canopy woodlands (30-75% closure) are dominated by red pine. Associated canopy species vary among sites and include white pine, red spruce, or paper birch. The shrub layer includes scattered red spruce, red maple, paper birch, or gray birch. The herb layer varies in extent, but usually features heath shrubs and scattered forbs or bracken fern; graminoids are virtually absent. Bryoids are patchy and usually consist of types associated with somewhat dry conditions such as reindeer lichens.

Soil and Site Characteristics

Sites are flat to moderately sloping and occupy low ridges or upper slopes. Most sites are inland. The substrate is usually thin soil or organic duff (<20 cm) over bedrock. Evidence of past fire is often found.

Diagnostics

Sites are distinguished by open canopy (<65%) woodlands, usually on bedrock; with red pine dominant and

oaks and northern hardwoods lacking; the herb layer is dominated by dwarf shrubs and few graminoids.

Similar Types

Red Pine - White Pine Forests have more complete canopy (>75%), usually lack a well developed dwarf shrub layer, and occur on deeper sandy soils. Oak - Pine Woodlands may have red pine as a component species but will have red oak or northern hardwoods as dominant trees and usually possess a more extensive graminoid cover.

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

These occur as small patches, usually on



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upper slopes or hilltops. Maintaining representative examples is best accomplished by retaining adjacent forest cover as buffer. Most sites have fire evidence, and fire may be required for regeneration or persistence of this type.

Common nighthawks and whip-poor-wills may nest in open patches within red pine woodlands. This community type may include rare moths that utilize hard pines as larval host plants such as the oblique zale, southern pine sphinx, and pine pinion.

Distribution

New England - Adirondack Province and Laurentian Mixed Forest Province, extending westward, northward, and presumably eastward from Maine.

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Albany Notch, White Mountain National Forest – Oxford Co.
- Norumbega Mountain, Acadia National Park – Hancock Co.
- Tunk Lake Area, Donnell Pond Public Lands – Hancock Co.

Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

Canopy

Paper birch
Red maple
Red pine*
Red spruce
White pine

Sapling/shrub

Black chokeberry
Gray birch*
Mountain holly
Paper birch*
Red maple
Red spruce
White pine

Dwarf Shrub

Black huckleberry
Lowbush blueberry*
Sheep laurel*

Herb

Bracken fern
Bunchberry
Canada mayflower
Wintergreen

Bryoid

Grey reindeer-lichen
Grimmia rock-moss

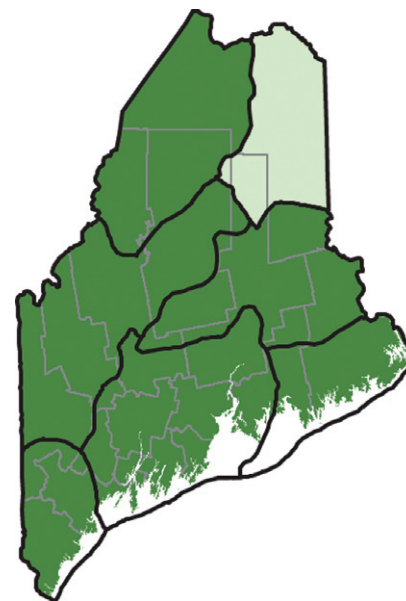
Associated Rare Plants

Canada mountain-ricegrass
Swarthy sedge

Associated Rare Animals

Oblique zale
Pine pinion
Southern pine sphinx

Location Map



Community is known from this Ecoregion
 Community may occur in this Ecoregion
 Bailey's Ecoregion
 County



Wintergreen (aka Teaberry)