

Montane Red Oak Forests

Ecoregions

- Allegheny Mountains
- Ridge and Valley
- Cumberland Mountains

Description

Montane red oak forest accounts for 0.1% of all state area. Montane Red Oak forests are forests dominated by Red Oak at high elevations in the Ridge and Valley Ecoregion and along the border with Virginia on Allegheny Mountain in the Allegheny Mountains Ecoregion. Other oaks and hickories are generally excluded and canopy height is stunted due to severe climate. There is usually abundant coarse woody debris and an open canopy structure due to tree damage from wind and ice storms. Associated trees include Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Black Cherry and Sweet Birch. Common subcanopy trees and shrubs include Striped Maple, Witch Hazel, and Mountain Holly. Some stands have shrub layers dominated by heaths. Herb layers are variable, with variants dominated by combinations of grasses, forbes, and ferns.

Plant communities

This forest type supports a number of rare plant communities, as identified in the table below.

Common Name	G-Rank
Natural Red Pine Forest	G1
High-Elevation Boulderfield Forest	G2
Red Spruce / Heath Rocky Woodland	G2
High Elevation Sandstone Boulderfield	G2?

Species

This forest type supports one known Species of Greatest Conservation Need; others may occur but are not known at this time.

Scientific Name	Common Name	G-Rank
<i>Bombus affinis</i>	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	G2