



CRANESVILLE SWAMP



DID YOU KNOW?

- Cranesville Swamp is famous for its larch (tamarack) trees, which reach their southernmost extent in the USA in Cranesville Swamp.
- This site was protected by The Nature Conservancy in stages, beginning in 1960. The total acreage of Cranesville Swamp is 1,780 with 1,112 acres in MD and 688 in WV.
- Colder conditions in this frost-pocket allow plant communities to contain many species that are typically found far to the north in New England or Canada.

Management challenges include lack of natural forested buffer leading to fertilizer runoff and sedimentation; runoff from adjacent roads; invasive plants, hydrological alteration, climate change, and rising water level along the trail.



Past, present and future management actions include additional protection in buffer areas; invasive plant control; replanting of native red spruce trees to increase habitat value, forest cover, groundwater recharge, rebuild soils, and store carbon; monitoring water level to inform future hydrological restoration and future boardwalk design.

Cranesville Swamp is a unique ecosystem because:



several rare or threatened species can be found within the swamp.



organic-rich soils and dense root mats capture pollutants and nutrients, helping to purify the water.



it was formed more than 10,000 years ago at the end of the Ice Age.



it is a high-elevation headwater frost-pocket swamp and peatland.



Public use of this area includes birdwatching, botanical/nature studies, and hiking. There is also a boardwalk with informational signage.

BIRDS YOU MAY SEE:

- Black-billed cuckoo
- Black-throated blue warbler
- Blue-winged warbler
- Canada warbler
- Common yellowthroat
- Hooded merganser
- Red-winged blackbird



Cranesville Swamp is located in Preston County, WV and Garrett County, MD along Feather Road. 39.53177, -79.48555