

#18 [*Cercocarpus montanus* - *Garrya wrightii*] / Mixed Perennial Grass Wooded Shrub Savanna Association (P)

[Mountain mahogany - Wright's silktassel] / Mixed Perennial Grass Wooded Shrub Savanna Association

This community is characterized by a moderately dense (20%) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) co-dominated by mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) and Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), with a variable (20–40%) field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by a diverse and variable mix of perennial bunch grasses. Both subcanopy dominants provide an average of 10% cover across the community, with the highest cover (up to 25%) occurring in close proximity to bedrock outcrops and/or where surface rock cover is high. These species may present as co-dominants, but often one or the other is the sole dominant. Common sotol (*D. wheeleri*) and beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*) are sparse but consistent species that each provide around 2% cover. The dominant perennial grass typically consists of four species: sideoats grama (*B. curtipendula*), cane bluestem (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*), bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*), and single threeawn (*Aristida schiedeana*). On average, these species provide around 4–6% cover each, but can range up to 25% in some locations. Local dominance can be quite variable, with one species or a mix of many defining the grass component.

Common species

Cercocarpus montanus
Garrya wrightii
Bothriochloa barbinodis
Muhlenbergia emersleyi
Aristida schiedeana

Overall, this community covers 9.0% (175 ha, 432 ac) of the park, predominately on moderately steep (15–50%), south-facing mountain backslopes and summits at 1,760–2,080 meters (5,774 to 6,824 ft). The main occurrences of this community are along the ridgeline west of Montezuma Peak and on the slopes surrounding Coronado Peak.

