

#19 [*Cercocarpus montanus* - *Rhus virens*] Shrubby Rock Outcrop (P)

[Mountain mahogany - Evergreen sumac] Shrubby Rock Outcrop

This shrubby rock outcrop community is characterized by a moderately dense (30%) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) co-dominated by mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) and evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*), with a field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by a mix of perennial grasses. The sub-dominants can range from small (1 m), shrubby individuals to large (3 m), tree-like individuals, with each providing around 10–12% throughout. Wright's beebush (*Aloysia wrightii*), common sotol (*Dasylirion wheeleri*), gumhead (*Gymnosperma glutinosum*) and Palmer's agave (*Agave palmeri*) are the most consistent associates. The perennial grass component is dominated by the invasive, Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*), with a mix of natives, including bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*), Plains lovegrass (*Eragrostis intermedia*), green sprangletop (*Leptochloa dubia*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), and cliff muhly (*Muhlenbergia polycaulis*).

Common species

Cercocarpus montanus

Rhus virens

Eragrostis lehmanniana

Muhlenbergia emersleyi

Eragrostis intermedia

Overall, this community covers 1.7% (32 ha, 79 ac) of the park, exclusively on steep (50+%), south- to southeast-facing mountain backslopes and summits at 1,800–2,190 meters (5,900–7,185 ft). The surface cover is characterized by a mix of loose rock and gravel with conspicuous and widespread exposed bedrock. The main occurrence of this community within the park is on upper backslopes on the southern aspect of Bob Thompson Peak.

