

#24 (*Agave palmeri* - *Mimosa aculeaticarpa*) / Mixed Perennial Grass (*Calliandra eriophylla*) Herbaceous Association (P)

(Palmer's century plant - Catclaw mimosa) / Mixed Perennial Grass (Fairyduster) Herbaceous Association

This herbaceous community is characterized by a sparse (<5%) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) defined by the common associates, Palmer's century plant (*Agave palmeri*) and catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*), with a dense (66%) field stratum (<0.5%) dominated by a mix of perennial grasses and the low shrub, fairyduster (*Calliandra eriophylla*). Palmer's century plant (*A. palmeri*) provides consistent 3% cover throughout, while catclaw mimosa (*M. aculeaticarpa*) contributes similar, but patchy, cover. Other noteworthy shrubs include common sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*), Wright's beebush (*Aloysia wrightii*), Tahitian kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*), and beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*). The field stratum is dominated by a dense (~50%) mix of native and non-native perennial grasses, as well as the low shrub, fairyduster (*Calliandra eriophylla*). The non-native grasses are predominately composed of Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*), with average cover of around 40%. Spidergrass (*Aristida ternipes*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), and tanglehead (*Heteropogon contortus*) provide the highest and most consistent cover of the native grasses, with cover for each around 5%. The other major field component, fairyduster (*C. eriophylla*), provides a consistent 5% low-growing cover throughout, with rare inclusions of dominance where cover approaches 18%.

Common species

Agave palmeri
Mimosa aculeaticarpa
Eragrostis lehmanniana
Calliandra eriophylla
Bouteloua curtipendula

Overall, this community covers 9% (172 ha, 425 ac) of the park, primarily on the south-facing foot- and toeslopes along the eastern end of Smugglers Ridge, on the low hills south of Bob Thompson Peak, and occasionally intermixed with the non-native grassland in the park's southeast corner.

