

#1 *Chilopsis linearis* Shrubland Association

Desert willow Shrubland Association

This shrubland community is found within the greater floodplain areas and is characterized by a subcanopy (0.5–2 m) and canopy (2–5 m) dominated by desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*). This species typically presents in a shrubby form, with heights ranging between 1 and 4 meters, but can occasionally appear as a small tree, especially in less-disturbed stands higher above the active floodplain. Average total cover of this species varies greatly across this type, from moderate cover of 18% to dense stands of up to 66%. Singlewhorl burrobrush (*Ambrosia monogyra*) is an inconsistent associate, with scattered patches mixed throughout the community. Cover is generally low, only averaging 2%, but can be locally abundant and rarely appear co-dominant with desert willow (*C. linearis*). Other noteworthy, low-cover shrub species include Chihuahuan brickellbush (*Brickellia floribunda*), desert broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*), Emory's baccharis (*Baccharis emoryi*), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*). Cover of herbaceous species is highly variable, ranging from 3 to 70%, mainly comprising a suite of non-native, annual grasses, including ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and mouse barley (*Hordeum murinum*).

Common species

- *Ambrosia monogyra*
- *Brickellia floribunda*
- *Bromus diandrus*
- *Bromus tectorum*
- *Chilopsis linearis*
- *Hordeum murinum*

This shrubland occurs mainly at the Castle unit, covering around 5% (16 ha/40 ac) of the total area, exclusively in the highly disturbed floodplain of Beaver Creek. While present at the Well unit, it provides little cover and is always intermixed with the widespread riparian woodland and mesquite bosque communities. In general, the ground cover is characterized by bare, sandy soils with large cobbles interspersed throughout. Large riparian trees are often present along the edge of these communities, including Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), velvet ash (*Fraxinus velutina*), Arizona alder (*Alnus oblongifolia*), and Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*).

