

## #11 *Typha domingensis* (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*) Herbaceous Association (P)

### Southern cattail (Softstem bulrush) Herbaceous Association (P)

This herbaceous community is characterized by a subcanopy stratum (0.5–< 2 m) dominated by southern cattail (*Typha domingensis*) and one common associate, softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*). Southern cattail (*T. domingensis*) forms a dense matrix, up to 2.5 m tall, with cover often approaching 90%. Softstem bulrush (*S. tabernaemontani*) provides far less cover, but is a conspicuous associate species, especially at the margins of the community.

This community is often in close proximity to the nearby riparian woodlands, and, as such, contains occasional large tree species, specifically, Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), and Arizona ash (*Fraxinus velutina*). The field stratum (<0.5 m) contains a diverse, low-cover mix of obligate and facultative wetland species, including: Parish's spikerush (*Eleocharis parishii*), fescue (*Schedonorus* sp.), smooth horsetail (*Equisetum laevigatum*), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), wild mint (*Mentha arvensis*), swamp carex (*Carex senta*), and Rocky mountain rush (*Juncus saximontanus*). These species are very sparse and are usually only present at the margins of the community where southern cattail (*T. domingensis*) is less common.

This herbaceous community spans low-angle, usually still, stretches of Beaver Creek, covering around 0.22% (1 ha/2 ac) of the Castle unit. Ground cover ranges from water-saturated soils, often covered with dead cattail stems, at the margins of the creek to areas of standing water. At times, this community can cover the entire width of the watercourse, but is generally confined to its margins.

#### Common species

- *Typha domingensis*
- *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*

