

## 11. *Quercus grisea* / Mixed Perennial Grass (*Artemisia dracunculus*) Post-Fire Shrubland and Herbaceous Association (P)

### Gray oak / Mixed Perennial Grass (Tarragon) Post-Fire Shrubland and Herbaceous Association (P)

This community is in a seral stage of post-fire regeneration, occupying areas that were primarily oak shrublands or herbaceous-dominated communities before the fire. Vegetation is somewhat variable in terms of cover and associated species, but has consistent presence and dominance of gray oak (*Quercus grisea*) in the subcanopy (0.5–2 m) and field (<0.5 m) layers, along with the common associate, tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*). Cover of gray oak (*Q. grisea*) ranges from 2% to 8%, typically exhibiting a shrubby habit resprouting from the base of burned trunks. Pre-fire, most examples of this type were likely gray oak (*Q. grisea*) shrublands, with some individuals reaching almost 2 meters tall. Tarragon (*A. dracunculus*) is present in all but one example of this type, with cover ranging from 1% to 4%. Trees and other shrubs are accidental and uncommon. The field layer (<0.5 m) is dominated by perennial bunchgrasses, with average total cover around 20%, with many areas ranging up to 35%. Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), bristly wolfstail (*Muhlenbergia alopecuroides*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), spidergrass (*Aristida ternipes*), and purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*) are the most common dominant or co-dominant species.

This type is found on low-gradient (<5% slope), north-facing foot- and toeslopes adjacent to the Gila River floodplain, predominantly on the south side of the river, from 1,737 to 1,761 meters (5,700–5,780 ft). These low-slope areas are essentially broad, flat, meadow-like openings surrounded by forest and woodland on the surrounding steeper slopes. This association covers 3.25% (34.00 ha/80.03 ac) of the project area and 2.93% (6.24 ha/15.41 ac) of the monument, exclusively in the northwest corner of the main unit.

#### Common species

- *Quercus grisea*
- *Artemisia dracunculus*
- *Bouteloua gracilis*
- *Bouteloua curtipendula*
- *Muhlenbergia alopecuroides*

