

12. *Quercus grisea* / *Sphaeralcea fendleri* Post-fire Shrubland and Herbaceous Association (P)

Gray oak / Fendler's globemallow Post-fire Shrubland and Herbaceous Association (P)

This community is in a seral stage of post-fire regeneration, occupying areas that were primarily pine woodlands and forests—specifically, ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper types. 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 dominant Fendler's globemallow (*Sphaeralcea fendleri*), primarily in the field stratum. Cover of gray oak (*Q. grisea*) ranges from 1% to 3%, but can be higher (5–15%) in areas where pre-fire cover was elevated or fire intensity was less severe. This species typically exhibits a shrubby habit resprouting from the base of burned trunks. Fendler's globemallow (*S. fendleri*) is often, but not always, the dominant plant in the field (or subcanopy) layer, but can be absent or just an associate with cover values from ranging from <1% to 18%, with an average around 8%. Other species may have cover values approaching or exceeding that of Fendler's globemallow (*S. fendleri*), including Carruth's sagewort (*Artemisia carruthii*) and/or Colorado four o'clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*), usually with one or the other providing patchy, local dominance. These species might be replaced or found in lower abundance in later successional communities. In some map units, blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) is a low-cover associate. Areas that did not burn completely have residual trees providing up to 2% cover; these can include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), two-needle pinyon (*Pinus edulis*), oneseed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), and alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*). Depending on the pre-fire community, the regenerating oak species may be Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), not gray oak (*Q. grisea*). This is typically only in drainages and on steep, north-facing slopes, where the pre-fire woodlands were more like the *Pseudotsuga menziesii* - *Quercus gambelii* Forest Association.

This type is found on north-facing backslopes and ridgelines above the Gila River floodplain, predominantly on the south side of the river from 1,828 to 1,920 meters (6,000–6,300 ft). This association covers 10.26 % (107.48 ha/265.61 ac) of the project area and 7.25% (15.5 ha/38.27 ac) of the monument, exclusively in the main unit.

Common species

- *Quercus grisea*
- *Sphaeralcea fendleri*
- *Mirabilis multiflora*
- *Artemisia carruthii*
- *Bouteloua gracilis*

