13. Robinia neomexicana Shrubland Association (P)

New Mexico locust Shrubland Association (P)

This shrubland association is characterized by a subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) dominated by New Mexico locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), with a sparse herbaceous understory and little to no tree cover. Cover of New Mexico locust (*R. neomexicana*) varies from a sparse 5% to a dense 50%, where it can be thicket-like and hard to move through. Other noteworthy but sparse shrubs and small trees include trumpet gooseberry (*Ribes leptanthum*) and com-

Common species

- Robinia neomexicana
- Vitis arizonica
- Populus angustifolia
- Quercus gambelii
- Pinus ponderosa

mon hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*). Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*) is an inconsistent subshrub that occasionally provides cover approaching that of New Mexico locust (*R. neomexicana*). Vines are common throughout the subshrub/shrub layer, including canyon grape (*Vitis arizonica*), common hop (*Humulus lupulus*), western white clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). In general, this type occurs in areas with recent fire disturbance, where the canopy has been completely consumed or single ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), and/or Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) remain.

This vegetation type is strongly associated with the riparian corridor. It is found growing on steep slopes immediately adjacent to the floodplain, and in canyon mouths. Aspect is generally north/northeast. Elevation ranges from 1,706 to 1,804 meters (5,600–5,920 ft). When present at the margins of the riparian corridor, surface cover is generally dominated by loose rock and gravel, with occasional patches of bedrock. Overall, this association covers 0.27% (2.87 ha/7.09 ac) of the project area and 0.49% (1.04 ha/2.57 ac) of the monument, exclusively in the main unit.

