

47. *Prosopis velutina* / Annual Forb Woodland Association (P)

Velvet mesquite / Annual Forb Woodland Association (P)

This community is characterized by a variably dense (10–40% cover) canopy (2–5 m) solely dominated by velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) with an understory of mixed annual forbs and grasses. Velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*) is present as tall (4–6 m) trees with a generally consistent distribution throughout the community. When present (0.5), catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*) provides up to 5% cover in the canopy stratum, with tree-like individuals ranging in height up to 4 meters. The sub-canopy stratum (0.5–2 m) is characterized by a low-cover mix of associate shrubs, including lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*), Warnock’s snakewood (*Condalia warnockii*), creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), and whitethorn acacia (*Vachellia constricta*). The field stratum (<0.5 m) is characterized by a variable and sometimes dense mix of annual grasses and forbs. The most frequently encountered species include sixweeks grama (*Bouteloua barbata*), carelessweed (*Amaranthus palmeri*), spiderling (*Boerhavia* sp.), soft feather pappusgrass (*Enneapogon mollis*), and morning-glory (*Ipomoea* sp.).

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 0.3% (87 ha/215 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and was documented in and adjacent to the major washes and adjacent floodplains in the northern portion of the Cactus Forest. It is restricted to very low-angle (<5%) washes and adjacent floodplains around an elevation of 800 meters (2,624 ft). The surface cover is characterized by very deep, well-drained soils. The watercourse tends to be characterized by very fine gravelly sand, while the adjacent floodplains are more commonly sandy loam or silt.

Common species

- *Prosopis velutina*
- *Senegalia greggii*
- Annual Forbs



