51. (*Quercus hypoleucoides - Quercus arizonica*) / *Arctostaphylos* (*pringlei - pungens*) Shrubland Association (P)

(Silverleaf oak - Arizona white oak) / Manzanita (Pringle's - pointleaf) Shrubland Association (P)

Common species

- *Quercus hypoleucoides*
- *Quercus arizonica*
- *Arctostaphylos pungens*
- *Arctostaphylos pringlei*

This shrubland is characterized by a sparse (<10% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) of silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*) and Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), with a dense (25–50% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by Pringle's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*) and pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*). Within the canopy strata, silverleaf oak (*Q. hypoleucoides*) is the more prolific of the two oaks, providing consistent (1.0) presence with highly variable cover of around 2 [15]%. Alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) and border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*) are sparse (1%) associates. Snags of both species, which are poorly adapted to fire and very slow to recolonize, were documented across the community. Other documented species include Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), yucca (*Yucca madrensis*), beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), common sotol (*Dasylirion wheeleri*), bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*), bristly wolfstail (*Muhlenbergia alopecuroides*), Palmer's century plant (*Agave palmeri*), and single threeawn (*Aristida schiedeana*).

This community is contained within a four-association map class that covers 5% (1,474 ha/3,642 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is widespread throughout the high slopes of Tanque Verde and Heartbreak ridges, often within the boundaries of historic fire events, specifically the 1989 Chiva Fire. It is primarily present on moderately steep (20–40%) mountain backslopes from 1,600 to 1,900 meters (5,249–6,233 ft). Most examples of this community are north-trending, but it can be found on any aspect, depending on elevation. The surface cover is characterized by a mix of shallow to deep, well-drained soils of skeletal loam underlying a layer of coarse gravel with consistent outcrops of exposed bedrock and large, detached boulders. The underlying parent material is primarily composed of gneissic quartz monzonite.

Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park