## 54. [*Quercus arizonica - Quercus emoryi*] / *Arctostaphylos pungens* Woodland Association (P)

[Arizona white oak - Emory oak] / Pointleaf manzanita Woodland Association (P)

**Common species**

- *Quercus arizonica*
- *Quercus emoryi*
- *Arctostaphylos pungens*

This woodland is characterized by a variably dense (20–40% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) dominated by Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*) and Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*) with a similarly dense (20–40% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), mainly pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*). The oak species provide similar cover (10%) as co-dominants or with either one becoming the sole dominant. Both species can range from small (<2 m), shrubby trees to single-stem individuals with heights up to 5 meters. Alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) and border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*) are sparse (1%) associates. Pointleaf manzanita (*A. pungens*) provides around 20+% cover throughout the community, with some areas reaching up to 40%. Other documented species include Pringle's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*), Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), yucca (*Yucca madrensis*), beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), Fendler's ceanothus (*Ceanothus fendleri*), and bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*).

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 1.3% (362 ha/894 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and occurs 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 1,450 to 1,650 meters (4,757–5,413 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