

56. [*Quercus hypoleucoides* - *Quercus arizonica*] / *Arctostaphylos* (*pringlei* - *pungens*) Woodland Association (P)

[Silverleaf oak - Arizona white oak] / Manzanita (Pringle's - pointleaf) Woodland Association (P)

This woodland is characterized by a variably dense (20–40% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) dominated by silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*) and Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), with a similarly dense (20–40% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by Pringle's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*) and/or pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*). Within the canopy strata, silverleaf oak (*Q. hypoleucoides*) and Arizona white oak (*Q. arizonica*) provide similar average 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. Pringle's manzanita (*A. pringlei*) and pointleaf manzanita (*A. pungens*) provide around 20% cover throughout the community, with some areas reaching up to 40%. Composition and dominance of these species aligns with a distinct elevational gradient. Other documented species include Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), yucca (*Yucca madrensis*), beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), Fendler's ceanothus (*Ceanothus fendleri*), longtongue muhly (*Muhlenbergia longiligula*), and bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*).

Common species

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

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 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.



