

64. *Quercus oblongifolia* / *Bouteloua curtipendula* Scrub Association

Mexican blue oak / Sideoats grama Scrub Association

This community is characterized by a moderately sparse (10–20% cover) canopy stratum (>2 m) dominated by Mexican blue oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*), a similarly open (5–20% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) stratum dominated by beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*) with a diverse mix of associates, and a variable (10–40% cover) field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by a mix of perennial grasses. Mexican blue oak (*Q. oblongifolia*) is a consistent (1.0) dominant that typically presents as large (4–5 m), single-stem trees with cover of 10–20%. Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*) is a patchy (0.66) associate most common at the higher elevational range of this community and/or where the aspect trends more to the north.

The subcanopy is characterized by the consistent (1.0) presence, but variable dominance (0.67), of beargrass (*N. microcarpa*) with a diverse mix of associate shrubs and succulents. On average, beargrass (*N. microcarpa*) provides around 5% cover across the community, but local values can be highly variable, ranging from 1% up to 20%. Other noteworthy associates include pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), common sotol (*Dasyliirion wheeleri*), turpentine bush (*Ericameria laricifolia*), and cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*). The field is characterized by a diverse mix of native perennial grasses, often with the small succulent, Schott's century plant (*Agave schottii*). Overall, the native perennial grasses provide an average of 20% cover throughout, with some areas reaching up to 40%. Across the community, bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*) and sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) are the most consistent (0.86 and 0.93) and dominant species.

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 8.7% (2,360 ha/5,831 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District. This scrub is typically found on south to southwest-trending slopes of a generally steep grade (40%) from 1,400 to 1,800 meters (4,593–5,905 ft), but may be found on northern aspects at lower elevations. The surface cover is characterized by shallow and well-drained skeletal loam. Covering/interpersed with the soil is a dominant layer of rock with frequent outcrops of exposed bedrock. Parent material is very diverse but is most commonly characterized by the presence of gneissic quartz monzonite.

Common name

- *Quercus oblongifolia*
- *Nolina microcarpa*
- *Muhlenbergia emersleyi*
- *Bouteloua curtipendula*
- *Agave schottii*



