

65. *Quercus turbinella* - *Nolina microcarpa* / *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* - *Agave schottii* Shrub Savanna Association (P)

Sonoran scrub oak - Beargrass / Bullgrass - Schott's century plant Shrub Savanna Association (P)

This shrub savanna community is characterized by a subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) dominated by Sonoran scrub oak (*Quercus turbinella*) and beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), with a field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*) and Schott's century plant (*Agave schottii*). The canopy stratum (>2 m) is extremely sparse (<1% cover), with Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*) and alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) providing the most conspicuous cover. Sonoran scrub oak (*Q. turbinella*) provides a consistent 5–15% cover across the community, with areas of high cover typically occurring on sheltered, north-facing slopes. This species is diagnostic of this community and should always be a dominant. Beargrass (*N. microcarpa*) is typically present as a subcanopy dominant, with cover of around 5%, but may reach up to 10% on more exposed slopes. When present, Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*) provides similar cover to the other dominants (5%), most often on the more sheltered, north-facing slopes. The field stratum is characterized by a highly variable (10–40%) mix of grasses and succulents dominated by bullgrass (*M. emersleyi*) and Schott's century plant (*A. schottii*), with occasional pockets of Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*) dominance.

Common species

- *Quercus turbinella*
- *Nolina microcarpa*
- *Muhlenbergia emersleyi*
- *Agave schottii*

This community covers 0.12% (33 ha/81.5 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District, exclusively on the northern slopes of Tanque Verde Ridge within the boundaries of the historic Box Canyon, Windy, and/or Mother's Day fires. This shrub savanna is predominately present on north to northwest-facing, steep (35–50%) mountain backslopes and lower-angle (<15%) shoulders/summits from 1,402 to 1,645 meters (4,600–5,400 ft). The surface cover is characterized by shallow and well-drained skeletal loam underlying a dominant layer of coarse gravel with consistent outcrops of exposed bedrock. The parent material is predominately composed of a mix of gneissic granodiorite and thin, layered sheets of gneissic quartz monzonite.



