

70. *Pinus discolor* / *Quercus rugosa* Woodland Association

Border pinyon / Netleaf oak Woodland Association

This woodland community is characterized by a variably dense (30–60% cover) canopy stratum (>2 m) dominated by border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*) and a moderately dense (10–30% cover) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) dominated by netleaf oak (*Quercus rugosa*). This community ranges from an open woodland with a dominant shrub layer to a very dense, short-statured woodland. Border pinyon (*P. discolor*) is a very consistent canopy dominant (1.0), with individuals 3–6 meters tall providing cover typically ranging from 20% to 40% with dense areas containing cover up to 60%. Alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) is a consistent (1.0) associate that provides variable cover of usually less than 10%, with an average of around 5%. Netleaf oak (*Q. rugosa*) is a consistently (1.0) dominant shrub that typically provides 10–30% cover. On occasion, any of the following can become a subcanopy co-dominant, including silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*), Wright’s siltassel (*Garrya wrightii*), pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), and Pringle’s manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*). Other noteworthy subcanopy components include dollarjoint prickly pear (*Opuntia chlorotica*), yucca (*Yucca madrensis*), beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), longtongue muhly (*Muhlenbergia longiligula*), Pringle’s speargrass (*Piptochaetium pringlei*), and muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*).

This community covers 1.8% (482 ha/1,191 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is widespread throughout the upper elevational areas of the park from Rincon Peak to Mica Mountain. It is typically found on mountain backslopes and shoulders of variable grade (6–50+%), with a north to northwest-trending aspect from 1,980 to 2,440 meters (6,500–8,000 ft). The surface cover is characterized by shallow to very shallow, well-drained sandy loam underlying a variable mix of gravel, bare soil, and litter with consistent and sometimes dominant outcrops of exposed bedrock.

Common species

- *Pinus discolor*
- *Quercus rugosa*



Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

