

### 73. *Cupressus arizonica* / *Quercus hypoleucoides* Forest Association

#### Arizona cypress / Silverleaf oak Forest Association

This forest community is characterized by an open-to-closed (20–50% cover) upper-canopy stratum (>5 m) dominated by Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*) and border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*) with a diverse understory of oaks (*Quercus* sp.) and assorted chaparral shrubs. Arizona cypress (*C. arizonica*) is a diagnostic species present as tall (10–15 m) individuals with cover ranging from 10% to 40%. Other documented species include silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*), netleaf oak (*Quercus rugosa*), Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), Pringle’s manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*), Fendler’s ceanothus (*Ceanothus fendleri*), Wright’s silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), Arizona orange (*Choisya dumosa* var. *arizonica*), deerbrush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), and yucca (*Yucca madrensis*).

This community covers 0.42% (115 ha/284 ac) in the Rincon Mountain District and is widespread across the eastern slopes of Rincon Peak, especially throughout Paige and Ash canyons. It is typically found in steep (35–50%) mountain drainages and adjacent, north-facing slopes from 1,767 to 2,072 meters (5,800–6,800 ft). Within the drainages, the surface cover is characterized by a mix of exposed bedrock and large boulders along the watercourse, with the banks of shallow litter. The adjacent slopes are typically dominated by a dense layer of pine and oak litter with conspicuous outcrops of exposed bedrock.

#### Common species

- *Cupressus arizonica*
- *Pinus discolor*
- *Quercus hypoleucoides*
- *Quercus arizonica*
- *Quercus rugosa*





Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

