79. *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Quercus rugosa* Forest Association

Douglas fir / Netleaf oak Forest Association

Common species

- *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
- *Pinus ponderosa*
- *Quercus hypoleucoides*
- *Quercus rugosa*

This forested community is characterized by a variable (40–70% cover) canopy (>2 m) with cover split between an overstory of conifers and an understory canopy of oaks. Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is present as large (15–20 m) trees with variable cover of 10–25%. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Arizona pine (*Pinus arizona*) are slightly lower in the canopy (10–16 m), with variable cover of 10–30%. Overall, silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*) provides cover of 5–20%, with heights typically around 5 meters but sometimes reaching above 10 meters. Netleaf oak (*Quercus rugosa*) provides similar cover (5–30%) with a more variable height range. This species may present as large trees (10 m), most commonly in drainages; medium-sized trees (5 m); or small, shrubby individuals with heights around 2 meters. The subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) is characterized by a sparse (<10% cover) mix of shrubs with no consistent dominants or common associates. The field stratum (<0.5 m) is also sparse (<10% cover), with no clear dominants or associates.

This community covers 0.2% (58 ha/144 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is found on the north slope of Mica Mountain and Rincon Peak. It is typically located on moderately steep (20–40%), exclusively north-facing backslopes and deep, sheltered drainages from 2,000 to 2,300 meters (6,561–7,545 ft). The surface cover is characterized by moderately deep and well-drained skeletal loam underlying a dominant layer of conifer-needle litter and duff with patchy boulders and bedrock outcrops, especially when occurring in drainages. The parent material is a mix of quartz monzonite and mica schist.

Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park