

93. *Pinus ponderosa* (*Pinus strobiformis*) / *Muhlenbergia virescens* Woodland Association (P)

Ponderosa pine (Southwestern white pine) / Screwleaf muhly Woodland Association (P)

This woodland community is characterized by a variably open (10–40% cover) upper canopy (>5 m) dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with southwestern white pine (*Pinus strobiformis*) and a similar (10–40% cover) field layer (<0.5 m) dominated by perennial grasses, typically screwleaf muhly (*Muhlenbergia virescens*). The lower-canopy (2–5 m) and subcanopy (0.5–2 m) strata are extremely sparse (<5% cover), with no clear dominants or common associates. The field stratum (<0.5 m) is characterized by a mix of perennial graminoids most commonly dominated by screwleaf muhly (*M. virescens*). Other noteworthy species include pine dropseed (*Muhlenbergia tricholepis*), muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*), White Mountain sedge (*Carex geophila*), prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*), Pringle's speargrass (*Piptochaetium pringlei*), and Arizona wheatgrass (*Elymus arizonica*).

Common species

- *Pinus ponderosa*
- *Pinus strobiformis*
- *Muhlenbergia virescens*
- *Muhlenbergia tricholepis*

This community covers 0.5% (145 ha/358 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is present throughout the trail system that surrounds Manning Camp, Spud Rock, Helen's Dome, and the Mica Mountain summit. It is typically found on moderate (20%) slopes of varying aspects above 2,400 meters (7,874 ft). The surface cover is dominated by a thick layer of pine-needle litter and duff with patchy boulders and bedrock outcrops. The parent material is a mix of quartz monzonite and mica schist.



Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

