96. *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Pinus strobiformis* Forest Association (P)

Douglas fir / Southwestern white pine Forest Association (P)

Common species

- *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
- *Pinus strobiformis*

This forest community is characterized by a dense (50–80% cover) upper canopy (>5 m) dominated by Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with subdominant southwestern white pine (*Pinus strobiformis*). Douglas fir (*P. menziesii*) is present as large (15–30 m) trees, with dense cover of 35–70%. Southwestern white pine (*P. strobiformis*) is a shorter-statured tree that provides variable cover of 10–30%. 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) presents as two distinct variations. One is extremely sparse (<5% cover), with no clear dominants or associates, while the other contains a dominant layer of western brackenfern (*Pteridium aquilinum*). When present, this species provides cover of 5–20%. This variation is most common in areas of fire disturbance with a more open canopy, but was also documented in densely forested areas.

This community covers 0.5% (124 ha/306 ac) in the Rincon Mountain District and is present near the summits of Mica Mountain and Rincon Peak. It is typically found on steep (30–50+%), exclusively north-facing backslopes above 2,200 meters (7,217 ft) and deep, sheltered drainages that can reach down to lower elevations. Often, this community is found just north of large features (e.g., Rincon Peak and Mica Mountain) that create an area less exposed to solar radiation. The surface cover is characterized by shallow to moderately deep, 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