

78. *Pinus ponderosa* / *Quercus hypoleuroides* Woodland Association

Ponderosa pine / Silverleaf oak Woodland Association

This woodland community is characterized by a variably dense (30–65% cover) upper canopy (>5 m) dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleuroides*), with a variable understory typically composed of additional oak species. Ponderosa pine (*P. ponderosa*) is present as large (10–30 m) trees with variable cover ranging from 10% to 45%, with an average around 30%. Silverleaf oak (*Q. hypoleuroides*) provides very consistent (1.0) presence, often as a co-dominant or subdominant to ponderosa pine (*P. ponderosa*). Silverleaf oak (*Q. hypoleuroides*) is typically present as medium-sized (5–15 m) trees with cover ranging from a sparse (<5% cover) associate to a co-dominant with some inclusions up to 40% cover. On average, this species provides around 17% cover across the broader community. Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*) is a consistent (0.85) canopy tree that ranges from an associate to a co-dominant with average cover of around 7%. The lower canopy (2–5 m) is dominated by shorter, sometimes shrubby versions of the upper-canopy oaks and junipers. The subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) is generally quite sparse (<5% cover), with no consistent dominants or associates. The sparse (<10% [15]% cover) field stratum (<0.5 m) is characterized by the consistent presence (0.85) of longtongue muhly (*Muhlenbergia longiligula*) and a diverse mix of associate grasses and forbs.

Common species

- *Pinus arizonica*
- *Quercus hypoleuroides*
- *Juniperus deppeana*
- *Muhlenbergia longiligula*

This community covers 0.75% (204 ha/504 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is present on the northern slopes of Mica Mountain and in the Happy Valley Saddle. It is typically found on mountain backslopes and ridges of variable grade (10–40%) from 1,820 to 2,353 meters (5,971–7,719 ft). The surface cover is characterized by moderately deep and well-drained loam underlying 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

