

#6 *Prosopis velutina* / *Bromus rubens* - *Hordeum murinum* Woodland and Shrubland Association (P)

Velvet mesquite / Red brome - Mouse barley Woodland and Shrubland Association (P)

This woodland community is characterized by a canopy (0.5–5-m) stratum dominated by velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), with a field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by annual, non-native grasses. Velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*) accounts for an average of 30% cover, ranging up to 85%. In general, this species is present in a tree-like growth form, with heights ranging from 1 to 4.5 meters. However, the margins of this community tend to include more shrub-like individuals that generally coincide with a decline in overall cover. Catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*) is a patchy associate, averaging 3% cover across the community, with inclusions of co-dominance. Other noteworthy shrub species include fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), red barberry (*Berberis haematocarpa*), and pale desert thorn (*Lycium pallidum*). Cover of non-native grasses in the field stratum ranges from 12% to 92%, with an average of 48% across the community. These grasses are predominately composed of red brome (*Bromus rubens*), rippgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and mouse barley (*Hordeum murinum*).

Common species

- *Prosopis velutina*
- *Senegalia greggii*
- *Bromus rubens*
- *Hordeum murinum*
- *Bromus diandrus*
- *Bromus tectorum*

This woodland is found along the low-gradient alluvial terraces and floodplain adjacent to Beaver Creek at both units of the monument. This community covers 25% (75 ha/186 ac) of the Castle unit and 10% (11 ha/27 ac) of the Well unit. The soils are characterized by a fine-grained alluvium, with bare soil or litter dominating the surface cover, depending on overstory vegetation.

