

3. *Prosopis velutina* Woodland Association (P)

Velvet mesquite Woodland Association (P)

This community is characterized by a moderately dense (10–20 [30]% cover) canopy stratum (>2 m) solely dominated by velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), with a variable (10–20% cover) understory most consistently dominated by bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*) and burroweed (*Isocoma tenuisecta*). Velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*) is present as large ([2] 4–5 m), single-stemmed trees that provide almost all cover in the canopy stratum. The subcanopy (0.5–2 m) contains a low-cover (<5%) mix of cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*), longleaf jointfir (*Ephedra trifurca*), whitethorn acacia (*Vachellia constricta*), jumping cholla (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*), and staghorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia versicolor*). Bush muhly (*M. porteri*) is a consistent (0.75) grass that provides cover of around 3–5%. Burroweed is patchier (0.5), but when present can provide considerable (up to 18%) cover. Other noteworthy associates include Arizona cottontop (*Digitaria californica*), tulip pricklypear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*), desert zinnia (*Zinnia acerosa*), and purple threeawn (*Aristida purpurea*).

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 1.3% (358 ha/884 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and was documented within the Cactus Forest trail system. This woodland is restricted to low-angle (<10%) alluvial fans/floodplains around 861 meters (2,825 ft). The surface cover is characterized by deep and well-drained, fine to coarse loamy soil with fine gravel and scattered, small rocks.

Common species

- *Prosopis velutina*
- *Opuntia engelmannii*
- *Muhlenbergia porteri*
- *Isocoma tenuisecta*



