

50. (*Quercus arizonica* - *Quercus emoryi*) / *Arctostaphylos pungens* Shrubland Association (P)
 (Arizona white oak - Emory oak) / Pointleaf manzanita Shrubland Association (P)

This shrubland is characterized by a sparse (<10 [20]% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) of Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*) and Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*), with a dense (20–50% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*). The composition of oak species forms a distinct gradient based on elevation and/or aspect. Both oak species are typically present as small (3–4 m) trees with cover ranging from 1% to 10% each. Pointleaf manzanita (*A. pungens*) provides around 30% cover throughout the community, with some areas reaching up to 50%. At the upper elevational limit of this community, Pringle’s manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*) may begin to appear, but it rarely competes for dominance with pointleaf manzanita (*A. pungens*). Other documented species include Wright’s silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), yucca (*Yucca madrensis*), beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*), common sotol (*Dasyllirion wheeleri*), and bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*).

Common species

- *Quercus arizonica*
- *Quercus emoryi*
- *Arctostaphylos pungens*

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 1.3% (362 ha/894 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is widespread throughout the mid-slopes of Tanque Verde Ridge and the eastern slopes of the range, often in areas with evidence of historic fire disturbance, likely from the Chiva (1989) and Rincon (1994) fires. It is primarily present on moderately steep (20–40%) mountain backslopes from 1,450 to 1,650 meters (4,757–5,413 ft). Most examples of this community are north-trending, but it can be found on any aspect, depending on elevation. The surface cover is characterized by shallow and well-drained soils of skeletal loam underlying a layer of coarse gravel with consistent outcrops of exposed bedrock. The underlying parent material is primarily composed of gneissic quartz monzonite.



