

## 62. *Quercus emoryi* / *Arctostaphylos pungens* / *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* Wooded Shrub Savanna Association (P)

Emory oak / Pointleaf manzanita / Bullgrass Semi-Desert Wooded Shrub Savanna Association (P)

This community is characterized by a sparse (<10% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) dominated by Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*), a variable (5–20% cover) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) dominated by pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), and a highly variable (5–30% cover) field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*).

All examples of this community exhibited signs of historic fire disturbance, likely from the Chiva (1989) and Box Canyon (1999) fires. Emory oak (*Q. emoryi*) is present as short (3 m), shrub-like trees to tall (5 m), single-stem trees with consistent (1.0) cover of typically less than 10%.

The subcanopy is characterized by the consistent presence (1.0) and typical dominance of pointleaf manzanita (*A. pungens*) with a number of occasionally dominant and/or co-dominant associate shrubs and succulents, including beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*), and common sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*). The field stratum is characterized by a diverse mix of native perennial grasses, most commonly dominated by bullgrass (*M. emersleyi*) with the low succulent Schott's century plant (*Agave schottii*).

### Common species

- *Quercus emoryi*
- *Arctostaphylos pungens*
- *Muhlenbergia emersleyi*
- *Nolina microcarpa*
- *Agave schottii*

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 11% (2,962 ha/7,319 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District, with main examples occurring along the northern slopes of Tanque Verde Ridge and along the eastern boundary of the park. This wooded shrub savanna is primarily present on low-gradient (20%) rolling hills within broader, north-trending backslopes from an elevation of 1,350 to 1,700 meters (4,429–5,577 ft). 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 and large, detached boulders. The underlying parent material is primarily composed of gneissic quartz monzonite.



