

63. *Quercus emoryi* / *Nolina microcarpa* / *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* Wooded Shrub Savanna Association (P)

Emory oak / Beargrass / Bullgrass Wooded Shrub Savanna Association (P)

This wooded shrub savanna is characterized by a moderately sparse (<15% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) dominated by Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*), a variable (10–20% cover) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) dominated by beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), and a highly variable (5–40% cover) field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*). Mexican blue oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*) is a patchy (0.66) and transitional component of this community most commonly present at its lower elevational reaches. Alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) is an occasional (0.66), low-cover associate (1% cover) distributed throughout the community. The subcanopy is characterized by the consistent dominance (1.0) of beargrass (*N. microcarpa*) with a diverse mix of occasionally dominant and/or co-dominant associate shrubs and succulents, including common sotol (*Dasyllirion wheeleri*), turpentine bush (*Ericameria laricifolia*), Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), gumhead (*Gymnosperma glutinosum*), and redberry buckthorn (*Rhamnus crocea*). The field stratum is characterized by a diverse mix of perennial grasses, succulents, and subshrubs most commonly dominated by very consistent (1.0) bullgrass (*M. emersleyi*).

Common species

- *Quercus emoryi*
- *Nolina microcarpa*
- *Muhlenbergia emersleyi*
- *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. This wooded shrub savanna is present on backslopes of varying grade (10–50+%) and aspect from an elevation of 1,320 to 1,640 meters (4,330–5,370 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.



