

**7. (*Carnegiea gigantea*) / *Parkinsonia microphylla* / *Opuntia engelmannii* (*Vachellia constricta* - *Larrea tridentata*) / *Ambrosia deltoidea* Wooded Shrubland Association (P)**  
 (Saguaro) / Yellow paloverde / Cactus apple (Whitethorn acacia - Creosote) / Triangle bur ragweed  
 Wooded Shrubland Association (P)

This wooded shrubland community is characterized by a sparse (<10% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) of yellow paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) and a variable (10–25% cover) subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) of cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*), whitethorn acacia (*Vachellia constricta*), and creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), with a field stratum (<0.5 m) of 15–25% cover, dominated by triangle bur ragweed (*Ambrosia deltoidea*). Yellow paloverde (*P. microphylla*) is a consistent (1.0) dominant, typically present as scattered medium-sized (3–4 m), tree-like individuals with average cover of around 4%. Velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) is also a consistent (1.0) associate that can occasionally co-dominate with yellow paloverde (*P. microphylla*), with average cover of around 2–3%.

The subcanopy is characterized by a diverse mix of shrubs and succulents, with cactus apple (*O. engelmannii*), creosote (*L. tridentata*), and whitethorn acacia (*V. constricta*) providing the most consistent presence (1.0) and dominance throughout. On average, cactus apple (*O. engelmannii*) provides the highest cover, with an average of 8% across the community, including some areas up to 15%. Creosote (*L. tridentata*) and whitethorn acacia (*V. constricta*) provide variable cover ranging from a scant 1% up to a dominant 5%. The field layer is characterized by the overwhelming dominance of triangle bur ragweed (*A. deltoidea*). This species provides cover ranging from 10% to 20%, with an average around 15%.

This restricted community is contained within a three-association map class that covers 3.6% (983 ha/2,429 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and scattered throughout the Cactus Forest Loop Road and associated trail system. It is found exclusively on low-angle (1–6%) alluvial fans around 850 meters (2,788 ft), usually near the transition with low hills and/or pediment formations. In general, the surface cover is defined by very deep and well-drained fine-loamy soil underlying a layer of coarse (5–10 cm) gravel.

**Common species**

- *Parkinsonia microphylla*
- *Prosopis velutina*
- *Opuntia engelmannii*
- *Larrea tridentata*
- *Vachellia constricta*
- *Ambrosia deltoidea*



