

95. *Pseudotsuga menziesii* - *Pinus (arizonica - ponderosa)* / (*Quercus gambelii*) Forest Association (P)

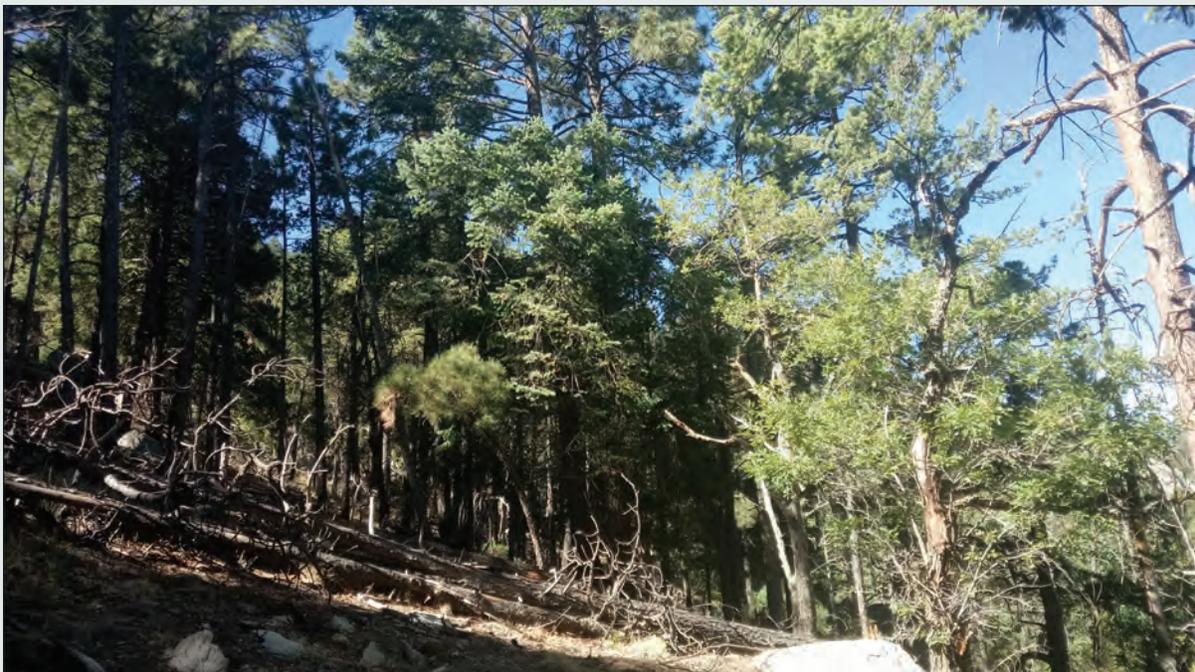
Douglas fir - Pine (Arizona - ponderosa) / (Gambel oak) Forest Association (P)

This forest community is characterized by a dense (30–60% cover) upper canopy (>5 m) dominated by Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Arizona pine (*Pinus arizonica*) or ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with one shorter-statured common associate, Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*). Douglas fir (*P. menziesii*) is present as large (10–20 m) trees with variable cover of 20–30%. Overall, the two pines are slightly lower in the canopy (8–15 m), with similar cover ranging from 15% to 30%. In general, either Arizona pine (*P. arizonica*) or ponderosa pine (*P. ponderosa*) is present, typically not co-occurring. Gambel oak (*Q. gambelii*) is variably positioned in the canopy structure, with heights ranging from low (5 m) trees in the understory to large (13 m) trees with heights similar to the conifers. The subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) is extremely sparse (<5% cover) and may include New Mexico locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), mock orange (*Philadelphus* sp.), rock spirea (*Holodiscus dumosa*), and/or California false indigo (*Amorpha californica*). The field stratum (<0.5 m) is also sparse (<10% cover), with no clear dominants or associates. Noteworthy associate grasses, forbs, and subshrubs include mountain snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), coralbells (*Heuchera sanguinea*), Navajo cinquefoil (*Potentilla subviscosa*), White Mountain sedge (*Carex geophila*), muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*), toadflax penstemon (*Penstemon linarioides*), Wootton's ragwort (*Senecio woottonii*), screwleaf muhly (*Muhlenbergia virescens*), western brackenfern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and Arizona wheatgrass (*Elymus arizonicus*).

Common species

- *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
- *Pinus arizonica*
- *Pinus ponderosa*
- *Quercus gambelii*

This community covers 0.5% (126 ha/311 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is present near the summits of Mica Mountain and Rincon Peak. It is typically located on moderately steep (20–30 [50] %), exclusively north-facing backslopes above 2,150 meters (7,053 ft). Often, this community is found north of large topographic/geologic features (e.g., Rincon Peak, Mica Mountain, and Helen's Dome) that create areas less exposed to solar radiation. The surface cover is characterized by shallow to moderately deep, well-drained skeletal loam underlying a dominant layer of conifer-needle litter and duff with patchy boulders and bedrock outcrops, especially when occurring in drainages. The parent material is a mix of quartz monzonite and mica schist.



Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

