

97. *Quercus gambelii* / *Robinia neomexicana* / *Symphoricarpos oreophilus* Woodland Association (P)

Gambel oak / New Mexico locust / Mountain snowberry Woodland Association (P)

This woodland community is characterized by a canopy (>5 m) solely dominated (20–30% cover) by Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), a variable (15–40%) lower canopy (2–5 m) dominated by New Mexico locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), and a variable (15–50%) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by mountain snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*). The Gambel oak (*Q. gambelii*) overstory can range from a sparse 5% to a dense 20–30% cover, depending on fire history. The lower-canopy stratum is characterized by the consistent and sole dominance (1.0) of New Mexico locust (*R. neomexicana*). Overall, this species provides average cover of 20%, with values ranging from 10% to 30%. The subcanopy stratum is characterized by a variable mix of shrubs and ferns, most commonly dominated by mountain snowberry (*S. oreophilus*). This species is consistently (0.86) dominant and has highly variable cover of <5–40% (average cover is 25%). The field stratum (<0.5 m) is quite sparse, usually consisting of smaller versions of the subcanopy species.

Common species

- *Quercus gambelii*
- *Robinia neomexicana*
- *Symphoricarpos oreophilus*

This community covers 0.08% (21 ha/54 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District, often scattered along the north slopes of Mica Mountain, from 1.5 kilometers west of Helen's Dome to Italian Springs. It is typically found on moderately steep (30%), north-facing upper backslopes from 2,100 to 2,500 meters (6,890–8,200 ft). The surface cover is characterized by a mix of well-drained skeletal loam underlying a dominant layer of dense litter and duff with patchy boulders and bedrock outcrops. While not all examples exhibited obvious signs of fire disturbance, all examples fall within the boundaries of the 2003 Helen's 2 Fire.



