

53. (*Quercus hypoleucoides* - *Quercus rugosa*) / *Arctostaphylos pringlei* Shrubland Association (P)

(Silverleaf oak - Netleaf oak) / Pringle's manzanita Shrubland Association (P)

This shrubland is characterized by a sparse (<10% cover) canopy stratum (2–5 m) of silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*) and netleaf oak (*Quercus rugosa*), with a dense (25–50% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by Pringle's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*). The oaks are both consistent (1.0) components that on average provide 4–5 [10]% cover each. These species can range from small (<2 m), shrubby trees to single-stem individuals with heights up to 4 meters. Alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) and border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*) are sparse (1%) associates. Pringle's manzanita (*A. pringlei*) provides around 20% cover throughout the community, with some areas reaching up to 30%. Pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*) is a fairly consistent (0.75) associate that provides an average of 5% cover across the community, with values ranging from absent to 15%. Other noteworthy subcanopy species include Fendler's ceanothus (*Ceanothus fendleri*), Wright's silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*), beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), New Mexico locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), longtongue muhly (*Muhlenbergia longiligula*), fragrant snakeroot (*Ageratina herbacea*), muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*), and Fendler's lipfern (*Cheilanthes fendleri*).

Common species

- *Quercus hypoleucoides*
- *Quercus rugosa*
- *Arctostaphylos pringlei*
- *Arctostaphylos pungens*

This community is contained within a four-association map class that covers 5% (1,474 ha/3,642 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is present throughout the high slopes of Tanque Verde and Heartbreak ridges, often within the boundaries of historic fire events, specifically the 1989 Chiva Fire. It is exclusively present on moderately steep (20–40%), north-facing mountain backslopes from 1,600 to 1,900 meters (5,249–6,233 ft). The surface cover is characterized by a mix of shallow to deep, 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.



