

Populus tremuloides / Prunus virginiana Forest

COMMON NAME	Quaking Aspen / Chokecherry Forest
SYNONYM	Aspen / Chokecherry Forest
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Forest (I)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous forest (I.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (I.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Montane or boreal cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.b.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community is found in Montana, Wyoming, and western South Dakota.

Jewel Cave National Monument

This community occurs in Hell Canyon north of the Monument. Small unmapped stands of *Populus tremuloides* are occasional elsewhere in the study area.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

In the Black Hills, this community is found along mesic valley bottoms. The slopes can vary from steep (at the bottom of the hillslope) to gentle (along the valley bottom).

Jewel Cave National Monument

This community occurs in drainage bottoms.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Short shrub	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>

Jewel Cave National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> , <i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Short shrub	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Populus tremuloides, *Prunus virginiana*

Jewel Cave National Monument

Populus tremuloides, *Prunus virginiana*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Jewel Cave National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is dominated by deciduous trees in the canopy, but may have a component of evergreen trees, also. *Populus tremuloides* is the most abundant tree species. *Picea glauca* (in the Black Hills) and *Pinus ponderosa* may also be present. There is a short shrub layer dominated by *Prunus virginiana* and often containing *Amelanchier alnifolia*, *Ribes* spp., and *Symphoricarpos* spp.

Jewel Cave National Monument

This community is dominated by *Populus tremuloides* and/or *Betula papyrifera* in both the canopy and subcanopy. Two stands of this type were sampled. Estimated canopy coverage was less than 25% but subcanopy coverage was as high as 60%. Short shrub cover estimates ranged from 10 to 60%, with *Ribes* spp., *Rosa* sp., and *Prunus virginiana* the more common species. *P. virginiana* may form a tall shrub stratum as well. The herbaceous stratum typically is sparse (less than 10%) and variable in species composition; *Oryzopsis asperifolia* and *Fragaria virginiana* were found in both stands. *Betula papyrifera* may be locally codominant or dominant in stands of this type.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G3?Q

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL000596

COMMENTS

Globally

This community is found primarily to the west of the Black Hills. Further rangewide review may alter the global description of the type.

REFERENCES