

Symphoricarpos occidentalis Shrubland [Provisional]

COMMON NAME	Western Snowberry Shrubland
SYNONYM	Wolfberry Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (III.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.d.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i> Temporarily Flooded Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community is widespread in western Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It is also present in Nebraska, Wyoming, and Saskatchewan.

Jewel Cave National Monument

This community is found throughout the Jewel Cave area. It occurs as mappable stands and as inclusions in other vegetation types.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is found in mesic swales, depressions, ravines and floodplains. Some examples of this community experience intermittent and brief flooding. The soils are fertile and well drained to imperfectly drained silts and loams. The upper soil horizon is usually deep, although a thin layer of sand may be present if the site has been recently flooded (Jones 1995).

Jewel Cave National Monument

This community occurs in relatively broad, level canyon bottoms.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i> , <i>Rhus aromatica</i> , <i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> , <i>Poa pratensis</i> , <i>Galium boreale</i>

Jewel Cave National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Symphoricarpos occidentalis, *Rosa woodsii*, *Poa pratensis*, *Artemisia ludoviciana*

Jewel Cave National Monument

Symphoricarpos occidentalis

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Jewel Cave National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Throughout its range this community is dominated by shrubs approximately 1 m tall. Shrub cover is typically greater than 50%. In places it can approach 100%. These shrubs form dense clumps that exclude most other species. *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* is the most common shrub, but *Rhus aromatica* and *Prunus virginiana* can be locally abundant. *R. aromatica* and *P. virginiana* can grow to 2-3 meters in places. Herbaceous species and smaller shrubs are most abundant at the edge of this community and in gaps between the clumps of taller shrubs where the shading is less complete. *Rosa woodsii* is a typical smaller shrub. *Achillea millefolium*, *Artemisia ludoviciana*, *Galium boreale*, and *Pascopyrum smithii* are common herbaceous species of this community. Woody vines sometimes occur. *Parthenocissus vitacea* is the most common vine.

Jewel Cave National Monument

Mappable stands of this community type are composed of thickets of *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* without significant tree cover, although scattered trees may be present. Smaller stands occur under both hardwoods and pine and in grasslands. Short shrub cover typically is high (60 to 100%). Other shrub species may be present, including *Ribes* spp., *Amelanchier alnifolia*, and *Rosa* sp. Herbaceous cover is less than 10%; *Monarda fistulosa* and *Cynoglossum officinale* appear to be the more common components.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL001131

COMMENTS

Globally

This community seems to thrive in disturbed areas (Hansen and Hoffman 1988), especially those subject to disturbance by fire and cattle grazing.

This type often occurs in heavily disturbed areas in conjunction with exotic species such as *Poa pratensis* and *Cirsium arvense*.

REFERENCES

Hansen, P. L. and G. R. Hoffman. 1988. The vegetation of the Grand River/ Cedar River, Sioux, and Ashland Districts of the Custer National Forest: A habitat type classification. General Technical Report RM-157. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO. 88 pp.

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