

**Salix exigua / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland**

COMMON NAME Sandbar Willow / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland  
SYNONYM Coyote Willow / Mesic Graminoids 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 SALIX (EXIGUA, INTERIOR) TEMPORARILY FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE  
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1  
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

**Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge**

Sandbar willow shrubland stands are usually quite small and widely scattered within the Refuge. They are usually found associated with dikes and levees.

**Globally**

This association is found primarily in the central Great Plains, but also parts of the Rocky Mountains and Intermountain Semi-desert regions, ranging from Wyoming west to possibly Idaho, south to Utah, and east to Oklahoma.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

**Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge**

Sandbar willow shrubland stands occur as patches adjacent to several wetland communities. These sites are nearly level and well-supplied with near-to-surface ground water.

**Globally**

In Nebraska, this community is found on sandbars, islands and shorelines of stream channels and braided rivers. Soils are poorly developed and composed of sand with lesser amounts of clay, silt and gravel formed in alluvium. Drainage varies with texture and height above the river surface (Steinauer and Rolfsmeier 2000).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

**Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Salix exigua</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Spartina pectinata, Phragmites australis, Typha sp.</i>

**Globally**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Salix exigua</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

**Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge**

*Salix exigua*, *Spartina pectinata*

**Globally**

*Salix exigua*

OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES

(n/a)

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

**Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge**

The majority of the mature sandbar willow shrublands typically have dense cover of between 60-90%. The understory is usually relatively sparse with composition similar to the adjacent communities.

**Globally**

The vegetation is dominated by shrubs with a fairly dense ground layer (at least 30% cover) of mesic graminoids and forbs. In Nebraska, the vegetation is quite variable and is dominated by perennial shrubs and grasses about 1 m tall. *Salix exigua* is the common shrub. Others include saplings of *Populus deltoides* or *Salix amygdaloides*, *Salix eriocephala*, *Salix lutea*, and *Amorpha fruticosa*. Tall perennial grasses can appear to codominate the stand, with *Spartina pectinata* the dominant. Other herbaceous species include *Bidens* spp., *Eleocharis* spp., *Juncus* spp., *Lobelia siphilitica*, *Lycopus americanus*, *Lythrum alatum*, *Polygonum* spp., *Schoenoplectus pungens* (= *Scirpus pungens*), *Sphenopholis obtusata*, and *Xanthium strumarium* (Steinauer and Rolfsmeier 2000). Lauver et al. (1999) note that *Andropogon gerardii* can be present.

CONSERVATION RANK G5. This type is widespread and common throughout its range.

DATABASE CODE CEG001203

SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS

*Salix exigua* / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland (These two types may be essentially the same.)

COMMENTS

**Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge**

Sandbar willow shrubland stands are small and nearly insignificant in cover value for the park. Only a few stands were visited during the course of the study, particularly along Sage Creek and the White River near the Visitor's Center.

**Globally**

In Nebraska, Steinauer and Rolfsmeier (1997) report that *Amorpha fruticosa*, *Cornus sericea*, and *Salix lutea* are also present in the shrub layer. In the herbaceous layer they report the following species: *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* and *Aster lanceolatus*.

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