

## Chilopsis linearis Shrubland Alliance

COMMON NAME	Desert Willow Shrubland Alliance
SYNONYM	None
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland
FORMATION	Intermittently/seasonally flooded cold-deciduous shrubland*
ALLIANCE	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

### RANGE

Undescribed type and distribution unknown.

#### *Tuzigoot National Monument*

The *Chilopsis linearis* community is on the floodplain of the Verde River.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

#### *Tuzigoot National Monument*

This *Chilopsis linearis* community appears on the xeroriparian floodplain of the Verde River in rapidly-drained, mostly bare, sandy soils. It also occurs within the sandbars away from the main channel.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

#### *Globally*

Information not available.

#### *Tuzigoot National Monument*

##### Strata

Shrub

Herbaceous

##### Species

*Chilopsis linearis*

*Salsola kali*, *Heterotheca subaxillaris*, *Setaria viridis*, *Ambrosia  
ancanthicarpa*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Bromus rubens*, *Panicum obtusum*

### DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

#### *Globally*

Information not available.

#### *Tuzigoot National Monument*

*Chilopsis linearis*

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Tuzigoot National Monument**

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VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

Information is not available.

*Tuzigoot National Monument*

This tall, patchy shrubland (may be composed of short trees) is part of the floodplain that experiences frequent soil disturbances. *Salsola kali*, an exotic indicator of recent severe soil disturbance, dominates the ground cover in this occurrence. The area has been disturbed by road construction and by periodic flooding. The rest of the herbaceous understory is not well developed, represented only by a few individual plants of different species.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES The exotic tree, *Tamarix chinensis*, appears to be invading the area.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION Not applicable

COMMENTS

This is a disturbance type that has affinities with several riparian communities. *Chilopsis linearis* is a common arroyo species in the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts.

The *Chilopsis linearis* community on the Monument is bordered by the *Populus fremontii*—*Salix gooddingii* association on more mesic sections of the Verde River main channel. Irrigation ditches lined by a luxuriant stand of *Prosopis velutina*, *Celtis reticulata*, *Fraxinus velutina*, *Datura meteloides*, *Cucurbita digita*, and *Vitis Arizonica* border the *Chilopsis linearis* community along its south side.

REFERENCES None