

Eragrostis lehmanniana Herbaceous Alliance

COMMON NAME	Lehmann's lovegrass Herbaceous Alliance
SYNONYM	None
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar perennial grassland
FORMATION	Medium-tall sod temperate or subpolar perennial grassland
ALLIANCE	<i>Eragrostis lehmanniana</i> Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE

Undefined and undescribed vegetation type.

Tuzigoot National Monument

This community appears in two distinct locations: on mine tailings and along roadsides east of the visitor center.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

This association is found on moderately well-drained mine tailings with a fine sand texture on which salt crusts are common on the soil surface. It also occurs on disturbed soils (i.e. adjacent to bladed road), on moderately well-drained, compacted sandy loam.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Not applicable

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

Strata

Shrub

Herbaceous

Species

Tamarix chinensis, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*

Eragrostis lehmanniana, *Setaria viridis*, *Aristida purpurea*, *Salsola kali*,
Digitaria californica

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

Tamarix chinensis, *Eragrostis lehmanniana*, *Setaria viridis*, *Salsola kali*, *Digitaria californica*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Tuzigoot National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Information is not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

The *Eragrostis lehmanniana* alliance represents disturbed vegetation dominated by an invasive, exotic grass. It was sampled in two areas: 1) concentrated on small berms within the mine tailings, and 2) along the dirt road north of the visitor center. The *Eragrostis lehmanniana* vegetation, as it appears on the visitor center hill, is densely vegetated, with an abundance of *Aristida purpurea*, and borders the *Aristida purpurea*—*Krameria parvifolia* association. In the mine tailings, this vegetation is very sparse (around 25% total cover). *Setaria viridis* is always associated with *Eragrostis lehmanniana*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES None

CONSERVATION RANK G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION Exotic dominated vegetation types have no known conservation value.

COMMENTS

Both sampled occurrences of the alliance border *Prosopis velutina*—*Gutierrezia sarothrae* communities. *Eragrostis lehmanniana* is an aggressive exotic species that forms communities in severely disturbed areas with other weedy species and in less disturbed sites mixing with residual native species.

REFERENCES None