Intermittently Flooded Cold-deciduous Shrubland Formation

.

COMMON NAME	None
SYNONYM	None
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland
FORMATION	Intermittently flooded cold-deciduous shrubland*
ALLIANCE	None

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE
Undescribed type recognized as repeating vegetation on a particular hydrologic surface in the arid western U.S.

Tuzigoot National Monument
This formation is on the floodplain of the Verde River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
This formation appears on river flood bars that are denuded of vegetation by intermittent flood events at long intervals (decades). The coarse-textured bars are well above the water table, excessively well drained, and thus create a xeric environment in the flood plain.

Tuzigoot National Monument
This formation appears on the xeroriparian floodplain of the Verde River in rapidly-drained, coarse-textured soils. It is best represented in the oxbow, north of the active channel and south of the old channel that is currently lined with *Populus fremontii* and *Prosopsis velutina* trees.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
Globally
Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

Strata	Species
Shrub	*C.f. Baccharis sergiloides, Prosopsis velutina, Baccharis salicifolia*
Herbaceous	*Salsola kali, Hordeum jubatum, Solanum douglassii, Bromus rubens, Heterothecea subaxillaris*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES
Globally
Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument
C.f. Baccharis sergiloides

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION
Globally
Information is not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument
The vegetation representing this formation is co-dominated by *c.f. Baccharis sergiloides* and *Salsola kali*, an exotic indicator of recent severe soil disturbance. It is very dense vegetation, composed of tall annual and perennial forbs and scattered deciduous shrubs, of which *Prosopsis velutina* is most obvious. General appearance of the vegetation is very "weedy," reflecting the disturbance and harsh character of its environment. It is bordered by the Verde River and by riparian communities that are associated with more moisture or less disturbed by periodic flooding. Many bare areas within the community are associated with anthills. Additional study of these hydrological surfaces throughout the arid southwest may reveal that this vegetation is akin to the *Baccharis sarothoides-Baccharis salicifolia* alliance.

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

CONSERVATION RANK GU

RANK JUSTIFICATION Not applicable

COMMENTS
This is a disturbance type that has affinities with several riparian communities, notably the *Chilopsis linearis* community, which is a member of this formation. Without periodic flooding, this vegetation will tend to develop into a *Prosopsis velutina* bosque community.

REFERENCES
Richter, Brian. 1996. Personal Communication. National Hydrologist for The Nature Conservancy, Boulder, Colorado.