

## Larrea tridentata var. tridentata / Aristida purpurea Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Creosote/Purple three-awned needlegrass Shrubland
SYNONYM	<i>Larrea divaricata</i> association
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Evergreen shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Extremely xeromorphic evergreen shrubland
FORMATION	Extremely xeromorphic evergreen subdesert shrubland
ALLIANCE	<i>Larrea tridentata</i> Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

### RANGE

Undescribed type and distribution unknown.

#### *Tuzigoot National Monument*

This association occurs primarily along the eastern edge of the survey area, although it appears in isolated patches in the western portions of the Monument.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

#### *Tuzigoot National Monument*

The *Larrea tridentata*/*Aristida purpurea* association occupies limestone bluffs on rapidly-drained, shallow, sandy, clay loam soils and occurs on steep, very shallow, rapidly-drained, fine, sandy soils derived from red sandstone. Most occurrences of this type are found with exposed limestone outcrops on the mesa top, which has the appearance of a flagstone sidewalk.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Not applicable

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

#### *Globally*

Information not available.

#### *Tuzigoot National Monument*

##### Strata

Shrub

##### Species

*Larrea tridentata*, *Krameria parvifolia*, *Canotia holocantha*, *Atriplex canescens*, *Eurotia lanata*, *Prosopis velutina*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Yucca baccata*

Herbaceous

*Aristida purpurea*, *Dyssodia neomexicana*, *Bromus rubens*

### DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

#### *Globally*

Information not available.

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

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*Tuzigoot National Monument*

*Larrea tridentata*, *Aristida purpurea* >1% cover

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

Information is not available.

*Tuzigoot National Monument*

This association is represented by very open shrub communities (total shrub cover less than 25%) with sparse understories. This community becomes a monoculture of *Larrea tridentata* on some limestone-derived soils. It also forms variants with *Gutierrezia sarothrae* and *Eurotia lanata* as locally abundant species. *Gutierrezia sarothrae* is abundant on high, level, well-drained, sandy loam soils derived from limestone. *Eurotia lanata* is most abundant on steep slopes. *Prosopis velutina* shrubs occur in this vegetation in low, wide areas along arroyos.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES None

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION Not applicable

COMMENTS

This association has affinities with several described types, mostly in the Chihuahuan Desert and in semidesert grasslands.

On the Monument, this association intergrades with the *Canotia holocantha*—*Aristida purpurea* association on slopes. To the east and south of the plot, grasses (mostly *Aristida purpurea*) increase in abundance. Lower on the slopes, this community intergrades with a *Prosopis velutina*/*Celtis reticulata* community with *Acacia greggii* and *Atriplex canescens*. Where the *Aristida purpurea*—*Krameria parviflora* association contains *Canotia holocantha*, it borders the *Larrea tridentata*/*Aristida purpurea* association. What appears to be an archeological site, comprised of a semi-circular, stacked rock wall foundation abutting a *Juniperus osteosperma* tree, is located within this community on the mesa top.

REFERENCES None