

Prosopis velutina / Distichlis stricta Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Velvet mesquite/Saltgrass Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	None
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid grassland
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar perennial grassland with shrub layer
FORMATION	Intermittently flooded short perennial grassland with shrub layer*
ALLIANCE	<i>Distichlis stricta</i> Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE

Undescribed type and distribution unknown. This may be a variant of the regional *Distichlis stricta* association that is distributed throughout inland western North America in dry, saline environments.

Tuzigoot National Monument

The *Prosopis velutina*—*Distichlis stricta* association is located around the marsh.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

The *Prosopis velutina*—*Distichlis stricta* association is most common in the drier areas adjacent to the marsh. It is located in poorly-drained, alkaline, clay loam soil. A salt crust is often present on soil between grass tufts.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

Strata

Shrub

Species

Prosopis velutina, *Atriplex canescens*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Kochia scoparia*

Herbaceous

Distichlis stricta, *Aster tephrodes*, *Solanum douglassii*, *Xanthium strumarium*, *Cirsium neomexicanum*, *Rumex crispus*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Tuzigoot National Monument

Tuzigoot National Monument

Prosopis velutina, Distichlis stricta, Aster tephrodes, Kochia scoparia

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Information is not available.

In the Monument, this association is represented by complex vegetation. *Prosopis velutina* is generally less than 2 meters tall, with a patchy coverage that may approach 25% in some areas and is absent in others. An abundance of *Distichlis stricta*, often forming a carpet and displaying well over 50% coverage, characterizes this community. *Aster tephrodes* is rare but always present and, from data on the Monument, is restricted to this community.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Kochia scoparia, an exotic species, is common in this community and locally can be abundant.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION Not applicable

COMMENTS

This association generally borders the marsh and merges with the *Prosopis velutina/Hordeum jubatum* association. *Distichlis stricta* association is found throughout the inland western U.S. It forms associations with a variety of shrub species and develops grasslands devoid of woody plants. This new association may represent a variant in this spectrum of related communities found in saline environments.

REFERENCES None