

Typha angustifolia Herbaceous Alliance

COMMON NAME	Narrowleaf cattail Herbaceous Alliance
SYNONYM	1244.7100 in Reichenbacher, 1983.
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar perennial grassland
FORMATION	Seasonally flooded/temporarily flooded temperate or subpolar perennial grassland
ALLIANCE	<i>Typha angustifolia</i> Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE

Cattail marshes are widespread, but have not been adequately classified in the literature. Related types occur throughout the Great Plains and the western, midwestern and eastern U.S.

Tuzigoot National Monument

This association is most abundant to the east of the Tuzigoot Visitor Center. The association abuts the beaver dam and the Verde River to the south.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Tuzigoot National Monument

It develops in semi-permanently to permanently flooded (often riverine) habitats. It is located on very poorly- drained, sandy loam soils to mucky soils.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Typha</i> spp., <i>Scirpus</i> spp., <i>Eleocharis</i> spp.

Tuzigoot National Monument

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>Scirpus validus</i> , <i>Eleocharis parishii</i> , <i>Lycopus</i> spp., <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> , <i>Sporobolus airoides</i> , <i>Distichlis stricta</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Typha spp.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

Tuzigoot National Monument

Tuzigoot National Monument

Typha angustifolia, *Scirpus validus*, *Lycopus* spp.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

This widespread alliance has not been well classified globally. Examples usually include a single tall graminoid layer composed of *Typha* spp. intermixed with patches of *Scirpus* spp., and/or *Eleocharis* spp., among other wetland species.

Tuzigoot National Monument

This alliance occurs as a complex mosaic of co-dominance and monocultures of *Typha angustifolia* and *Scirpus validus*. *Typha angustifolia* tends to dominate the marsh near the dams to the south, while *Scirpus validus* tends to be more abundant northward or upstream. The stream, pond, and marsh banks or higher microsites may contain *Cynodon dactylon*, *Muhlenbergia asperifolia*, *Distichlis stricta*, *Lycopus* spp., or *Eleocharis parishii*. *Eleocharis parishii* can be very dense, providing complete cover in some areas. *Prosopis velutina*, along with several other woody species, appear within the marsh, usually as dying individual plants.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES None

CONSERVATION RANK G5?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

The floristic variation within this vegetation and the processes associated with it have yet to be documented. Its apparent abundance and lack of definition indicate an ambiguous conservation rank.

COMMENTS

This association is bordered by all the bottomland *Prosopis velutina* associations. This is a community that can develop wherever water is impounded. This marsh association is dynamic vegetation on the Monument. The presence of the weir dam and beaver has and will continue to create hydrologic regimes conducive to the development of this association. Because many areas are newly flooded, there is a mixing of more upland species within the marsh or isolated pockets of marsh species within otherwise recognizable upland associations. The changing flood patterns also result in patches of dying or dead *Scirpus validus*. Transition communities that are clearly becoming more wet are included within this association.

REFERENCES

Reichenbacher, F.W. 1983. Plant Communities of Arizona. Report to Arizona Natural Heritage Program. Tucson, AZ.