

## Acer negundo / Prunus virginiana Forest

COMMON NAME	Ashleaf Maple / Choke Cherry Forest
SYNONYM	Box Elder / Chokecherry Forest
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Forest (I)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous forest (I.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.d)
ALLIANCE	<i>Acer negundo</i> Temporarily Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

### RANGE

#### **Globally**

This association is found in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and South Dakota.

#### **Wind Cave National Park**

Boxelder/chokecherry stands are found in drainages throughout Wind Cave NP. Exemplary stands occur in the Beaver Creek drainage up- and downstream from Highway 385, along Cold Spring Creek near the west Park entrance, along Highland Creek in the canyon west of NPS Rd. 5, and in the Blacktail drainage near the east Park boundary.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

#### **Globally**

This community is found in mesic situations, usually near streams or rivers or broad alluvial floodplains at warm elevations.

#### **Wind Cave National Park**

The boxelder/chokecherry community typically occurs in drainage bottoms on level sites.

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

#### **Globally**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Shrub	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> , <i>Prunus virginiana</i>

#### **Wind Cave National Park**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Acer negundo</i> , <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Shrub	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>

### CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

#### **Globally**

*Acer negundo*, *Prunus virginiana*

#### **Wind Cave National Park**

*Acer negundo*, *Prunus virginiana*

### VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

#### **Globally**

This is an early successional community dominated by *Acer negundo*. *Populus tremuloides* may also be found. Tree density may be moderate to high. Shrubs are common and vary from short (<1 m) to tall (>2 m). *Prunus virginiana* and *Cornus stolonifera* are common. At Wind Cave NP, these woodlands vary in composition, with *Acer negundo* usually present, but *Prunus virginiana* frequently absent. Tree cover typically is in the 10 - 25% range. *Acer negundo* is most consistently present, but other tree species may be present or even common, including *Ulmus americana*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* and *Populus deltoides*. Total shrub cover (tall and short shrubs) is often is greater than 50%. Other common species, in addition to *Prunus virginiana*, include *Rhus trilobata*, *Symphoricarpos occidentalis*, *Ribes aureum* and *Rhus pubescens*. Herbaceous cover is variable, but usually less than

