

Pinus ponderosa Limestone Cliff Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Ponderosa Pine Limestone Cliff Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Ponderosa Pine Limestone Cliff
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse Vegetation (VII)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Consolidated rock sparse vegetation (VII.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated cliffs (VII.A.1)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (VII.A.1.N)
FORMATION	Cliffs with sparse vascular vegetation (VII.A.1.N.a)
ALLIANCE	Open Bluff/Cliff Sparsely Vegetated Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This association is found in western South Dakota and western Nebraska.

Wind Cave National Park

Limestone outcrops are common in the central part of Wind Cave NP (east of Hwy 387 and west of NPS Rd. 5). Large cliffs are found along drainages, especially where streams have cut through the Minnekahta limestone. Most outcrops are too small to map, and so occur as inclusions in other types. Some areas with clusters of small limestone outcrops have been mapped separately.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

At Wind Cave NP in South Dakota, stands are found around large exposures of Pahasapa and Minnekahta limestones. These outcrops occur on ridgetops, slopes and in drainage bottoms (H. Marriott personal communication 1999).

Wind Cave National Park

The ponderosa pine - limestone outcrop sparse vegetation type is found around large exposures of Pahasapa and Minnekahta limestones. These outcrops occur on ridgetops, slopes and in drainage bottoms.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum Species

Information not available.

Wind Cave National Park

Stratum Species

Few vascular species occur in this association.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

Wind Cave National Park

Few vascular species occur in this association.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

At Wind Cave NP in South Dakota, large outcrops of limestone have very sparse vegetative cover at most. Where smaller outcrops occur, they often are surrounded by some type of ponderosa pine forest or woodland. Several shrub species are often found associated with limestone rock outcrops, including *Prunus virginiana*, *Rhus trilobata* and *Toxicodendron pubescens* (H. Marriott personal communication 1999).

