

## Pinus ponderosa / Prunus virginiana Forest

COMMON NAME	Ponderosa Pine / Choke Cherry Forest
SYNONYM	Ponderosa Pine/Chokecherry Forest
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Forest (I)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Evergreen forest (I.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (I.A.8.N)
FORMATION	Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8.N.b)
ALLIANCE	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Forest Alliance
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	1
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM	Upland

### RANGE

#### **Globally**

This community is found in eastern Montana, eastern and northern Wyoming, western South Dakota, and western Nebraska.

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

Ponderosa pine/chokecherry vegetation is common at Wind Cave NP. It is scattered throughout the forested areas west of NPS Rd. 5, and on Boland Ridge. Exemplary stands are found in Cold Brook Canyon near the west Park boundary, near the Centennial trailhead just above Beaver Creek and in the drainage bottom of the south fork of upper Blacktail Creek (east side of Boland Ridge).

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

#### **Globally**

This is one of the most mesic ponderosa pine communities. It occurs on gentle to moderate (2-40%) north facing slopes and close to streams (Hansen and Hoffman 1988). A few stands are on rolling uplands. The soils are sandy loam or loam.

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

Stands of ponderosa pine/chokecherry occur on moderately steep to steep slopes with northerly aspects. This community is more common on lower slopes, which tend to be more shaded and mesic than the slopes above.

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

#### **Globally**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Shrub	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> , <i>Mahonia repens</i> , <i>Prunus virginiana</i>

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

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Shrub	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Carex inops</i> ssp. <i>heliophila</i> , <i>Muhlenbergia racemosa</i> , <i>Poa pratensis</i>

### CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

#### **Globally**

*Pinus ponderosa*, *Prunus virginiana*

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

*Pinus ponderosa*, *Prunus virginiana*

### VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

#### **Globally**

This forest community has a closed canopy made up of *Pinus ponderosa*. Hansen and Hoffman (1988) found that the basal area ranged from 36.6-63.5 m<sup>2</sup>/ha in five stands in southeastern Montana. Seedlings and saplings of *Crataegus succulenta* and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* are often scattered in the understory. These species may grow to be mature trees near streams. There are two shrub

