

Pinus ponderosa / Schizachyrium scoparium Woodland

COMMON NAME	Ponderosa Pine / Little Bluestem Woodland
SYNONYM	Ponderosa Pine/Little Bluestem Woodland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Woodland (II)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Evergreen woodland (II.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (II.A.4.N)
FORMATION	Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.N.a)
ALLIANCE	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Woodland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community is found in Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Montana; it may also occur in Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Wind Cave National Park

Ponderosa pine/little bluestem is a very common vegetation type at Wind Cave NP. It occupies large areas in the western half of the Park and on Boland Ridge, and smaller scattered stands are found elsewhere.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This ponderosa pine / little bluestem community type is a dry woodland found in the Great Plains. It usually occurs on south- and west-facing slopes of hills, rocky breaks, and watercourses.

Wind Cave National Park

Ponderosa pine/little bluestem stands are found on somewhat steep to steep mid- and upper slopes with southerly or westerly aspects.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> , <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Short shrub	<i>Rhus trilobata</i> , <i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>

Wind Cave National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> , <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Pinus ponderosa, *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Wind Cave National Park

Pinus ponderosa, *Schizachyrium scoparium*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The overstory is dominated by *Pinus ponderosa* with *Juniperus scopulorum* often present. The shrub layer is composed of species such as *Juniperus scopulorum*, *Rhus trilobata*, and *Symphoricarpos* spp. *Schizachyrium scoparium* is the most abundant graminoid, often accompanied by *Pascopyrum smithii*, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Bouteloua gracilis*, *Stipa comata*, *Carex inops* ssp. *heliophila*, and *Carex foenea*. Common forbs include *Achillea millefolium*, *Phlox hoodii*, and *Allium* spp.

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Thilenius, J.F. 1970. An isolated occurrence of limber pine (*Pinus flexilis* James) in the Black Hill of South Dakota. *Am. Midl. Nat.* 84(2):411-417.

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