Salix bebbiana Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Gray Willow Shrubland
SYNONYM	Beaked Willow Scrub
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.d)
ALLIANCE	*Salix bebbiana* Temporarily Flooded Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE
Globally
This community has been identified in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. It also appears in Montana.

Wind Cave National Park
Bebb's willow shrubland does not occur in Wind Cave NP. It is found along streams in the area west of the Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
Globally
This community is a briefly flooded scrub-shrub wetland on slightly to moderately alkaline soils, usually near low-gradient streams. The water table is well below the soil surface for over half the growing season. However, there are brief periods of several days to a few weeks when water is at the surface.

Wind Cave National Park
Bebb's willow shrubland occurs in narrow zones along streams in the Wind Cave NP area.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
Globally

Stratum	Species
Shrub	*Salix bebbiana*
Herbaceous	*Carex* spp., *Scirpus* spp.

Wind Cave National Park

Stratum	Species
Shrub	*Salix bebbiana*

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES
Globally
Salix bebbiana

Wind Cave National Park
Salix bebbiana

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION
Globally
This shrubland is typically dominated by a dense growth of shrubs 0.5-3 m tall. The most abundant species in the shrub layer are *Salix bebbiana, Salix scouleriana*, and *Salix fendleriana*. Other species found in this strata include *Betula occidentalis, Cornus sericea* ssp. sericea, *Salix exigua, Salix fluviatilis*, and *Prunus virginiana*. Multiple-stemmed trees and/or shrubs 1.5-5 m tall have 30-100% cover; single-stemmed trees have less than 30% cover. The herbaceous layer often contains *Scirpus* spp., *Carex* spp., *Triglochin palustris, Calamagrostis canadensis*, and *Equisetum* spp. along the wetter margins of the community. In the drier areas *Gentiana strictiflora, Prunella vulgaris, Pyrola asarifolia, Zizia cordata, Sanicula marilandica, Viola canadensis, Vicia americana*, and *Ranunculus macounii* are frequently present.

Wind Cave National Park
Bebb's Willow Shrubland is strongly dominated by Bebb's willow, with cover in the 50-75% range and sometimes greater. In the Wind Cave area, other shrubs that contribute minor cover are juneberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and several species of currant (*Ribes* spp.). Herbaceous cover is sparse overall, but patches of western Great Plains streamside vegetation can be found in openings in the willows.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3?. Most sites have been impacted by grazing.

DATABASE CODE CEGL001173

MAP UNITS
The Bebb's willow community corresponds to map unit 34, Bebb Willow Shrubland, on the Wind Cave vegetation map.

COMMENTS

REFERENCES
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