

7. *Atriplex canescens* Shrubland Association

Fourwing saltbush Shrubland Association

This shrubland community is characterized by a subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) dominated by fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), which provides evenly distributed 25% cover throughout. No other shrub species are present within this single example type. The field stratum (<0.5 m) contributes around 13% cover, mainly consisting of sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), Fendler's globemallow (*Sphaeralcea fendleri*), common purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), dwarf stickpea (*Calliandra humilis*), wild potato (*Solanum jamesii*), and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). None of these species provides more than 1% cover.

This shrubland is found at a single location in the TJ unit of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, at 1,738 meters (5,704 ft). It covers 0.04% (0.46 ha/1.14 ac) of the project area and 0.2% (0.46 ha/1.14 ac) of the monument, exclusively in the TJ unit. The sole occurrence spans a low-angle summit and shoulder of a small mesa with dominant surface cover consisting of gravel and bare soil.

Common species

- *Atriplex canescens*
- *Bouteloua curtipendula*
- *Bouteloua gracilis*
- *Portulaca oleracea*
- *Sporobolus cryptandrus*

