

DOCKETED	
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California Native Plant Society

A Manual of California Vegetation Online

Yucca brevifolia Woodland Alliance

Joshua tree woodland

USDA Ecological Section Map



Leaflet |

Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Summary Information

- **Primary Life Form:** Tree
- **Elevation:** 750-1800 m
- **State Rarity:** S3.2
- **Global Rarity:** G4
- **Distribution:** USA: AZ, CA, NV, UT (NatureServe)
- **Endemic to California:** No
- **Endemic to California Floristic Province and Deserts:** No

- **Date Added:** 1995/11/01



Related Links

- » [Feedback](#)
- » [How to read alliance descriptions](#)
- » [Full bibliography](#)

Characteristic Species

Yucca brevifolia is an emergent small tree over a shrub or grass layer with *Ambrosia dumosa*, *Ambrosia salsola*, *Artemisia tridentata*, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*, *Coleogyne ramosissima*, *Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa*, *Ephedra nevadensis*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Gutierrezia microcephala*, *Krascheninnikovia lanata*, *Larrea tridentata*, *Lycium andersonii*, *Yucca baccata* and *Yucca schidigera*. Other trees may be present at low cover, including *Juniperus californica*, *Juniperus osteosperma* or *Pinus monophylla*.

Vegetation Layers

Trees < 14 m; canopy is open to intermittent. Shrub layer is open to intermittent. Herbaceous layer is open to intermittent with perennial grasses and seasonal annuals.

Membership Rules

- *Yucca brevifolia* evenly distributed at $\geq 1\%$ cover, *Juniperus* and/or *Pinus* spp. $< 1\%$ absolute cover in the tree canopy (Thomas et al. 2004).

Habitats

Gentle alluvial fans, ridges, gentle to moderate slopes. Soils are coarse sands, very fine silts, gravel, or sandy loams. Many sites have bimodal soils with both coarse sands and fine silts.

Other Habitat, Alliance and Community Groupings

MCV (1995): Joshua tree series

NVCS (2009): *Yucca brevifolia* wooded herbaceous alliance, *Yucca brevifolia* wooded shrubland alliance

Calveg: Joshua tree

Holland: Mojave mixed woody scrub, Mojave mixed steppe, Joshua tree woodland

Munz: Joshua tree woodland

WHR: Joshua tree

CDFW CA Code: 33.170.00

National Vegetation Classification Hierarchy

Formation Class: Xeromorphic Scrub and Herb Vegetation (Semi-Desert)

Formation Subclass: Warm Semi-Desert Scrub and Grassland

Formation: Warm Semi-Desert Scrub and Grassland

Division: Sonoran and Chihuahuan Semi-Desert Scrub and Grassland

Macro Group: Mojavean-Sonoran Desert Scrub

Group: Mojavean upper desert scrub

Remarks [\(more\)](#)

Life History Traits of the Principal Species [\(more\)](#)

Fire Characteristics [\(more\)](#)

Regional Status [\(more\)](#)

Management Considerations [\(more\)](#)

Associations [\(more\)](#)

References [\(more\)](#)