Pinyon-juniper woodlands

Gambel oak (Quercus gambelii) • Small tree to 90' tall, crown 5-30' wide. Leaves lobed. Acorns 1' long. Bark gray, checkered to flakey.

Pointleaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos pungens) • Sprawling bush 3-8' tall, 3-10' wide. Crooked stems, brick red smooth bark. Leaves gray, pointed, ½' long. Flowers soft pink, bell shape, in clusters, 1' long and wide, maturing to brick red berry-like edible fruits.

Skunkbush sumac (Rhus trilobata) • Shrub up to 7' tall. Leaves 1-2 long, lobed. Flowers yellow-white in small clusters, maturing to sticky red berries.


Pinyon pine (Pinus edulis) • Tree 8-60' tall, 5-30' wide. Needles 2' long, in pairs. Yellowish pollen cones ½' long; round seed cones 2' long. Bark Clifford (Purshia mexicana) • Shrub to 12' tall, 8' wide, much smaller in harsh conditions. Bark gray, shredded. Leaves ½ to ¾' long, deeply lobed, white underneath. Flower cream-colored, 1' wide. Fruits feather-tailed, in clusters.

Four-winged saltbrush (Atriplex canescens) • Shrub 3-8' tall; 2-6' wide. Leaves narrow, gray leaves 2' long. Flowers tiny, golden-yellow. Seed light green and papery, drying to pale brown or nearly white.

Rubber rabbitbrush (Ericameria nauseosa) • Shrub 2-6' tall, 1-4' wide. Leaves narrow, 1-3' long. Flowers yellow, umbrella shaped.

Tree cholla, staghorn cholla (Opuntia imbricata) • Cactus 1-10' tall, 1-5' wide. Branches have spines ½' long in clusters of about 20. Flowers magenta, 2-3' diameter, at ends of branches.

Banana yucca (Yucca baccata) • Trunks stout, gray-brown bark, up to 6' tall. Basal rosete of 1-2' long, stiff, sword-like leaves with curling fibers along edges. Flowers white on a 3' tall woody stalk. Fruits somewhat resemble bananas.

Engelmann’s prickly-pear (Opuntia phaeacantha) • Cactus 1-6' tall, 1-10' wide. Pads to 4-8' long, covered in spines. Flowers yellow-red. Fruit oval, fleshy, yellow-red.
Blue grama (Bouteloua gracilis) • Clumpy perennial grass 8–12" tall. Seed heads elongated and droop perpendicular to flower stalk, curling like eyelashes when dried. Flower stalks between 12–18" tall; leaf blades grey green.

Purple threeawn (Aristida purpurea) • Perennial grass to 24" tall; 1–2' wide. Leaves grow from base, usually in a V, firm and stiff. Seed heads of small clusters that alternate along the flower stalk for up to 3". Leaves very coarse with lengths to 4".

Mutton grass (Poa fendleriana) • Perennial bunchgrass to 20" tall. Leaves grow from base, usually in a V, firm and stiff. Seed heads in clusters from 1/16" to 1¼" long.

Ring muhly (Muhlenbergia torreyi) • Perennial grass to 9' tall, grown in rings. Blades crowded at base, somewhat coarse. Seed heads purplish clusters ½" long. Flower stalks usually half of total plant height.

Squirreltail (Elymus elymoides) • Perennial grass to 20" tall and 15" wide. Seed heads resemble a "bottlebrush" with seeds approximately 1–3" long.

Galleta (Hilaria jamesii) • Perennial grass to 12" tall. Seed heads composed of small clusters that alternate along the flower stalk for up to 3". Leaves very coarse with lengths to 4".

Fleabane (Erigeron spp.) • Wildflower to 18" tall, many species. Flowers small, white, pink, or light purple, with numerous narrow petals and yellow center.

Broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae) • Small shrub-flower to 2' tall and wide. Small clusters of yellow flowers. Long narrow leaves 1–2' long alternate on semi-woody stem. Indicator of heavy grazing.

Vetch (Astragalus spp.) • Wildflower. Several species, erect or spreading with white to purple flowers in dense clusters. Seeds in capsules like small pea pods; stems and stems hairy. Compound leaves with 13–25 leaflets.

Globemallow (Sphaeralcea coccinea and S. parvifolia) • Wildflower 6–12' tall. Flowers on several stems, orange, saucer-shaped, to 1" wide. Leaves grayish green with 3–5 lobes, about 1–2" in length.

Cheatgrass, Downy brome (Bromus tectorum) • Grass to 2'. Blades emerge in fall. Seedheads red-purple, drooping. Rapid spring growth, matures before other grasses. Usually with many short, soft hairs.

Russian thistle, Tumbleweed (Salsola tragus) • Dense, round, branched annual shrub up to 3' tall and 4' wide. Branches striped red or purple. Flowers white to pink. Leaves usually 1½" long, roundish, very pointy at tips.