

Tent Rocks/Cottonwood Basin



Funastrum crispum, *Cymopterus multinervatus*, *Allium bigelovii*, *Anisacanthus thurberi*

The Tent Rocks / Cottonwood Basin area contains a combination of unique geological features and several perennial springs in the lower elevations of the Verde Valley southeast of Camp Verde. The underlying volcanic tuff soils seem to support an unusually rich flora of both annual and perennial wildflowers in upper Sonoran desert scrub habitat, and the springs add riparian diversity and interest (and shade) to the study site.



Management & Location

The site is under Coconino National Forest management, and is accessed via State Highway 260 as it heads east from Camp Verde. Take USFS Road # 708 south towards Childs one mile to Rd. # 500, which skirts the north edge of the Tent Rocks tuff formations, before turning south to Cottonwood and Mesquite Springs and ultimately the Verde River. Rd.#708 is well graded and passable in most vehicles, but #500 requires high clearance. Hiking is of moderate difficulty, and is all cross country with little shade except near the springs, but with only modest elevation differences. See attached topographic map of the area on the second page.

2010 Season Goals & Parameters

A working list based on observations in the area contains over 280 species of vascular plants, of which 170 were documented with voucher collections during the 2009 season. The study area has been expanded for the 2010 season to include part of Wingfield Mesa to the west, and the rest of the main wash below both springs down to the Verde River. We are expecting good year for both spring annuals as well as perennials this season, and hope to



make significant progress towards both documentation and expansion of species on the list.

Coordinating botanist and contact for trip schedules & plant list:

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