

Verde Valley Botanical Area



Purshia subintegra, Eriogonum ericifolium, Salvia dorrii ssp. mearnsii, Polygala rusbyi

The Verde Valley Botanical Area was established to help protect the Arizona Cliffrose (*Purshia subintegra*), a federally listed endangered species endemic to central Arizona. The area is dominated by the Verde Formation, composed of limestone soils and cliffs along the east side of the Verde River near Cottonwood. It is also home to a handful of other sensitive endemic plant species that have habitats restricted to the same geological substrate.



Management & Location

The site is under Coconino National Forest management, and is located north of State Highway 89A, east of the Verde River, and west of the Bill Gray Road (USFS Rd. #761). A number of smaller roads approach the perimeter of the site, and it is crossed by the Limekiln and Bill Ensign Trails. Hiking is of moderate difficulty, and other than the two trails mentioned, is all cross country with little shade except for that provided by scattered Junipers and the dominant Crucifixion Thorn (*Canotia holacantha*). Most of the area ranges from 3300'-3700' in elevation. See topographic map of the area on second page.

2010 Season Goals & Parameters

A working checklist based on many years of observation by former Verde Valley botanist Bob Denham contains approximately 475 species of vascular plants, but no official documentation has yet been undertaken. The PAPAZ study area is expanded beyond the boundaries of the official Botanical Area, and includes the area south along Rocking Chair Road, and north as far as Raptor Hill. The 2010 goals are modest, with the primary



emphasis being several trips to collect annuals resulting from the good winter precipitation. Greater effort will follow in 2011.

Coordinating botanist and contact for trip schedules & plant list:

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