

The immediate project area is dominated by dunes with desert grassland vegetation, in this case predominantly shinnery oak (*Quercus havardii*), which acts as a support mechanism for stabilizing the dune environment as well as a food source (Sebastian and Larralde 1989). Other floral species in the area include mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*), sand sagebrush (*Artemisia filifolia*), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and various grasses, including black gramma (*Bouteloua eriopoda*) and tobosa (*Hilaria mutica*).