### ERAGROSTEAE (Lovegrass Tribe)

**Distichlis spicata** – *Inland Saltgrass*  
- Sodgrass that spreads by scaly rhizomes  
- Leaves stiffly 2-ranked, depart culm at 45º angle  
- Sheaths longer than the internodes creating a series of overlapping sheaths  
- Seedhead is a contracted panicle that looks like a spike  
- Spikelets 5-9 flowered, white and shiny  
- *Distichlis* = overlapping; *spicata* = spike-type inflorescence

### TRITICEAE (Wheatgrass Tribe)

**Leymus cinereus** – *Great Basin Wildrye*  
- Stout, tall (3 to 6 feet), bunchgrass  
- Inflorescence a spike, relatively continuous and uninterrupted  
- 3-5 spikelets per node on rachis, with a bristle at the base of every spikelet  
- Glumes are narrow, awn tipped  
- *Leymus* = an anagram of *Elymus* which this species was formerly classified as and is an ancient Greek name for millet; *cinereus* = ashy-grey

### ANTHEMIDEAE (Aromatic Tribe in Asteraceae)

**Artemisia spinescens** – *Budsage*  
- Short plant with rigid branches and spines  
- Mature branches very spiny  
- Older branches thickened, bark gray to dark brown, exfoliating. New stems white and hairy.  
- Leaves 3 to 5 parted clumped together in balls or “buds”  
- *Artemisia* = referring to the Greek goddess Artemis; *spinescence* = spiny

### BRASSICACEAE (Mustard Family)

**Stanleya pinnata** – *Desert Princesplume*  
- One to several stems from a woody base surmounting a taproot, simple to branched above  
- Lower leaves deeply cleft, upper leaves entire this is called “dimorphism”  
- Flowers in a raceme with many yellow flower at tips of branches  
- Yellow flowers with 4 petals  
- *Stanleya* = named for Lord Edward Smith Stanley, an ornithologist once president of the Linnaean Society; *pinnata* = feathery and pinnate, referring to the leaves

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1Life Span: P=perennial; A=Annual  
2Origin: N=native; I=introduced  
CHENOPODIACEAE (Goosefoot Family)

Atriplex canescens – Fourwing Saltbrush

- Mid-sized shrub loosely branches. No thorns or spines on branches
- Plant is dioecious (plants either male or female)
- Leaves linear/oblong, straight and not twisted, folded or bent; occurring in fascicles
- Fruits with 4 papery notched wings
- *Atriplex* is the ancient name used by Pliny for this genus; *canescens* = hairy-white/grey

Atriplex confertifolia – Shadscale Saltbrush

- Shrub forms a rounded clump with many spines - twigs with thorny tips
- Leaves orbicular/ovate (like a fish scale), not flat, salt covering “confetti” leaves
- Young branches yellowish, mature branches are scruffy, gray, and rigid
- Fruits and flowers not showy
- *Atriplex* is the ancient name used by Pliny for this genus; “confert” = crowded or pressed together + “folia” = leaves

Ceratoides lanata – Winterfat

- Small suffrutescent plant or subshrub; stout cluster of branches
- Leaves linear/lanceolate, margins entire and very pubescent
- Lower side of leaves with a distinct midrib & enrolled margins
- Inflorescence in a dense, hairy cluster; fruits are hairy shears
- “cerat” = horn + “oides” = like a; lanata = wooly

Sarcobatus vermiculatus – Greasewood

- Large shrub with white, spiny stems
- Stems usually diverge from main branch at 90° angles
- Leaves linear and fleshy, erect, and alternate
- Male flowers are dense spike-like catkins; female flowers are cone-shaped and reddish
- *sarco* = fleshy + *batus* = a shrub or bramble; *vermiculatus* = “worm-like”

EPHEDRACEAE

Ephedra trifurca – Mormon Tea

- Evergreen plant
- Stems with long, barren internodes, can be quite woody
- Leaves in 3’s, are scale-like and pointed
- Flowers as cones
- *Ephedra* = Greek name for common mare’s tail which it resembles; *trifurca* = three-forked

MALVACEAE

Sphaeralcea coccinea – Scarlet Globemallow

- A small forb (erect or decumbent) with leafy stems
- Leaves deeply and palmately lobed (3-5 lobes) with petioles
- Leaves covered with stellately pubescence (hairs in star-shaped groups of 5)
- Flowers are melon colored with 5 petals
- *Spaeralcea* = globular (*sphaer*) + mallow-like (*alcea*); *coccinea* = scarlet or bright, deep pink