

ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH Rooted in Resilience

Environmental Message May 2025

Did you know? Antelope bitterbrush is a plant of resilience! Found across arid landscapes, this hardy shrub thrives in poor, sandy soils and can survive in areas with as little as 8 inches of annual rainfall. Its deep root system not only allows it to access water during droughts but also stabilizes soil, helping to prevent erosion.





Human and Wildlife Uses. Antelope bitterbrush is a critical resource for wildlife. Its foliage and twigs are a favored winter food for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn, providing essential nutrition when other vegetation is dormant. Birds and small mammals benefit from its dense branches, which offer shelter and nesting sites, and flowers promote pollinator activity. Bitterbrush also plays a role in traditional uses, as Indigenous peoples historically used its wood for tools and its seeds for food.

Border Zone Compatible. Antelope bitterbrush is a strong candidate for inclusion in the border zone on both electric and gas utility rights-of-way (ROW) within its native range. With an average height of 2–6 feet, its low-growing nature makes it compatible with ROW safety requirements, and its ability to thrive in challenging soil conditions ensures it stabilizes and enhances disturbed areas. Antelope bitterbrush also provides significant ecological benefits, supporting wildlife, promoting pollinator activity, and preventing soil erosion.

Distribution Map



References/Works Cited

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