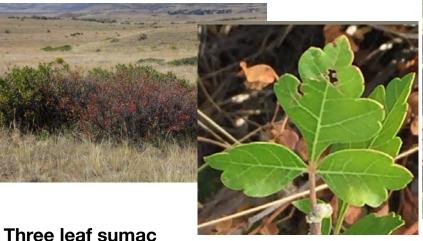
Two shrubs dominate the cover on Soapstone hills





Rhus trilobata (Sumac family) native.

This shrub produces red, fuzzy berries that were used by native Americans to make a lemonadelike drink. The branches could be used for arrow shafts.



Mountain mahogany

Cercocarpus montanus (Rose family) native.

The seed have furry tails that curl and straighten with changes in moisture. When on the ground, this motion allows them to plant themselves.

Soapstone **Prairie Plants** Mid to Late August



Sleepygrass

Achnatherum robustum (Grass family) native.

Tall grass with darkish compact heads. Consuming this has a soporific effect on livestock.





Hairy goldenaster

Heterotheca villosa (Sunflower family) native. low growing plants with small flowers. The foliage has dense soft hairs. Just starting to bloom, Mush smaller and less abundant than Prairie sunflower.



Broom-like ragwort

Senecio spartiodes. (Sunflowerfamily)
Just beginning to bloom
flower heads have long scraggly yellow rays.







Prairie sunflower or Bush sunflower

Helianthus pumilus (Sunflower family) native. Bushy plants with multiple stems create a profusion of blooms in the landscape. The leaves are small with tiny stiff bristles that make them feel like sandpaper. Native Americans relished the seeds.





Blue grama

Bouteloua gracilisi (Grass family) native An important nutritious prairie grass. The flowerhead often curls as it dries. You can see why it is often called the "eyelash" grass.