

## Two shrubs dominate the cover on Soapstone hills



### Three leaf sumac

*Rhus trilobata* (Sumac family) native.

This shrub produces red, fuzzy berries that were used by native Americans to make a lemonade-like 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, Much 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 gracilis* (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.