

****11/4/03 DRAFT****

**Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Interagency Handbook
Reference Conditions**

Modeler: Steve Barrett

Date: 9/23/03

PNVG Code: MCON

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: California Mixed Conifer (i.e., “Mixed Conifer” as per Kuchler [1964] and Schmidt et al. [2002]).

Geographic Area: California, southwestern Oregon.

Description: PNVG is a montane forest type in the Sierra Nevada- and Coastal Ranges, extending northward into the Klamath Mountains and Southern Cascades. PNVG occupies a wide variety of terrain ranging from relatively dry- to mesic sites on gentle- to moderately steep slopes, generally between 2000 and 6000 feet elevation. Stands range from open- to relatively densely stocked, usually dominated by early- to mid seral species such as sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, or incense cedar, depending on site type and fire history. Stand understories range from open to moderately dense, often dominated by various mixes of shrubs such as manzanita spp., deerbrush, oak spp., Sierra currant, western yew, and thimbleberry.

Fire Regime Description: Regimes I and III; primarily short-interval (e.g., 10-20 yr) surface fires with occasional moderate-interval (e.g., 30-50 yr) mixed severity fires.

Vegetation Type and Structure

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	5	Early succession after moderately long-interval replacement fires (rare in PNVG)
B: mid-development closed	15	Primarily shade intolerant conifer saplings to poles (> 40% canopy cover)
C: mid- open	35	Primarily shade intolerant conifer saplings to poles (<40% canopy cover)
D: late- open	40	Pole- and larger diameter shade intolerant- and mixed conifer species (<40% canopy cover) in small- to moderate size patches, generally on southerly aspects
E: late- closed	5	Pole- and larger diameter shade intolerant- and mixed conifer species (>40% canopy cover), in moderate- to large size patches,

particularly on steep northerly aspects

Total 100

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Pct, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.003	<5	Rare; primarily in classes E and B.
Non-Replacement Fire	.067	95	80% surface fires (15-20 yr MFI); 20% mixed severity fires (30-50 yr MFI); all successional classes
All Fire Frequency*	.07	100	

*Sum of replacement fire and non-replacement fire probabilities.

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VDDT Results







