

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

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

Modeler: Steve Barrett

Date: 8/13/03

PNVG Code: MSHB1

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Mountain Shrubland With Trees

Geographic Area: Intermountain West.

Description: Minor but relatively widespread PNVG occurs throughout the Intermountain West (e.g., Society for Range Mgt. Cover Types 317-319, 418-421). PNVG occupies draws and foothills (all aspects) in the transition zone between grasslands and montane forests, and ranges widely in elevation (e.g., 3000-9000 ft) throughout its geographic range. PNVG often occurs on relatively mesic sites with thinly- to moderately well developed soils on gentle- to moderately steep slopes. Frequent stand replacement fires promote dominance by various mixes of shrubs such as serviceberry, *Prunus* spp., snowberry, bitterbrush, snowbrush, bigtooth maple, or mountain-mahoganies.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regime II, primarily short-interval (e.g., 15-25 yr) stand replacement fires in the shrub-dominated layer.

Vegetation Type and Structure

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	40	Early succession, usually after frequent stand replacement fires; grasses and forbs dominant
B: mid-development closed	20	>15% shrub cover (i.e., line intercept method), with sprouting shrubs dominant over obligate seeders; grasses/forbs dominant in scattered openings.
C: mid- open	10	<15% shrub cover, with grasses/forbs dominant in extensive openings
D: late- open	5	<15% shrub cover, with overmature shrubs as dominant overstory and grasses/forbs dominant in extensive openings
E: late- closed	25	>15% shrub cover; all age classes present but dominated by overmature shrubs, sparse understory except in gaps
Total	100	

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Pct, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.048	90	Largely short-interval fires in classes A-C
Non-Replacement Fire	.005	10	Patchy fires, generally in classes C-D
All Fire Frequency*	.053	100	

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

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PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

6/25/03 personal communication with Dr. E. Durant McArthur, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service Shrub Science Laboratory, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Provo UT.

MODELER FIELD REVIEWS

Barrett, Stephen W.; Private land near Dayton MT, 2003.