

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

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

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PNVG Code: CHAP5

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Interior chaparral.

Geographic Area: Great Basin, Central Rockies, Colorado Plateau, Southern Rockies.

Description: PNVG common to mountain foothills and lower slopes from eastern Idaho, east to Wyoming, and south to Arizona and New Mexico. Sites are mixed shrub associations ecotonal to mixed conifer, juniper, pine/oak woodlands, and quaking aspen communities. Co-dominant shrubs are primarily gambel oak, bigtooth maple, ceanothus, manzanita, and scrub oak species. Sites usually transitional to forests as soils and climate allow.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regime IV, primarily moderately long -interval (e.g., 40-60 yr) stand replacement fires.

Vegetation Type and Structure

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	20	Post-fire community of grasses, forbs, and sprouting shrubs
B: mid-development closed	45	Mid-seral, dense (>15%) canopy cover mixed shrub stands with depauperate understory. Gambel oak forms dense pole stands in this stage.
C: mid- open	5	Mid-seral, open (<15%) mixed shrub community with perennial grasses and forbs in interspaces
D: late- open	5	Late-seral, open (<15%) mixed shrub community with mixed shrub/herbaceous community
E: late- closed	25	Late-seral, closed (>15%) mixed shrub community with significant deadwood component. Within-stand mortality for gambel oak begins at 60 years.
Total	100	

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Pct, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.02	90	Stand replacement crown fire in dense shrub communities
Non-Replacement Fire	.0022	10	Infrequent mosaic burning in open stages
All Fire Frequency*	.0022	100	

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

References

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