

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

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

Modeler: Wendel Hann

Date: 9/25/03

PNVG Code: DSHB1

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Salt Desert Shrubland

Geographic Area: Scattered across all geographic areas of the western United States.

Description: This type typically occurs on poorly drained areas, such as flats, playas, undrained catchment areas, and at the base of draws or fans where salts tend to accumulate and clay content is often high. Vegetation is shrubland dominated by salbush, shadscale, greasewood, bud sagebrush, winterfat, spiny hopsage, and saltgrass with intermingled forbs. This type correlates with Kuchler's (1964) type 40.

Fire Regime Description: Fire regime group III, infrequent mixed. The mean fire interval is about 40 years with high variation due to poorly drained and clayey soils that can range from wet to extremely droughty. Saltgrass production is highly variable in relation to moisture availability and flammability of shrubs varies depending on drought. This complex interaction tends to reduce fire frequency during both moist and drought periods, but increase frequency during intermediate conditions. Grazing of the grassy fuels by large ungulates can also substantially influence fire mosaic patterns in this type, since in moist years these areas may produce green forage when upland forage has cured out.

Vegetation Type and Structure of Fire Regime Group II

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	5	Dominated by resprouts of shrubs and saltgrass and post-fire associated forbs. This type typically occurs where fires burn relatively hot in classes B and C.
B: mid-development closed	40	Greater than 15 percent shrub cover and 20-40 per cent grass and forb cover; generally associated with flats and transition to upland slopes and benches that have less accumulated salts and clay.
C: mid- open	55	Less than 15 percent shrub cover and less than 20 per cent grass and forb cover generally associated with very poorly drained areas with high accumulated salts and clays or

very dry areas.

D: late- open

E: late- closed

Total 100

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency- Severity	Modeled Probability	Percent , All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.015	60	Replacement fires in B and C
Non-Replacement Fire	.010	40	Mosaic fires in classes B and C
All Fire Frequency*	.025	100	40 year mean fire frequency with high variation due to poor drainage, droughty conditions, and herbivory

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

References

Brown, James K.; Smith, Jane Kapler, eds. 2000. Wildland fire in ecosystems: effects of fire on flora. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-42-vol. 2. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 257 p.

Kuchler, A. W. 1964. Manual to accompany the map of potential natural vegetation of the conterminous United States. American Geographical Society. Spec. Publ. No. 36. Lib. Congress Cat. Card Num. 64-15417. 156 p.

Schmidt, Kirsten M, Menakis, James P., Hardy, Colin C., Hann, Wendel J., Bunnell, David L. 2002. Development of coarse-scale spatial data for wildland fire and fuel management. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-87. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 41 p. + CD.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (2002, December). Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/> (User supply access date).

MODELER FIELD REVIEWS: *SPECIFIC LOCN?

Wendel Hann - Nevada 2000, Utah 2001, Wyoming 2002

VDDT Results



