

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

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

Modeler: Wendel Hann

Date: 10/24/03

PNVG Code: PRAR2

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Prairie Grassland With Trees

Geographic Area: Occurs in the Great Plains from the Dakotas south to Texas.

Description: This type typically occurs on the north aspects, in draws, on ridges or in higher precipitation areas of the rolling uplands of the Prairie. Vegetation is tall grass dominated by big bluestem, little bluestem, needlegrass, grama grasses, and other tall and mid grasses, with intermingled forbs and scattered patches of trees and shrubs. This type correlates with Kuchler's (1964) types 70, 74, 75, and 76.

Fire Regime Description: Fire regime group II, frequent replacement. The mean fire interval is about 8 years with moderate variation due to year to year variation in grass production related to drought and moisture cycles. Grazing of the grassy fuels by large ungulates increases the variation of the fire interval.

Vegetation Type and Structure of Fire Regime Group II

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	2	Dominated by resprouts and seedlings of grasses and post-fire associated forbs. Low to medium height with variable canopy cover. This type typically occurs where fires burn relatively hot in classes B and C.
B: mid-development closed	53	Greater than 35 percent herb cover. Generally associated with more productive soils, but can be caused by cumulative high moisture seasons increasing the cover and productivity of class C. Tall in height.
C: mid- open	40	Less than 35 percent herb cover. Generally associated with less productive cobbly and gravelly soils, but can also be caused by cumulative drought shifting class B to this class. Tall in height.
D: late- open	4	Less than 35 percent tree cover. Savannah aspect of scattered trees and shrubs with grass. Typically located on gentle slopes or less productive soils where fire intensity allows scattered tree seedlings to survive.
E: late- closed	1	Greater than 35 percent tree cover. Typically located on the ridges, more moist north aspects, or other areas where patches may be missed by fire.
Total	100	

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Percent, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.103	80	Replacement fires in A, B and C
Non-Replacement Fire	.022	20	Mosaic fires in classes B and C
All Fire Frequency*	.125	100	8 year mean fire frequency with high variation due to complex interaction of

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

References

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VDDT Results



