

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

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Interagency Handbook Reference Conditions

Modeler: Kelly Pohl

Date: 9/23/03

PNVG Code: PPIN6

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Ponderosa Pine

Geographic Area: Southern Rockies

Description: Occurs in foothills and montane zones of southern Rockies on gentle to moderately steep terrain, especially on south-facing slopes. Bordered toward lower elevations by grassland or shrubland communities; bordered toward higher elevations by ponderosa pine-Douglas-fir or other mixed conifer types. Douglas-fir can be found in this PNVG.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regime Group I. Dominated by surface fire and mixed-intensity fire regimes, with moderately frequent return intervals. Frequent surface fires maintain open types and reduce density in closed types. Mosaic fires create large openings. Note that there is some disagreement about the role of mixed-intensity fires in this type.

Vegetation Type and Structure

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	15	Openings dominated by grass, oak, and mountain mahogany from post stand-replacement fire. Some openings may persist.
B: mid-development closed	10	>30% canopy cover dominated by sapling-pole ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, or Abies spp.
C: mid- open	15	<30% canopy cover consisting of sapling-pole ponderosa pine. Shrub species may be present.
D: late- open	45	<30% canopy cover consisting of large-diameter ponderosa pine. Some persistent old growth may be included. Shrub species may be present.
E: late- closed	15	>30% canopy cover of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and Abies spp.
Total	100	

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Percent, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.005	15	Rare replacement fire, mostly in B and E.
Non-Replacement Fire	.023	85	80% surface fire in C and D. Occasional (20%) mosaic fire in all classes.
All Fire Frequency*	.028	100	

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

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PERSONAL COMMUNICATION:

Kaufmann, Merrill R. US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. September 5, 2003.

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VDDT Results



