

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

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

Modeler: Doug Havlina

Date: 8/14/03

PNVG Code: PPIN9

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Ponderosa Pine (Black Hills).

Geographic Area: Southern and eastern Montana, northern Wyoming, western North Dakota.

Description: PNVG occurs in landscape mosaic with plains grasslands, juniper, and sagebrush types on flat and gentle south-facing slopes. Historically, found with mixture of western bunchgrass and plains grassland communities.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regime I, primarily short-interval (e.g., <25 yr) surface fires.

Vegetation Type and Structure

| Class | Percent of Landscape | Description |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| A: post replacement | 10 | Grass and forb dominated community following fire and grazing effects |
| B: mid-development closed | 15 | Dense mid-development forest; pole to large pole size trees susceptible to stagnation. Marginal understory associated with limited site resources. |
| C: mid- open | 25 | Open mid-development forest with diverse herbaceous understory. Maintained by frequent burning. |
| D: late- open | 40 | Open late-development forest; widely spaced trees, diverse understory, and limited surface fuels due to frequent burning. |
| E: late- closed | 10 | Dense late-development forest with significant within-stand mortality. Poorly developed understory and substantial surface fuel accumulation. |
| Total | 100 | |

Fire Frequency and Severity

| Fire Frequency-Severity | Modeled Probability | Pct, All Fires | Description |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Replacement Fire | .005 | 12 | Crown fire in B and E |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-----|--|
| Non-Replacement Fire | .038 | 88 | Mostly surface fire; limited mosaic fire in B, C, and E |
| All Fire Frequency* | .043 | 100 | |

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

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