Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Interagency Handbook
Reference Conditions

Modeler: Doug Havlina  Date: 4/6/05  PNVG Code: BSAG2

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Basin Big Sagebrush with Trees

Geographic Area: Pacific Northwest, Columbia Plateau, Northern Rockies, Central Rockies, Great Basin

Description: Potential natural vegetation group occupying ecological conditions between Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush habitats. Basin big sagebrush communities are indicative of productive sites, and have historically been converted to farmland. Sites are generally well drained soils on plains, valley bottoms and lower foothills, often occurring in a matrix with Wyoming big sagebrush. Basin big sagebrush sites experience a higher fire frequency than other warm sagebrushes due in part to more continuous herbaceous fuels. Pinyon pine, juniper, and ponderosa pine are species historically encroaching into this PNVG, where localized lack of fine fuels or atypical weather patterns allowed advanced succession onto small patches.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regimes I and II, frequent mixed severity and stand replacement.

Vegetation Type and Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percent of Landscape</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: post replacement</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Post-fire community of forbs and perennial grasses. Scattered juniper or pinyon snags may be present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: mid-development</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mid-seral, dense (&gt;15%) canopy cover sagebrush stands with understory of forbs and grasses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: mid-open</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Mid-seral, open (&lt;15%) sagebrush community with perennial grasses and forbs in interspaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: late-open</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Late-seral, open (&lt;15%) pinyon, juniper, or ponderosa pine woodland community with limited shrub/herbaceous community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: late-closed</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Late-seral, closed (&gt;15%) pinyon,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
juniper, or ponderosa pine forest. Areas missed fire events due to lack of fine fuels or random fire weather patterns. Depauperate shrub/herbaceous understory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Frequency and Severity</th>
<th>Modeled Probability</th>
<th>Pct, All Fires</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Replacement Fire</td>
<td>.021</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Upper layer replacement maintenance in A. Upper layer replacement in stages B, C, D, and E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Replacement Fire</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Mosaic burning in stages B, C, and D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Fire Frequency*</td>
<td>.041</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25 year mean fire interval from lightning and Native American burning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

References


VDDT Results