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 influenced 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percent of Landscape</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: post replacement</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: mid-development</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C: mid- open</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
very dry areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modeled Probability</th>
<th>Percent, All Fires</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Replacement Fire</td>
<td>.015</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Replacement Fire</td>
<td>.010</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Fire Frequency*</td>
<td>.025</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

References


MODELER FIELD REVIEWS: *SPECIFIC LOCN?
VDDT Results

Timestep 0

Timestep 10

Mean for period 1.0 to 2.6, period 9.5 to 11.9, period 11.3 to 13.7, period 13.1 to 15.5, period 15.3 to 17.7

Timestep 50

Timestep 500

Class A: Early-Develop, PstRpl

Class B: Mid-Develop, Clsd

Class C: Mid-Develop, Open