

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

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

**Modeler:** Ayn Shlisky

**Date:** 9/26/03

**PNVG Code:** WGRA

**Potential Natural Vegetation Group:** Wet Grassland

**Geographic Area:** California, Columbia Plateau, Cascade Mountains, Upper Basin and Range, Northern and Middle Rocky Mountains, Wyoming Basin, Southern Rocky Mountains, and Colorado Plateau.

**Description:** Large (> 0.5 km<sup>2</sup>) montane, coastal, and valley freshwater marsh and wet meadow communities dominated by *Scirpus* (bulrush), *Typha* (cattail) spp. and/or other wetland herbaceous species with saturated soil or standing water for most of the year, but which generally dry out annually. Smaller wetlands within forests and woodlands should be addressed using the riparian PNVG guidance (Code: RIPA).

**Fire Regime Description:** Regime II: Frequent (3-10 yr) stand replacement.

### **Vegetation Type and Structure**

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	15	Up to one year post stand replacement fire; perennial sprouts and seedlings.
B: mid-development closed	80	Dense (>60% cover) bulrush ( <i>Scirpus</i> spp.), cattail ( <i>Typha</i> spp.) or other herbaceous wetland community with high litter component.
C: mid- open	5	Open (<60% cover) bulrush ( <i>Scirpus</i> spp.), cattail ( <i>Typha</i> spp.) or other herbaceous wetland community created after relatively intense fires during dry seasons that cause damage to rhizomes and reduce sprouting capacity, or as a result of mosaic fires that open up dense communities.
D: late- open		N/A
E: late- closed		N/A
Total	100	

### **Fire Frequency and Severity**

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Percent, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	0.15	75	Occurs in B and C; infrequently severe enough to inhibit sprouting of perennials
Non-Replacement Fire	0.05	25	Under moister conditions, mosaic fire reduces cover in B or maintains C
All Fire Frequency*	0.20	100	

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

### **References**

Brown, James K.; Smith, Jane Kapler, eds. 2000. Wildland fire in ecosystems: effects of fire on flora. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-42-vol. 2. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 257 p.

Schmidt, Kirsten M, Menakis, James P., Hardy, Colin C., Hann, Wendel J., Bunnell, David L. 2002. Development of coarse-scale spatial data for wildland fire and fuel management. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-87. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 41 p. + CD.

Smith, Loren M.; Kadlec, John A. 1983. Seed banks and their role during drawdown of a North American marsh. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 20: 673-684.

Smith, Loren M.; Kadlec, John A. 1985. Fire and herbivory in a Great Salt Lake marsh. *Ecology*. 66(1): 259-265.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (2002, December). Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>. Accessed September 4, 2003.

**PERSONAL COMMUNICATION:**

Kate Dwire, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Laramie, WY

# VDDT Results





