

**\*\*4/6/05 DRAFT\*\***

**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**

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	25	Post-fire community of forbs and perennial grasses. Scattered juniper or pinyon snags may be present.
B: mid-development closed	20	Mid-seral, dense (>15%) canopy cover sagebrush stands with understory of forbs and grasses.
C: mid-open	35	Mid-seral, open (<15%) sagebrush community with perennial grasses and forbs in interspaces
D: late-open	15	Late-seral, open (<15%) pinyon, juniper, or ponderosa pine woodland community with limited
E: late-closed	5	shrub/herbaceous community Late-seral, closed (>15%) pinyon,

juniper, or ponderosa pine forest. Areas missed fire events due to lack of fine fuels or random fire weather patterns. Depauperate shrub/herbaceous understory.

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Total	100
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**Fire Frequency and Severity**

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

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

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## VDDT Results





