

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

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

Modeler: Douglas Zollner

Date: 8/13/03

PNVG Code: POAK

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Plains Oak and Shinnery Oak Shrubland

Geographic Area: Southern High Plains; Trans Pecos

Description: Sand shinnery is the dominant vegetation on xeric, shallow to deep sandy soils, especially dune fields; intermixed with shortgrass prairie and other shrubs. Many of the dune fields are relatively fire proof with sparse herbaceous cover. On better sites, soils with higher clay content, the herbaceous layer is better developed and fire frequency higher. Plains oak and shinnery forms a mosaic with short grass prairie.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regime Group II (Frequent, mixed and stand replacement severity). Most of these fires are wind driven, especially with sparse fine fuels.

Vegetation Type and Structure

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	55	Post fire this community is composed of short grass and forbs with respouting shrubs less than 3' tall.
B: mid-development closed	30	Mid seral; closed canopy shrubland with a sparse herbaceous layer under shrubs and short grasses in-between. Shrubs to 6' tall. Shrub cover more than 35%.
C: mid- open	5	Mid seral; open canopy shrubland with a herbaceous of short grasses. Shrubs to 6' tall. Shrub cover less than 35%.
D: late- open	5	Late seral; open canopy shrubland with a herbaceous of short grasses. Shrubs more than 6' tall. Shrub cover less than 35%.
E: late- closed	5	Late seral; closed canopy shrubland with a sparse herbaceous layer under shrubs and short grasses in-between. Shrubs over 6' tall. Shrub cover more than 35%.
Total	100	

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Percent, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.06	75	Primarily top-killing in A, B, E;
Non-replacement fire	.02	25	Mosaic (mixed severity) in all types
All Fire Frequency*	.08	100	Fire return interval of 4-20 years. Severity normally top-killing except with sparse fuels.

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

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VDDT Results:







