

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

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

Modeler: Doug Havlina

Date: 8/15/03

PNVG Code: SAGE1

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Sagebrush-Other (e.g., Silver Sagebrush, Wyoming Big Sagebrush) Without Trees.

Geographic Area: Great Plains.

Description: PNVG commonly occurs in scattered patches in the Great Plains and short grass prairie. This type is primarily composed of the three subspecies of silver sagebrush, with lesser amounts of fringed sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, budsage, and birdfoot sagebrush. Occurrence is tied to topoedaphic features related to soil moisture and texture, and sites are transitional from moist to dryland habitats. PNVG generally abuts plains or prairie grasslands; common associates include buffalograss, wheatgrass, needlegrass, grama, and fescue species. Silver and fringed sagebrush are facultative sprouters.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regime II, primarily short-interval (e.g., <30 yr) stand replacement fires.

Vegetation Type and Structure

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	25	Plains/prairie grass and forb dominated community, with sprouting sagebrush shrubs emerging
B: mid-development closed	20	Dense sagebrush stand established from sprouting and seedlings, with plains/prairie grasses in interspaces
C: mid- open	30	Landscape mosaic of young sagebrush plants intermixed with plains and prairie grasses
D: late- open	10	Open, late-development fire-maintained sagebrush community with plains/prairie grasses in understory
E: late- closed	15	Dense, late-development sagebrush stand with infrequent plains and prairie grasses
Total	100	

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Pct, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.03	75	Stand replacement fire in stages A, B, and E
Non-Replacement Fire	.01	25	Mosaic fire in stages C and D
All Fire Frequency*	.04	100	

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

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VDDT Results







