

**\*\*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







