

**\*\*06/08/04 DRAFT\*\***

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

**Modeler:** Ayn Shlisky, Steve Barrett, Neil Sugihara

**Date:** 6/8/04

**PNVG Code:** CHAP1

**Potential Natural Vegetation Group:** Xeric chaparral.

**Geographic Area:** California Northern and Southern Coast and Transverse Ranges.

**Description:** PNVG most extensively distributed in the southern Coast Ranges, but occurs in the Coast, Transverse and Peninsular ranges from Mendocino County to Baja California. Hot, xeric sites, mostly on south and west facing slopes and ridges, but can be found over a wide range of elevations, soils, latitudes, and distances from the coast. In southern California it is a ubiquitous dominant on outwash plains, mesas, ridges, and dry, south- and west-facing slopes at elevations up to 6,000 feet (1,800 m); alluvial fans and washed adjacent to coastal sage scrub and riparian woodland; azonal sands and gravels; includes chamise, ceanothus (northern California and some north slopes in southern California) and red shanks (southern California) chaparral.

**Fire Regime Description:** Fire Regime II, primarily short interval (e.g., 15-35 yr) stand replacement fires.

**Vegetation Type and Structure**

| Class                     | Percent of Landscape | Description  |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| A: post replacement       | 20                   | Post-fire community of sprouting shrubs with sparse grass and forb layer                     |
| B: mid-development closed | 45                   | Mid-seral, dense (>15%) canopy cover mixed shrub stands with depauperate understory          |
| C: mid- open              | 15                   | Mid-seral, open (<15%) mixed shrub community with perennial grasses and forbs in interspaces |
| D: late- open             | <1                   | Late-seral, open (<15%) mixed shrub community with mixed shrub/herbaceous community          |
| E: late- closed           | 20                   | Late-seral, closed (>15%) mixed shrub community with significant deadwood component          |

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        | .0367               | 99             | Mostly occurs in A, B and E; includes grass/forb fires in A, C and D that kill shrubs. |
| Non-Replacement Fire    | .0005               | 1              | Occurs in C and D where surface fires do not cause extensive shrub mortality.          |
| All Fire Frequency*     | .037                | 100            |  |

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

\*\*VDDT Model note: "OPTIONAL1" transitional probabilities refer to delayed succession as a result of the effect of native grazers/browsers (e.g., deer, rabbits) on new post-stand replacement shrub sprouts.

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#### PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Dave Sapsis, Calif. Dept. Forestry;

Mark Borchert, USDA For. Serv. Los Padres Nat. Forest.