

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

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

Modeler: Douglas Zollner

Date: 8/20/03

PNVG Code: TSAV

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: Texas Savanna

Geographic Area: Texas thornscrub, Edwards Plateau, Cross Timbers, Southern Tallgrass Prairie

Description: Rolling plains and karst plateaus of north-central, central and south-central Texas. These plant communities occur on a wide variety of soils and landscape positions intermixed with prairies (mid and tall grass). They often invade grasslands with reduced fire frequencies and altered grazing regimes. Occurring as relatively low stature savannas but more frequently (especially currently) as brushy or thorny shrublands. Historical accounts of expansive mesquite savannas are no longer extant on the landscape.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regimes II and III (Frequent, mixed and stand replacement severity). In areas with sparse fine fuels (common occurrence) the fire are wind driven shrub fires. In areas with heavier fine fuels the fires are mosaics with mixed severity.

Vegetation Type and Structure

Class	Percent of Landscape	Description
A: post replacement	45	Post fire community is composed of short to tall grasses, forbs, and resprouting shrubs to 3' tall. May have scattered larger live trees, cover less than 10%.
B: mid-development closed	20	Mid-seral, closed canopy shrubland with shrubs (small tress) to 6' tall and a sparse to moderate herbaceous understory. Cover more than 35%. May have scattered larger live trees, cover less than 10%.
C: mid- open	20	Mid-seral, open canopy shrubland with shrubs (small tress) to 6' tall and a sparse to dense herbaceous understory. Cover less than 35%. May have scattered larger live trees, cover less than 10%.
D: late- open	5	Late-seral, open canopy with trees and shrubs more than 6' tall and a sparse to dense herbaceous understory. Cover less than 35%.

E: late- closed	10	Late-seral, closed canopy with trees and shrubs more than 6' tall and a sparse herbaceous understory. Cover more than 35%.
Total	100	

Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Frequency-Severity	Modeled Probability	Pct, All Fires	Description
Replacement Fire	.05	50	Primarily top-killing in A, B, E
Non-Replacement Fire	.05	50	Mosaic fire in all types.
All Fire Frequency*	.1	100	Fire return interval of "less than 10 Years". Severity normally top-killing except for mesquite or with sparse fuels.

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

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VDDT Results









