

**Bureau of Land Management
Fire Occurrence Reporting System – User’s Guide**

CLIMATE CLASSES

PART 1: Descriptions of Climate Classes

The following table was excerpted from: “Gaining an Understanding of the National Fire Danger Rating System;” PMS-932/NFES-2665; National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group; May 2002; p. 57.

NFDRS Climate Class	Thornthwaite Humidity Province	Characteristic Vegetation	Regions
1	Arid	Desert (sparse grass and scattered shrubs)	Sonoran deserts of west Texas, New Mexico, southwest Arizona, southern Nevada, and western Utah; and the Mojave Desert of California.
1	Semiarid	Steppe (short grass and shrubs)	The short grass prairies of the Great Plains; the sagebrush steppes and pinyon/juniper woodlands of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Washington, and Oregon; and the grass steppes of the central valley of California.
2	Sub-humid (rainfall deficient in summer)	Savanna (grasslands, dense brush and open conifer forests)	The Alaskan interior; the chaparral of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, the Sierra Nevada foothills, and southern California; oak woodlands of California; ponderosa pine woodlands of the West; the mountain valleys (or parks) of the Northern and Central Rockies.
3	Sub-humid (rainfall adequate in all seasons)	Savanna (grasslands and open hardwood forests)	Blue stem prairies and blue stem-oak hickory savannas of Iowa, Missouri and Illinois.
3	Humid	Forests	Almost the entire eastern United States; and those higher elevations in the West that support dense forests.
4	Wet	Rain forests (redwoods, and spruce-cedar-hemlock)	Coast of northern California, Oregon, Washington, and southeast Alaska.