

Table 1.--Fire frequencies for the period 1735 to 1900 on the three study areas in the Bitterroot National Forest, Montana. Frequencies are based on all fire years identified within 200- to 800-acre habitat type units (stands).

Habitat type groups (potential climax) (Pfister and others, in press)	Descriptive location	General elevations: (feet)	Dominant trees with continued: fire exclusion: (most abundant: tree first)	Dominant overstory before 1900 (most abundant: tree first)	Onehorse		Tolan		West Fork	
					No. of stands (No. of trees)	Mean fire-free interval (min-max interval)	No. of stands (No. of trees)	Mean fire-free interval (min-max interval)	No. of stands (No. of trees)	Mean fire-free interval (min-max interval)
1. <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Festuca idahoensis</i> <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Agropyron spicatum</i> <i>Pseudotsuga/Calamagrostis</i> , <i>P. ponderosa</i> phase	Valley edge	3800-5000	Douglas-fir ponderosa pine	ponderosa pine	1 (11)	6 years (2-20)	1 (4)	11 years (2-18)	1 (7)	10 years (2-18)
2. <i>Pseudotsuga/Physocarpus malvaceus</i> <i>Pseudotsuga/Calamagrostis</i> (except <i>Cal.</i> phase) <i>Pseudotsuga/Symphoricarpos albus</i> <i>Pseudotsuga/Vac. globulare</i> (except <i>Xerophyllum</i> phase)	Montane slopes	4200-6200	Douglas-fir	ponderosa pine Douglas-fir lodgepole pine western larch	3 (46)	7 years (2-28)	3 (11)	16 years (4-29)	4 (23)	19 years (2-48)
3. <i>Abies grandis</i> habitat types	Moist canyon	4300-4700	grand fir	western larch lodgepole pine Douglas-fir	1 (7)	17 years (3-32)	--	--	--	--
4. <i>Pseudotsuga/Calamagrostis</i> , <i>Calamagrostis</i> phase <i>Pseudotsuga/Vac. globulare</i> , <i>Xerophyllum</i> phase <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Xerophyllum tenax</i> <i>Abies lasiocarpa/Menziesia ferruginea</i> <i>Abies lasiocarpa/Linnaea borealis</i>	Lower subalpine slopes	6000-7500	subalpine fir Douglas-fir	lodgepole pine Douglas-fir	1 (9)	17 years (3-33)	3 (16)	27 years (5-62)	3 (13)	28 years (5-67)
5. <i>Abies lasiocarpa/Luzula hitchcockii</i> <i>Abies lasiocarpa-Pinus albicaulis/Vac. scoparium</i> <i>Pinus albicaulis-Abies lasiocarpa</i>	Upper subalpine slopes	7500-8600	subalpine fir whitebark pine	whitebark pine lodgepole pine	1 (3)	41 years (8-50)	2 (14)	30 years (4-78)	2 (14)	33 years (2-66)