PLUMAS COUNTY FIRE RETURN INTERVAL DEPARTURE (FRID)

Abstract:
This map consists of information compiled about fire return intervals for major vegetation types on the Plumas and Lassen National Forests in California. Comparisons are made between pre-Euroamerican settlement and contemporary fire return intervals (FRIs). Current departures from the pre-Euroamerican settlement FRIs are calculated based on mean, median, and maximum FRI values.

Presettlement Fire Regime
This field stratifies the landscape into areas historically characterized by different fire regimes (by "historically", we refer to the three or four centuries before Euroamerican settlement). Each PFR is named for the dominant vegetation type supported by that PFR.

Time Since Last Fire
The number of years elapsed between the most recent fire recorded in the fire perimeters database and the version year of the FRID map being used.

NPS Mean Fire Return Interval
This measure, developed by the National Park Service, compares time elapsed since the most recent fire with the mean presettlement fire return interval. This measure differs from the Mean Frequency Departure and Mean CC (FRI) matrix in that it does not consider the cumulative fire history of the polygon since 1908, but only the time since last fire.

Years Between Fires
Years (Average) 0 - 20 21 - 40 41 - 60 61 - 80 81 - 103

Current Fire Return Interval
Calculated by dividing the number of years in the fire record (e.g., 2010-1908 = 103 inclusive) by the number of years occurring between 1908 and the current year in a given polygon plus one. Current FRI is derived by overlaying the fire perimeters on the PFR polygons and summing the number of fires affecting each polygon after 1908.

Mean Reference Fire Return Interval
An approximation of how often in years, on average, a given PFR (Presettlement Fire Regime) likely burned in the three or four centuries prior to significant Euroamerican settlement.

Mean Condition Class (FRI)
A composite version of the mean frequency departure map, using condition class categories. CC I (a within 50% of the mean frequency fire return interval), CC II (a within 50% to 50-60% of the mean condition), CC III (a within 50% to 60-80% of the mean condition), CC IV (a within 50% to 80-100% of the mean condition), CC V (strongly departed from the mean condition range). Positive CC refers to areas that are burning less often than before Euroamerican settlement, negative CC to areas that are burning more often than before Euroamerican settlement.