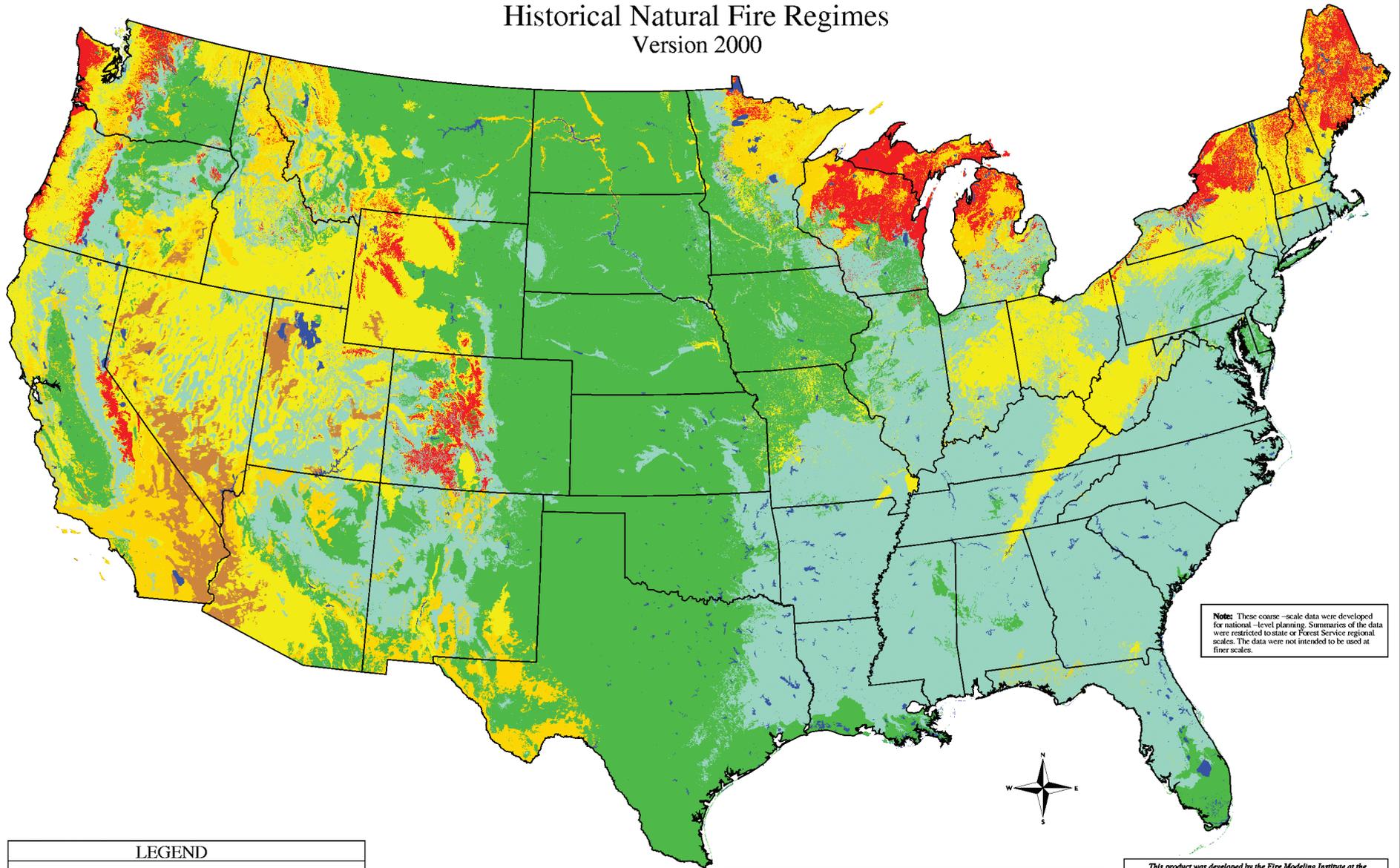


# Historical Natural Fire Regimes

## Version 2000



**Note:** These coarse-scale data were developed for national-level planning. Summaries of the data were restricted to state or Forest Service regional scales. The data were not intended to be used at finer scales.



### LEGEND

- I: 0–35 yr. frequency, Low Severity
- II: 0–35 yr. frequency, Stand Replacement Severity
- III: 35–100+ yr. frequency, Mixed Severity
- IV: 35–100+ yr. frequency, Stand Replacement Severity
- V: 200+ yr. frequency, Stand Replacement Severity
- Barren
- Water

Historical Natural Fire Regimes are described in terms of frequency and severity, and represent presettlement, historical fire processes. Fire regimes I and II represent frequent fire return intervals. The 0–35+ years/low severity fire regime (I) occurs mostly on forested land. The 0–35+ years/stand replacement fire regime (II) occurs mostly on grasslands and shrublands. Fire regimes III, IV, and V have longer fire return intervals and occur on all vegetation types.

The Historical Natural Fire Regimes data were first developed by integrating four biophysical data layers: Digital Elevation Model, Keeler's Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV), 4th-Code Hydrologic Unit delineations, and Ecological Subregions (Bailey's Sections). Three current vegetation layers were also used: Resource Planning Act's 1992 map of Forest Types and map of Forest Densities, and USGS EROS Data Center's 1991 map of Land Cover Characterization. Expert regional panels developed generalized successional pathway diagrams for all combinations of Historical Natural Fire Regimes and a modified PNV layer. Mapping and final refinements were made by assimilating generalized successional pathways with biophysical and current vegetation layers.

*This product was developed by the Fire Modeling Institute at the Fire Sciences Laboratory, Missoula, Montana through funding from:*  
 USDA FS/USDA Joint Fire Sciences Program  
*In collaboration with*  
 USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fuelman>