

South Whidbey Fire/EMS

Vegetation Condition Class (VCC) LANDFIRE, 2008

| Vegetation Condition Classes | Non-Burnable Classes |
|--|----------------------|
| Class I Low Vegetation Departure | Agriculture |
| Class II Moderate Veg. Departure | Barren |
| Class III High Vegetation Departure | Sparsely Vegetated |
| Class Not Calculated | Urban/Developed |
| | Water |

The Vegetation Condition Class (VCC) layer quantifies the amount that current vegetation has departed from the simulated historical vegetation reference conditions. Three condition classes describe low departure (VCC 1), moderate departure (VCC 2), and high departure (VCC 3).

VCC is calculated based on changes to species composition, structural stage, and canopy closure using methods described in the Interagency Fire Regime Condition Class Guidebook. LANDFIRE VCC is based on departure of current vegetation conditions from reference vegetation conditions only, whereas the Guidebook approach includes departure of current fire regimes from those of the reference period. LANDFIRE simulates historical vegetation reference conditions using the vegetation and disturbance dynamics model VDDT (Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool) (LANDSUM 2008). Current vegetation conditions are derived from a classification of existing vegetation type, cover, and height.

