BEC-Tree Species Description: CWHwm

The CWHwm is dominantly old forest (83% of the forested landscape is age class 7 to 9). About 16% of the forested area consists of immature forests resulting from landslides, windthrow and some fire (and likely including the fume killed and subsequently burned forests around Anyox). Immature forests, resulting from timber harvesting, account for only 1% of the CWHwm area. Old forests are typically western hemlock – Sitka Spruce mixtures (68 and 15% respectively) with only minor occurrence of amabilis fir, western redcedar (both species dramatically decreasing north of the Nass River), and, yellow cedar. Natural immature stands are similar in composition and some may contain red alder and black cottonwood.

Age class distribution as a % of total forest area [Source: VRIMS 2008]

Stand age class	7-9 natural forest	7-9 harvested forest	4-6 natural forest	4-6 harvested forest	1-3 natural forest	1-3 harvested forest
% of total forest area	83	N/A	15	0	1	1

Tree species distribution in natural old/mature (age class 7-9) and natural immature (age class 4-6) as a % of the total natural old/mature and natural immature forest cover respectively [Source: VRIMS 2008]

Species	Bl	Cw	Hw	Ss	Yc	Act	Dr
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	4	3	68	15	4	6	0
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	0	5	62	6	9	14	3

On average, harvested stands reflect the composition of mature stands (62% hemlock and 17% spruce), though some have a higher deciduous component (12% deciduous on average).

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: VRIMS 2008]

Species	Hw	Ss	Deciduous
% of harvested area	62	17	12

The similar tree composition of harvested stands to old growth stands in combination with the very small area harvested in the CWHwm to date has resulted in minimal impacts of tree species selection and silvicultural management strategies on landscape level tree species composition and diversity.

Silvicultural options are limited in this subzone because of low native tree species diversity, though there is potential for more widespread use of amabilis fir and western redcedar, especially in the southern portions of the subzone. Greater use of yellow cedar at higher elevations is also an ecologically viable option.

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Note: the above write-up does not account for TFL forest cover/regeneration information. This is not expected to impact significantly on the tree species and age class percentages described above.