

BEC-Tree Species Description: CWHws2

The CWHws2 is dominantly old forest (86% of the forested area is age class 7 to 9). Just 7% of the forested area is immature natural forest resulting from landslides, blowdown and fires. Timber harvesting has not been as extensive as in the lower elevation CWHws1; about 7% of the CWHws2 is managed second growth. Old forests are typically western hemlock – amabilis fir mixes (57% and 29% respectively), sometimes with a mountain hemlock and subalpine fir component. Sitka spruce, western redcedar, and lodgepole pine are very minor species. Natural immature stands have a similar composition, though lodgepole pine and deciduous species are more common (10 and 16% respectively).

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	86	0	7	0	0	7

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	Ba	Hw	Pl	Ss	Cw	Deciduous
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	29	57	2	4	4	1
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	13	49	10	3	4	16

According to the forest cover and silviculture inventories, managed second growth forests are mainly hemlock (mostly western with some mountain hemlock) – amabilis fir mixes – in fairly even proportions (Ba: 30 to 48%¹; Hw: 37 to 38%). Managed second growth also contains lodgepole pine (3 to 8%), western redcedar (4 to 6%) and Sitka spruce (7 to 15%).

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2005]

Species	Ba	Cw	Hw	Pl	Ss
% of harvested area	48	4	38	3	7

¹ Range of values reflects differences between VRIMS and RESULTS data sources.

Given the higher elevation of the CWHws2 with greater ecological limitations on tree species such as western redcedar and Sitka spruce, the tree species composition of managed second growth (primarily hemlock – amabilis fir mixes) appears to be reasonable from a landscape perspective. Moderate use of the other minor coniferous species (including mountain hemlock and subalpine fir at higher elevations) on ecologically suitable sites will further contribute to maintaining sufficient tree species diversity in the CWHws2.

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