

BEC-Tree Species Description: ESSFmv3

Historically the forests of the Omineca variant of the Moist Very Cold Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir biogeoclimatic unit (ESSFmv3) were dominated by fire origin stands of various ages. Subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce dominated stands were widespread on upland sites. Lodgepole pine dominated stands occurred in areas with more recent fire history. Very rare, stunted open sub-alpine fir and Engelmann spruce treed bogs occur in very wet organic depressions. Black spruce occurs in some wetlands and along with lodgepole pine on poorer level sites at lower elevations. Whitebark pine has been observed at the southern extreme of the ESSFmv3, just north of Fort St James. Trembling aspen occurs on warm aspects at lower elevations.

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	77	0	18	0	2	3

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	PI	Se
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	59	16	25
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	44	35	17

Forest management practices of the 1960's to present have resulted in stands that are similar to those of the natural landscape. Over time less of the landscape will likely be dominated by subalpine fir due to the preferential planting of Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine and shorter harvest rotations compared to the natural fire return interval.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2006]

Species	Bl	PI	S
% of harvested area	25	22	51

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