

## BEC-Tree Species Composition: ICHwc

About 81% of the ICHwc landscape is mature forest. Compared with the adjacent ICHvc, fires are more frequent and thus about 18% of the forested landscape is natural immature forest (12% age class 4 to 6 and 6% age class 1 to 3). Some forest harvesting began in the late 1980s/early 1990s but this has been limited, mostly restricted to the Bob Quinn/Devil Lake area and totalling about 1% of the forested ICHwc. Mature forests are dominantly western hemlock (44%) but often include a mix of subalpine fir and hybrid spruce (both about 22%), as well as lodgepole pine (6%) and deciduous species (6% - mostly cottonwood). Natural Immature stands have relatively little hemlock and are a diverse mix of spruce, pine, subalpine fir, aspen, birch, and cottonwood. Probably because of a more frequent fire history, the forests around Bob Quinn Lake contain very little hemlock and are similar to SBS forests.

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	81	0	12	N/A	6	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	Hw	Bl	Sx	Pl	Hardwoods
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	44	22	22	6	6
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	3	15	12	41	27

Areas that have been harvested are spruce- and pine-dominated (27 to 31%<sup>1</sup> and 29 to 37% respectively) with +/- 17% subalpine fir and 9 to 27% deciduous growth (dominantly aspen and birch). Hemlock is relatively uncommon in harvested blocks – likely resulting from the low pre-harvest hemlock percentages in the areas thus far targeted for harvesting. Species composition in the 1% of the ICHwc landscape that has been harvested, though different from “average” ICHwc conditions, is similar to pre-harvest forest conditions specific to the areas harvested. Future silvicultural strategies should continue to promote establishment of all ecologically suitable species in the ICHwc and increases in the western hemlock component would be desirable.

<sup>1</sup> Range of values reflects differences between VRIMS and RESULTS data sources.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1989-1996]

Species	Sx	PI	Bl	Hw	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	31	37	18	4	9

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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 stated above.