BEC-Tree Species Description: ICHwk4

Historically, the ICHwk4 forested landscape was dominated by uneven-aged mature forests with some areas of even-aged immature pine-dominated forests. These occurred primarily on coarse valley bottom fluvial materials. Most mature and larger immature pine has been killed by recent outbreaks of mountain pine beetle.

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	54	12	<1	1	8	24

Cold air accumulation is common in lower and toe slope positions in the ICHwk4 resulting in subalpine fir and spruce dominating these positions and while western hemlock and western redcedar favour slopes with good air drainage.

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	Pl	S	Fd	Bl	Cw	Hw	Ep	Act	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	3	34	16	10	11	24	<1	<1	1
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	44	20	11	6	2	10	2	4	1

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2002 indicates that spruce and lodgepole pine are the dominant species being regenerated on harvested sites. These data also indicate that natural regeneration of cedar, hemlock and subalpine fir are relatively common in managed stands. In the ICHwk4 there are greater options for species selection than in adjacent SBS or ESSF subzones.

% species composition of managed stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2002]

Species	Pl	S	Bl	Cw	Hw	Fd	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	22	47	6	12	3	7	3

Author: R. Coupé (January 2012)

Notes:
- A large portion of this variant currently exists in protected areas
- Over 25% of this variant has been previously harvested