

BEC-Tree Species Description: IDFdk4

The IDFdk4 occurs on the rolling terrain of the Chilcotin Plateau. Historically, it experienced frequent low-intensity wildfires and the landscape was characterized by fire resistant older Douglas-fir forests. The landscape was predominantly a natural mosaic of mostly uneven-aged forests dominated by Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Mature forests commonly have moderate to abundant levels of advance Douglas-fir regeneration. Even-aged pine forests are common and dominate sites where more intense stand initiating fires occurred. 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	43	3	30	5	6	13

As a result of very effective fire control over the past century there has been a dramatic increase in the abundance of advance Douglas-fir regeneration in the understory. Most Douglas-fir dominated stands have been managed using selected partial cutting prescriptions that maintain multi-storied stands and natural regeneration. Although there has been extensive timber harvesting in the IDFdk4, this silvicultural system has maintained the general forest composition and diversity to near historical natural levels. Even aged pine stands are generally clearcut harvested frequently, protecting any Douglas-fir advance regeneration in the stand.

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	Sx	Fd	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	49	5	45	9
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	78	2	10	2

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2007 indicates that lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir are the dominant species regenerating on harvested sites. Regeneration management strategies in the IDFdk4 have somewhat impacted landscape level species composition and diversity with an increased emphasis on pine regeneration. Hardwood species in managed stands are naturally regenerated and occur at levels similar to that of immature natural stands.

% species composition of managed stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2007]

Species	Pl	Sx	Fd	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	61	1	25	12

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Notes:

- Successful artificial regeneration of Douglas-fir is limited by drought and frost
- The severity and frequency of frost events in the IDFdk4 are greater than in other IDFdk variants and shares many similar constraints of the SBPSxc