

### BEC-Tree species description: MHwh

The MHwh includes the windward (MHwh1) and leeward (MHwh2) variants; because of limited forest harvesting in the MHwh, a general description at the subzone level is provided here.

Forests of the MHwh are overwhelmingly old-growth with over 97% of the forested area being age class 7 to 9. Minor areas of immature forest result from localized blowdown and avalanche disturbances. Some localized harvesting has occurred in the MHwh on Haida Gwaii. The forests of the MHwh are dominated by mountain hemlock with variable mixtures of yellow cedar, amabilis fir (mainland only), Sitka spruce, and at the lowest elevations, western redcedar. Shore pine occurs mainly in open boggy areas.

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	97	N/A	2	N/A	0	0

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	Cw	Hm	Ss	Yc
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	10	13	45	3	29
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	13	8	53	1	24

Within the limited areas where forest harvesting has occurred, mountain hemlock and Sitka spruce dominate the regeneration. Future forest harvesting will be limited in the MHwh due to the low productivity of these coastal subalpine forests and regeneration limitations. Regeneration efforts should concentrate on establishing yellow cedar (a challenge on Haida Gwaii where deer browsing extends into the subalpine and alpine areas) along with the other ecologically suitable species.

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