

BEC-Tree Species Description: SBPSmc

The SBPSmc is representative of a fire regenerated landscape where stand initiating fires of varying size were relatively common. Until the recent outbreak of mountain pine beetle, the landscape was dominated by mature and near mature forests (>60 years old) with little young (<60 year old) forests. Prior to the outbreak lodgepole pine made up about three quarters of the mature forest cover and spruce made up most of the remaining cover. Minor amounts of black spruce and trembling aspen were scattered over the landscape. The immature forests were even heavier to lodgepole pine. Much of the pine is now dead, leaving spruce as the dominant species, either in near pure spruce pockets, usually on wetter sites, or as the residual component in dead pine stands.

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	56	0	40	0	3	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	PI	Sx	Sb	Bl	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	72	24	1	1	3
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	84	11	1	0	4

Salvage harvesting has occurred in the more accessible portions of the SBPSmc, and has been extensive in some areas. The current forest cover inventory is not up to date in terms of area harvested and regeneration status, so it is not possible to properly characterize species composition in the beetle killed and salvage-logged areas. RESULTS data for the period 1990 to 2005 indicates that lodgepole pine comprised 76% of the regeneration on harvested sites. Regeneration options are limited in the SBPSmc; both pine and spruce will continue to be utilized and wherever ecologically suitable, spruce should be favoured over pine.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1990-2005]

Species	PI	S	Bl	Hardwoods

% of harvested area	76	8	1	16
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Authors: A. Banner, R.Coupe (January 2012)

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.