

BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSmc3

Historically the forests of the Kluskus variant of the Moist Cold Sub-boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic unit (SBSmc3) were dominated by fire-origin seral forests. Lodgepole pine dominated stands with a hybrid white spruce and subalpine-fir understory were widespread on upland sites with deeper soils while hybrid white spruce and subalpine-fir dominated stands were generally restricted to lower to toe slopes and along riparian features. On compact or lacustrine soils with shallow rooting depth black spruce dominated the understory of lodgepole pine dominated stands. Black spruce was also common in the localized wetlands that dot the landscape.

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	44	0	36	0	6	13

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
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	68	29
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	82	16

Clear-cut harvesting of the 1960's to present has resulted in stand compositions that are similar to those on the natural landscape. More open stocking of recently planted stands where natural ingress has been limited is one exception. Trembling aspen also tends to be more dispersed and not in denser patches as it was in the natural landscape due to brushing and weeding practices.

% species composition of post-harvested stand [Source: RESULTS 1988-2006]

Species	PI	S	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	87	9	3

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