

BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSwk1

Historically the forests of the Willow variant of the Wet Cool Sub-boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic unit (SBSwk1) were dominated by mature fire-origin forests. Hybrid white spruce stands mixed with lodgepole pine and subalpine fir were widespread on upland sites with deeper soils. The lodgepole pine component was higher in younger stands, especially on drier sites, while the subalpine fir component increased with stand age. Douglas-fir dominated stands occurred on warm slopes often on colluvial soils. Black spruce was common in the localized wetlands occurring on gentle topography. In areas near historic settlements, aboriginal burning and land clearing increased the number of stands dominated by trembling aspen and paper birch. Black cottonwood dominated stands occurred along major water courses.

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	39	1	21	4	9	26

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	At	Bl	Ep	Fd	Pl	Sx
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	2	18	1	3	13	60
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	17	16	6	2	21	38

Localized forest high grading of hybrid spruce in the 1950's has led to an increase in subalpine fir (57% in age class 4-6 immature harvested stands). Forest management of the 1960's to present have resulted in stand compositions similar to those on the natural landscape. Planting practices have likely increased the number of stands dominated by lodgepole pine and reduced the number of stands dominated by subalpine fir.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2005]

Species	Bl	Fd	Pl	S	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	8	2	32	49	10

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Note: The summary tables presented for the SBSwk1 do not include data for TFL 30