

BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSmh

The SBSmh occupies a valley landscape and historically was characterized by frequent stand initiating wildfires that produced a mosaic of even-aged stands of different ages. This subzone has undergone high levels of human induced disturbance both from timber harvesting and agricultural development. The SBSmh landscape was dominated by later immature and mature forests (age class 4-7) of mixed species. Old stands tended to be dominated by fire resistant Douglas-fir on drier warm aspects and spruce on wet fire resistant sites. Hardwood stands of primarily aspen and birch are very common especially on frequently or heavily disturbed valley slopes. Historically, lodgepole pine has been restricted to a narrow range of ecosystems. Most mature lodgepole pine in this subzone has been killed by recent mountain pine beetle outbreaks.

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	21	<1	70	<1	75	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	S	Fd	Bl	Ep	Act	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	7	18	36	1	7	16	15
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	5	31	30	<1	26	4	25

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2002 indicates that hardwoods are the dominant species occurring in managed stands. Hardwood natural establishment following harvesting or other disturbance is often prolific and frequently impedes artificial regeneration of conifer species. Pine, spruce and Douglas-fir are the most commonly planted species in this subzone.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2002]

	PI	S	Fd	Bl	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	24	20	12	6	38

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Notes:

- Black spruce is common in wetlands and north of Quesnel
- Western redcedar is occasionally present in the understory and as scattered mature stems on wet sites especially in transition areas adjacent to the ICH zone
- Although lodgepole pine was quite restricted in natural stands, its establishment and growth appear good on a wider range of sites in this subzone.

The above write-up does not account for TFL 52 forest cover/regeneration information. This may impact the tree species percentages and age class distribution described above.