

BEC-Tree Species Description: MHmm2

The MHmm2 is dominantly old forest (90% of the forested area is age class 7 to 9). About 8% of the forested area is comprised of natural immature stands (mostly age class 4 to 6) established after windthrow, snow avalanche, landslide, and some fire disturbances. There has been very limited timber harvesting in the MHmm2, mainly in the south, with about 3% of the forested area being in managed regeneration - age class 1 to 3. Old stands are mixes of amabilis fir, subalpine fir, and mountain (and some western) hemlock (49% true firs and 44% hemlocks). Several other coniferous species may occur sporadically (less than 2%), including yellow cedar, hybrid spruce, redcedar, and in the south at lowest elevations, Douglas-fir. Natural immature stands are generally similar in species composition to the old-growth 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	90	0	6	0	2	3

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	Hm/Hw	Yc	Sx	Cw	Fd
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	49	44	2	2	1	2
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	58	29	2	1	2	4

Managed immature stands are dominated by amabilis fir (57 to 64%¹) with lesser amounts of hybrid spruce (18%), mountain (and some western) hemlock (12 to 17%), and yellow cedar and/or redcedar (4 to 6%). Some Douglas-fir (1 to 2%) is also reported in harvested blocks – restricted to the southernmost MHmm2 – probably at the lowest elevations.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2004]

Species	Ba	Cw/Yc	Fd	Hm/Hw	S
% of harvested area	64	6	1	12	18

¹ Range of values reflects differences between VRIMS and RESULTS data sources.

With the very limited harvesting that has occurred in the MHmm2 to date, there has thus far been relatively little impact on tree species composition and diversity at the landscape level. Past management intent has resulted in greater amounts of spruce and less hemlock in harvested blocks compared with natural forests. Where harvesting is deemed appropriate in these maritime/submaritime sub-alpine forests, future tree species selection choices should continue to emphasize a mix of all ecologically appropriate species.

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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 percentages and age class described above.