

BEC-Tree Species Description: BWBSmw

Historically the forests of the Moist Warm Boreal White and Black Spruce biogeoclimatic unit (BWBSmw) were dominated by fire-origin seral forests. Trembling aspen and to a lesser extent lodgepole pine dominated stands often with white spruce understory were widespread on upland sites. White spruce dominated stands were generally restricted to lower to toe slopes and along riparian features or in stands that had escaped fire for 100 years or more. Balsam poplar was a common component of stands in lower slope positions and dominated stands along the low bench of larger water courses. Black spruce and to a lesser extent tamarack dominated the extensive wetlands. In areas near historic settlements, aboriginal burning and land clearing increased the number of stands dominated by trembling aspen and reduced white spruce presence.

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	17	0	50	0	30	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	Ac	At	L	PI	Sw/Sb
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	8	22	4	14	52
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	9	52	2	11	25

Forest management practices of the 1960's to present have resulted in stand compositions that are similar to those on the natural landscape. The concentration of harvesting in purer conifer or broad-leaved stands means that fewer managed stands are intimate broadleaf-conifer mixtures. Trembling aspen also tends to be more dispersed and not in denser patches in coniferous harvested areas due to site preparation and brushing and weeding practices.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2003]

Species	BI	PI	S	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	1	23	39	38

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