

BEC-Tree Species Description: BWBSwk1

Historically the forests of the Murray variant of the Wet Cool Boreal White and Black Spruce Dry Cool biogeoclimatic unit (BWBSwk1) were dominated by fire-origin forests at various successional stages. Lodgepole pine dominated stands with white spruce and subalpine-fir understory were widespread on upland sites. White spruce dominated stands were generally more common on lower to toe slopes, along riparian features, or in stands older than 150 years. 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. Trembling aspen occurred in mixtures with lodgepole pine and/or white spruce and in pure stands often located on warm aspects.

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	29	0	63	0	4	4

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	Bl	Lt	Pl	Sw/Sb
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	2	5	1	4	43	45
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	3	14	0	3	52	28

Forest management practices of the 1960's to present have resulted in stand compositions that are similar to those on the natural landscape.

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

Species	Bl	Pl	S	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	9	42	40	10

Author: C. DeLong (March 2011)