BEC-Tree Species Description: ESSFmk

The ESSFmk is dominantly mature/old forest with about 94% of the forested area being age class 7 to 9. About 6% of the area is classed as natural immature forest resulting mainly from fire as well as insects and disease (mountain pine beetle and white pine blister rust). Mature forests are dominated by subalpine fir (75%) with 10% mountain (and some western) hemlock, 9% hybrid spruce, and on drier, exposed sites, Whitebark, and lodgepole pine (3 and 2% respectively). Natural immature forests are either subalpine fir-dominated (46%) or lodgepole pine-dominated (39%), though the mountain pine beetle epidemic has impacted significantly on the abundance of both lodgepole pine and whitebark pine in the ESSFmk.

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	94	N/A	6	N/A	1	0

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	Bl	H	P	Sx
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	75	10	6	9
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	46	9	39	5

Timber harvesting activities have so far been very limited in the ESSFmk (less than 0.5% of the forested area is age class 1 to 3 - harvested) and thus the impacts of tree species selection guidelines on landscape-level diversity have been negligible. Future management efforts should concentrate on maintaining a whitebark pine component in the ESSFmk in light of the impacts of pine beetle and white pine blister rust.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1990-2002]

Species	Bl	H	Pl	Sx
% of harvested area	22	4	15	59

Author: A. Banner (March 2011)

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.