

BEC-Tree Species Description: ESSFmv1

Historically the forests of the Nechako variant of the Moist Very Cold Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir biogeoclimatic unit (ESSFmv1) were dominated by fire origin stands of various ages. Subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce dominated stands were widespread on upland sites. Lodgepole pine dominated stands occurred in areas with more recent fire history. Very rare, stunted open subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce treed bogs occur in very wet organic depressions. Black spruce occurs on some of these sites at lower elevations. Whitebark pine occurs, very rarely, in isolated pockets at higher elevations.

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	64	0	26	0	3	7

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	Pl	Se
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	25	44	30
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	9	71	19

Forest management practices of the 1960's to present have resulted in stands that are similar to those of the natural landscape. Over time less of the landscape will likely be dominated by subalpine fir due to the preferential planting of Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine and shorter harvest rotations compared to the natural fire return interval.

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

Species	Bl	Pl	S
% of harvested area	19	58	22

Author: C. DeLong (March 2011)

Note:

Douglas-fir occurs rarely on drier sites close to the Rocky Mountains and south of Chetwynd