

BEC-Tree Species Description: ESSFmv4

Historically the forests of the Graham variant of the Moist Very Cold Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir biogeoclimatic unit (ESSFmv4) were dominated by fire origin stands of various ages. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir dominated stands were widespread on upland sites. Lodgepole pine dominated stands occurred in areas with more recent fire history which are more common at the eastern edge of the ESSFmv4. Very rare, stunted open sub-alpine fir and Engelmann spruce treed bogs occurred in very wet organic depressions. Black spruce occurred on some of these sites at lower elevations and also with lodgepole pine on poorer sites on gentle cool aspects. Trembling aspen occurred at lower elevation primarily on warm aspects and balsam poplar occurred along some water courses at lower elevation.

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	66	0	27	N/A	6	1

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	At	B	PI	S
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	1	44	13	42
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	2	34	30	30

Forest management practices of the 1960's to present have resulted in stands that are similar to those of the natural landscape. The practice of retaining subalpine fir advance regeneration on some sites to augment planted Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir will result in less of a reduction of subalpine fir dominated stands than in other ESSF biogeoclimatic units where this is not done.

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

Species	At	B	PI	S
% of harvested area	2	24	22	53

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