

BEC-Tree Species Description: ESSFwk1

Historically, the forests of the ESSFwk1 were usually uneven-aged or multi-storied even-aged, with regeneration occurring in gaps created by the death of individual trees or small patches of trees. Principal disturbances agents were wind, fire, and insect outbreaks, and openings created were generally small. Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands dominate the landscape. Lodgepole pine is mostly restricted to immature stands. Recent mountain pine beetle outbreaks have killed much of the mature and larger immature pine in the variant. Mature and near mature beetle killed stands commonly have a significant component of spruce and subalpine fir advance regeneration.

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	65	0	10	0	2	23

Western redcedar and western hemlock are common in the transition with the ICH zone and may co dominate stands at these elevations.

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	PI	S	Fd	BI	CW	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	5	51	2	34	4	<1
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	24	38	3	30	0	4

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2007 indicates that spruce and subalpine firs are the dominant species being regenerated on harvested. These data also indicate lodgepole pine is also relatively abundant in younger managed stands. Planting practices have likely increased the number of stands dominated by lodgepole pine and reduced the number of stands dominated by subalpine fir.

% species composition of managed stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2007]

	PI	S	BI	HW	CW	Fd	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	25	57	13	<1	<1	<1	2

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Notes:

- Western redcedar and western hemlock is often present in the understory and as scattered mature stems on some sites in areas transitional to ICH
- Douglas fir and aspen occur occasionally on warm aspects at lower elevations in the variant.
- The above write-up does not account for TFL forest cover/regeneration information. This may impact the tree species percentages and age class described above.