

BEC-Tree Species Description: ICHdk

The ICHdk occurs predominantly on rolling plateau terrain and historically experienced frequent stand destroying wildfires and as a result old-growth forests were very uncommon. The forested landscape was dominated by mature and older immature (>60 years old) Douglas-fir, spruce and lodgepole pine forests. Western redcedar and hardwoods are commonly present in lower amounts. Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir and spruce dominate natural immature stands. Most mature and larger immature pine has been killed by recent outbreaks of mountain pine beetle.

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	32	2	40	<1	<1	25

As a result of very effective fire control over the past century there is an abundance of older immature (60 to 120 years old) stands in the ICHdk. Extensive timber harvesting in recent decades has resulted in about 25% of the ICHmk3 forested landscape being in age class 1 to 3 managed stands.

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	Pl	S	Fd	Bl	Cw	Ep	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	28	27	36	1	3	<1	4
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	27	18	37	1	2	5	9

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2006 indicates that spruce and lodgepole pine are the dominant species being regenerated on harvested sites. Regeneration management strategies in the ICHdk have impacted landscape level species composition and diversity especially when compared to historical natural stands. Planted lodgepole pine occurs at much higher levels in managed stands than in natural stands while spruce and Douglas-fir are considerably less abundant than in natural stands. Natural regeneration of cedar and subalpine fir in harvested stands is most commonly derived from advance regeneration that was present at time of harvesting. Hardwood species in managed stands are natural regeneration and occur at similar levels as occurs in natural immature stands.

% species composition of managed stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2006]

Species	Pl	S	Bl	Cw	Fd	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	45	13	9	3	5	24

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