

BEC-Tree Species Description: ICHmc1

The ICHmc1 is dominantly mature and old forests with 83% of the forested area comprised of age class 7 to 9 forests. About 7% of the variant consists of natural immature forests, mostly age class 4-6. Considerable forest harvesting has occurred in this variant with about 10% of the variant in age class 1 to 3 managed forests. Mature and old forests are mixtures of western hemlock and subalpine fir (58 and 31% respectively). There is a shift from subalpine fir to amabilis fir in the ICHmc1a on some southeast facing slopes at higher elevation and in the Kinskuch Valley. Hybrid spruce and lodgepole pine also occur in mature forests (6 and 2% respectively), depending on site conditions and disturbance history. Natural immature stands are also hemlock-dominated (37%) with almost equal amounts (17 to 20%) of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and deciduous species (aspen, birch, and cottonwood). Hybrid spruce comprises 6% of natural immature stands.

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	83	0	6	0	1	10

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	Hw	PI	Sx	Deciduous
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	31	58	2	6	2
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	17	37	20	6	20

According to the VRIMS inventory, immature managed stands are spruce and pine-dominated (32 and 27% respectively) followed by hemlock (20%) and subalpine fir (14%). RESULTS regeneration data for the years 1988 to 2007, however, show hemlock and subalpine fir to be dominant (34 and 26% respectively, with both pine and spruce at 18%. Hardwoods in managed second growth range from 3 to 7%.

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

Species	S	PI	H	B	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	18	18	34	26	3

With 10% of the ICHmc1 in managed second growth, regeneration strategies have begun to impact on tree species composition/diversity at the landscape level. Overall, diversity has increased in managed second growth, compared to that of mature/old stands, with a more even contribution by all tree species. There appears to be a trend in recent years toward less reliance on spruce and pine in terms of management intent and future management strategies should continue to utilize all ecologically suitable tree species.

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Note: the above write-up does not account for TFL forest cover/regeneration information. This could impact on the tree species and age class percentages described above.