

### BEC-Tree Species Description: ICHmk3

Historically, the ICHmk3 forest landscape was dominated by even-aged forests. The long fire return interval resulted in extensive areas of mature forest surrounded by patches of younger forest. Wildfires were often of moderate size with periodic larger fires occurring after periods of extended drought. Old-growth forests were uncommon and most commonly occurred on more fire resistant wet sites. Mature mixed species forests of spruce, Douglas-fir, redcedar, and lodgepole pine dominated the landscape. Western redcedar in these stands commonly has a high incidence of stem rot. 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	27	1	39	1	3	29

Natural immature stands are dominated by spruce, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Extensive timber harvesting has resulted in about 30% 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	Act	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	11	33	26	8	14	1	3	3
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	22	29	22	4	2	5	3	14

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2006 indicates that spruce, lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir are the dominant species being regenerated on harvested sites. Regeneration management strategies in the ICHmk3 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 is somewhat less abundant. Although infrequently planted, natural regeneration levels of cedar, subalpine fir and hardwoods in managed stands are similar to those of natural stands.

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

Species	Pl	S	Bl	Cw	Fd	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	38	22	8	14	26	12

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Notes:

- Advance subalpine fir and cedar regeneration in mature stands is relatively old and have incipient decay making them not suitable for regenerating cut over areas
- Much of the cedar advance regeneration is derived from layering