

BEC-Tree Species Description: ICHwk2

Historically, wildfire was infrequent in the ICHwk2 resulting in a forested landscape dominated by uneven-aged old-growth and mature forests of redcedar and western hemlock. Smaller areas of immature, wildfire initiated lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir and spruce forests are distributed throughout the variant. In old and mature stands there exists a high incidence of stem decay in hemlock and cedar including stems of advance regeneration. Most mature and larger immature lodgepole 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	47	<1	22	<1	9	21

Extensive timber harvesting has resulted in about 21% of the ICHwk2 landscape being in age class 1 to 3 managed stands. Cold air accumulation is relatively uncommon and most frequently occurs in valley bottoms away from the large lakes that dominate this variant. On these sites spruce and subalpine fir dominates with little cedar or hemlock present.

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	Bl	Cw	Hw	Ep	Act	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	1	16	10	6	40	25	<1	<1	<1
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	18	12	34	4	6	8	10	1	6

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2001 indicates that spruce, lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir are the dominant species being regenerated on harvested sites. Regeneration management strategies in the ICHwk2 have significantly impacted landscape level species composition and diversity. When compared to natural stands, spruce, pine and Douglas-fir occur at much higher levels in managed stands than in natural stands. Although infrequently planted, natural regeneration of cedar, hemlock and hardwoods are relatively common in managed stands. In the ICHwk2 there are greater options for species selection than in adjacent ICH or ESSF subzone/variants.

% species composition of managed stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2001]

Species	PI	S	Bl	Cw	Hw	Fd	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	27	32	2	10	7	17	5

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Notes:

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