

BEC-Tree Species Description: IDFdk3

The IDFdk3 occurs on rolling Cariboo Plateau terrain and historically experienced frequent, low-intensity wildfires and less frequent, more intense stand destroying fires. The landscape was characterized as a natural mosaic of mostly uneven-aged forests dominated by Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Where more intense stand initiating fires occurred, even aged pine forests dominated. Lodgepole pine dominated forests are more common at higher elevations and in the plateau area north of the Marble Range. 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	40	5	25	7	7	15

As a result of very effective fire control over the past century, there has been a dramatic increase in the abundance of advance regeneration in the understory. Most Douglas-fir dominated stands have been managed using selected partial cutting prescriptions that maintain multi-storied stands and promote natural regeneration. Although there has been extensive timber harvesting (>25% of the forested area) in the IDFdk3, this silvicultural system has maintained the general forest composition and diversity to levels similar to historical natural 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	Ep	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	39	5	53	<1	4
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	51	4	32	<1	13

RESULTS data for the period 1988 to 2008 indicates that lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir are the dominant species regenerating on harvested sites. Regeneration management strategies in the IDFdk3 have not significantly impacted landscape level species composition and diversity. Hardwood species in managed stands are naturally regenerated and occur at similar levels as occurs in natural immature stands.

% species composition of managed stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2008]

Species	Pl	S	Fd	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	41	4	40	14

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Notes:

- Successful artificial regeneration of Douglas-fir is limited by drought and frost
- Spruce budworm is causing significant mortality in Douglas-fir in some parts of the IDFdk3