

## BEC-Tree Species Description: IDFxw

The IDFxw is a small subzone situated in the valleys of the south Cariboo. Historically, this landscape experienced frequent low-intensity wildfires. The landscape is predominantly a natural mosaic of mostly uneven-aged mature and later immature (>60 years old) Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forests. Douglas-fir dominates cool aspects and moister sites while ponderosa pine is most abundant in drier warm aspects. Lodgepole pine occurs naturally only at the upper elevations of the subzone near the IDFd3. Most mature and larger immature ponderosa and lodgepole pine have been killed by recent outbreaks of mountain pine beetle. Spruce and aspen are uncommon and restricted to moist and wet sites.

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	68	5	15	5	2	5

As a result of very effective fire control over the past century there has been a dramatic increase in the abundance of advance Douglas-fir regeneration in the forest understory. Douglas-fir dominated stands have been harvested using selected partial cutting prescriptions that maintain multi-storied stands and promote natural regeneration. Although about 15% of the forested area has been harvested, this silvicultural system has maintained the general forest composition and diversity similar to that of 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	Py	Ep	Act	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	3	1	79	16	>1	<1	1
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	24	<1	61	8	1	<1	6

There is insufficient RESULTS data for the IDFxw to make any generalizations about species composition on harvested sites. Natural regeneration is the dominant regeneration method. Species suitability is currently limited in the IDFxw with Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine being the principal species on most sites and spruce and aspen on wetter sites.

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Notes:

- Successful establishment of artificial regeneration of Douglas-fir is limited by severe growing season soil moisture deficits