

BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSdh

Historically the forests of the Dry Hot Sub-boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic unit (SBSdh) were dominated by fire-origin seral forests. Lodgepole pine dominated stands mixed with Douglas-fir, often with a hybrid white spruce and subalpine-fir understory were widespread on upland sites with deeper soils. Hybrid white spruce dominated stands were generally restricted to lower to toe slopes and along riparian features. Relatively pure Douglas-fir stands were common on warmer slopes on coarse-textured soils. Black spruce was restricted to wetlands. Small amounts of western cedar and western hemlock occur in stands where the SBSdh is adjacent to the Interior Cedar Hemlock zone. In areas near historic settlements, aboriginal burning and land clearing increased the number of stands dominated by trembling aspen and paper birch.

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	29	0	60	1	5	5

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	Ac	At	Bl	Cw	Ep	Fd	Pl	Sx
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	10	11	6	3	2	16	26	28
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	4	33	1	0	5	7	41	8

Clear-cut harvesting of the 1960's to present concentrated on Douglas-fir dominated stands which accounts for the higher proportion of harvested stands that are dominated by Douglas-fir in comparison with natural stands. Trembling aspen tends to be more dispersed and not in denser patches as it was in the natural landscape due to brushing and weeding practices.

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

	Bl	Fd	Pl	S	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	1	34	22	28	15

Author: C. DeLong (Nov 2012)

Note: a large proportion of the SBSdh is in private land and under cultivation.