

**BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSdk**

Prior to the mountain pine beetle outbreak of the past several years, the SBSdk landscape consisted of 42% mature forest and 45% immature forests (mostly age class 4-6). Most stands were fire-regenerated. With lodgepole pine comprising 52 and 44% of the mature and immature forests, respectively, a significant component of these forests is now dead. Interior spruce (31%) and trembling aspen (14%) are now the dominant species except in some areas where lodgepole pine has survived the outbreak. Douglas-fir occurs naturally on some south facing and other warm sites near Francois Lake and at the east end of Babine Lake.

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	42	1	40	0	5	11

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	Sx	At
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	52	31	12
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	44	17	33

Prior to the beetle outbreak, 11% of the SBSdk consisted of harvested (age class 1 to 3) stands and regeneration consisted of 72% lodgepole pine and 17% interior spruce. Deciduous species make up the remainder. Salvage harvesting over the past few years has been extensive in beetle-attacked portions of the SBSdk with sites being regenerated to both pine and spruce (unknown proportions). With only two major tree species in the SBSdk, regeneration options are limited. Future regeneration strategies should emphasize spruce wherever ecologically appropriate, with lodgepole pine being utilized on submesic and drier sites. There is potential for expanded use of Douglas-fir, especially in eastern portions of the SBSdk and this should be pursued on a trial basis.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2004]

Species	PI	Sx	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	72	17	9

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Note: the above write-up does not account for TFL forest cover/regeneration information. This is not expected to impact significantly on the tree species and age class percentages stated above.