

**BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSvk**

Historically the forests of the Very Wet Cool Sub-boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic unit (SBSvk) were dominated by old growth fire-origin forests. Open canopy hybrid white spruce and subalpine fir stands were widespread on upland sites. Lodgepole pine was restricted to some dry sites and wetlands. Black spruce occasionally dominated stands in localized wetlands occurring on gentle topography. Douglas-fir was found as scattered individuals and occasionally dominated stands on dry rocky sites. Trembling aspen and paper birch dominated some seral stands and black cottonwood dominated stands along major water courses. Western hemlock occasionally dominated stands where the SBSvk is in proximity to the ICHvk2.

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	65	1	8	2	3	22

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	Ep	Pl	Sx
% of total natural old/mature (age class 7-9) forest cover	2	1	29	2	3	62
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	6	9	24	14	6	40

Localized forest high grading of hybrid spruce in the 1950's has led to an increase in subalpine fir (58% in age class 4-6 immature harvested stands). Clear-cut harvesting of the 1960's to present have resulted in stand compositions that are more often dominated by hybrid spruce and lodgepole pine than those in the natural landscape. Planting of subalpine fir is limited so the subalpine fir component is limited to that occurring from natural regeneration. The managed stands are generally more densely stocked than the natural fire-origin stands.

% species composition of post-harvested stands [Source: RESULTS 1988-2003]

Species	B	Pl	S	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	9	3	80	6

Author: C. DeLong (March 2011)

Note: The summary tables presented for the SBSvk do not include data for TFL 30