

BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSwk2

Historically the forests of the Finlay-Peace variant of the Wet Cool Sub-boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic unit (SBSwk2) were dominated by mature fire-origin forests. Hybrid white spruce and subalpine fir stands were widespread on upland sites. Lodgepole pine stands were common on drier sites and on more recently disturbed sites. The subalpine fir component of stands increased with stand age. Black spruce dominated stands occurred in localized wetlands occurring on gentle topography. Trembling aspen and occasionally paper birch stands occurred on more recently disturbed sites on warm aspects. Black cottonwood stands occurred along major watercourses.

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	0	38	0	7	15

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	5	18	2	22	52
% of total natural immature (age class 4-6) forest cover	2	20	6	5	43	24

Forest management of the 1960's to present have resulted in stand compositions similar to those on the natural landscape. Preserving some patches of subalpine fir in recently harvested areas appears to have resulted in a component of subalpine fir similar to the natural landscape.

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

Species	B	Pl	S	Hardwoods
% of harvested area	15	24	50	11

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Note: Rare pockets of naturally established Douglas-fir have been located in the southern portion of the SBSwk2.