

BEC-Tree Species Description: SBSwk3a

Historically the forests of the Douglas-fir phase of the Takla variant of the Wet Cool Sub-boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic unit (SBSwk3a) were dominated by mature fire-origin forests. Mixed stands of hybrid white spruce, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir 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. Douglas-fir dominated stands occurred on dry to moist sites especially near the large lakes in the area. Black spruce dominated stands occurred in localized wetlands occurring on gentle topography. Black spruce also occurred in the understory of lodgepole pine stands on poorer sites. Trembling aspen and occasionally paper birch stands occurred on more recently disturbed sites on warm aspects. Black cottonwood stands occurred along major watercourses.

Forest management of the 1960's to present have resulted in stand compositions similar to those on the natural landscape but with a reduced amount of Douglas-fir due to the preference of planting lodgepole pine and hybrid spruce.

Author: C. DeLong (March 2011)

Note: the SBSwk3a is almost entirely within the bounds of a TFL whose data were not available for this summary