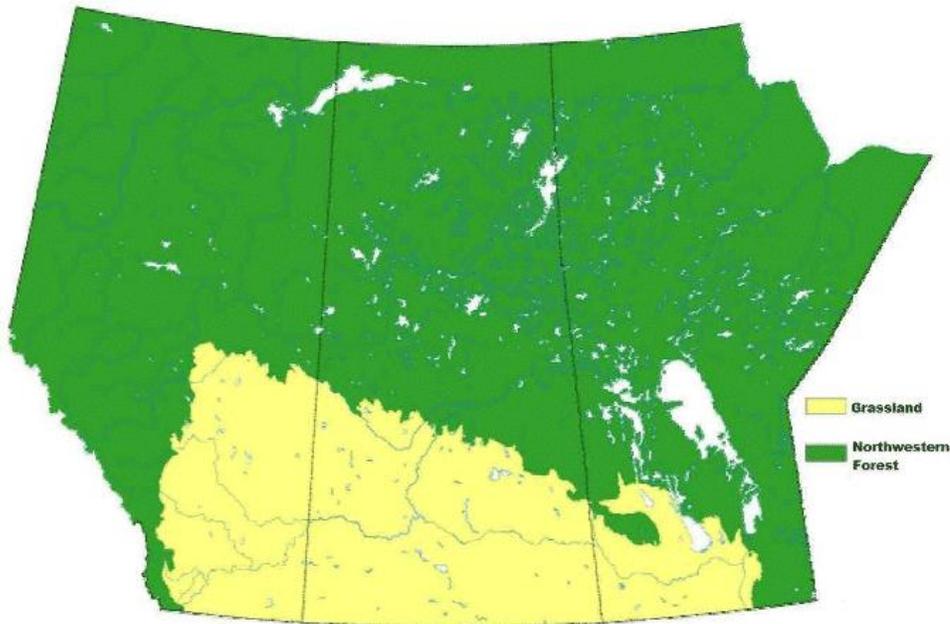


# Saskatchewan's Boreal Forest



Saskatchewan's boreal forest is described through an ecological classification system (ECS). This system is based on the characteristics of the ecosystem components of air, water, land, biota and humans.

- A. Ecozones—are physiographical features
  - Taiga Shield, Boreal Shield, Boreal Plain, Prairie
- B. Ecozones are divided into Ecoregions which have distinct climate zones and regional landforms.
- C. Ecoregions are divided into Ecodistrict (landscape areas) with distinct landforms, relief, surface geological material, water bodies, vegetation and land.
- D. Ecodistricts are divided into Ecosites which are identified by specific plant species that are common or is a typical expression of available moisture and nutrients, e.g. the blueberry plant.

## A. Ecozones:

i) *Taiga Shield*-- has little sticks, lakes north of Lake Athabasca, Wollaston and Reindeer Lake  
---transition between boreal shield and south Arctic mineral exploration

ii) *Boreal Shield*—1/3 of the province forest and shield

----2 distinct ecoregions:

- *Athabasca Plain Ecoregion* has sand over rock, a flat landscape, jack pine and lichen, and uranium mining.

*Churchill River Upland Ecoregion* is the largest ecoregion in Saskatchewan with 40% of area covered with lakes, rivers, Jack pine, black Spruce, bald eagles, gold, uranium, forest industry, fur trapping, tourism, sports fishing.

iii) *Boreal Plain* – 3 ecoregions W-E-S level to gently rolling landscape. Porcupine Plain, Pasque Hills, and Duck Mountain show pockets of upland and are covered with 100-250 m of glacial sediment.

*Midboreal Upland*--major upland has merchantable timber, beaver, warm water fish such as northern pike, walleye, whitefish.

*Midboreal Lowland*--low-lying areas and peatlands, levees and river channels, moose, muskrat, loons, northern pike, forestry, ecotourism, hunting, sports fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing

*Boreal Transition*--forest and agriculture here

--Aspen trees common are white spruce and jack pine

-- river valleys of the North and South Saskatchewan rivers have forestry mills in Meadow Lake and Hudson Bay

iv) *Prairie Ecozone*—from grassland to gently rolling landscape plus the Cypress Hills farming

*Aspen Parkland* –aspen groves, fescue grass aspen on more moist sites in river valleys, sloughs and potholes

*Mixed Grassland*-mid to short grasses such as wheat, speargrass and blue gramma grasses

-- 50% of region is cultivated and rest is rangeland for cattle

--oil and natural gas, Grassland National Park is in this region

*Cyprus Upland*-has a flat top upland

-- lodgepole pine trees which are on north facing

slopes are treed while south facing slopes are grass rangeland.



Websites:

[www.saskschools.ca/curr\\_content/science9/...lesson06.html](http://www.saskschools.ca/curr_content/science9/...lesson06.html)

[www.virtualsk.com/maps/index.html](http://www.virtualsk.com/maps/index.html)

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/environment/forest/forest> Canada (ecoregions, ecozones)

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/jf04/indepth/justthefacts.asp>