

NWT LAND COVER TYPES

WHAT IS FOREST?

Forests are complex ecosystems comprised of many land cover types including trees, shrubs and wetlands. Forested land cover is defined as having > 10% tree crown closure.

WHAT IS TREELINE?

The limit beyond which trees cannot grow, often determined by altitude in mountainous areas or high latitude in the subarctic. Permafrost in the soil can prevent trees from growing their roots deep enough for the necessary structural support and cold temperatures can result in internal freezing of the trees, killing them. The treeline is not a distinct line because unique micro-sites, such as gullies and south facing slopes offer conditions on which trees can establish and grow beyond the normal northern limit.

Map Elements

1995 Canada Land Cover Classes	
Community	High Density Evergreen Needleleaf Forest
All-Weather Road	Medium Density Southern Evergreen Needleleaf Forest
Winter Road	Medium Density Northern Evergreen Needleleaf Forest
Territory/Province Boundary	Low Density Southern Evergreen Needleleaf Forest
Treeline	Low Density Northern Evergreen Needleleaf Forest

EOSD Land Cover Classes	
Water	Deciduous Broadleaf Forest
Snow/Ice	Mixed Needleleaf Forest
Rock/Rubble	Mixed Intermediate Uniform Forest
Exposed/Barren Land	Mixed Intermediate Heterogenous Forest
Bryoids	Mixed Broadleaved Forest
Shrub Tall	Burns with Low Green Vegetation Cover
Shrub Low	Burns with Green Vegetation Cover
Wetland - Treed	Transition Treed Shrubland
Wetland - Shrub	High Density Wetland/Shrubland
Wetland - Herb	Medium Density Wetland/Shrubland
Herbs	Grassland
Coniferous - Dense	Lichen Dominated Barren Land
Coniferous - Open	Shrub/Lichen Dominated Barren Land
Coniferous - Sparse	Heather and Herb Dominated Treeless Barren Land
Broadleaf - Dense	Low Vegetation Cover Treeless Barren Land
Broadleaf - Open	Very Low Vegetation Cover Treeless Barren Land
Broadleaf - Sparse	Bare Soil and Rock Dominated Treeless Barren Land
Mixedwood - Dense	High Biomass Cropland
Mixedwood - Open	Medium Biomass Cropland
Mixedwood - Sparse	Low Biomass Cropland
Woodland-Cropland Mosaic	Cropland-Woodland Mosaic
Snow/Ice	Woodland-Cropland Mosaic

General Land Areas

NWT Including Arctic Islands: land/water = 135Mha; land only = 114Mha
 NWT Mainland: land/water = 114Mha; land only = 94Mha
 NWT Mainland Below Treeline: land/water = 97Mha; land only = 80Mha

EOSD Code Description	Area (ha)	Area (Mha)	% Total Area
No Data	824,625	0.00	0.00
Cloud	2243164,813	2.24	2.30
Shadow	821735,8125	0.82	0.84
Water	1705363,838	17.05	17.52
Snow/Ice	1530079,875	1.53	1.57
Rock/Rubble	2223709,063	2.22	2.28
Exposed/Barren Land	7485270,125	7.49	7.69
Bryoids	4078627,5	4.08	4.19
Shrub Tall	1542993,5	1.54	1.59
Shrub Low	12804516,38	12.80	13.16
Wetland - Treed	3908987,375	3.91	4.02
Wetland - Shrub	3460950,25	3.46	3.56
Wetland - Herb	2877636,875	2.88	2.96
Herbs	1525647,188	1.53	1.57
Coniferous - Dense	487992,875	4.88	5.01
Coniferous - Open	16196239,69	16.20	16.64
Coniferous - Sparse	8218090,125	8.22	8.44
Broadleaf - Dense	1149360,25	1.15	1.18
Broadleaf - Open	1551882,563	1.55	1.59
Broadleaf - Sparse	493198,1875	0.49	0.51
Mixedwood - Dense	697595,375	0.70	0.72
Mixedwood - Open	2371850,5	2.37	2.44
Mixedwood - Sparse	206767	0.21	0.21
		97.32	
Summary Statistics (Mha)			
Non-Vegetated		31.36	
Vegetated Non-Forested		26.29	
Vegetated Forested		39.67	

