

# NWT 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

## 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.

## 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.

### Map Elements

- Town
- All-Weather Road
- Winter Road
- Treeline
- National Park

### EOSD Classes

- Shadow
- Water
- Non-Vegetated Land
- Snow/Ice
- Rock/Rubble
- Exposed Land
- Bryoids
- Shrub - Tall
- Shrub - Low
- Wetland - Treed
- Wetland - Shrub
- Wetland - Herb
- Herb
- Coniferous - Dense
- Coniferous - Open
- Coniferous - Sparse
- Broadleaf - Dense
- Broadleaf - Open
- Broadleaf - Sparse
- Mixed Wood - Dense
- Mixed Wood - Open
- Mixed Wood - Sparse

EOSD Code Description	Area (Mha)	% Total Area
No Data	0.00	0.00
Cloud	2.24	2.30
Shadow	0.82	0.84
Water	17.05	17.52
Snow/Ice	1.53	1.57
Rock/Rubble	2.22	2.28
Exposed/Barren Land	7.49	7.69
Bryoids	4.08	4.19
Shrub Tall	1.54	1.59
Shrub Low	12.80	13.16
Wetland - Treed	3.91	4.02
Wetland - Shrub	3.46	3.56
Wetland - Herb	2.88	2.96
Herbs	1.53	1.57
Coniferous - Dense	4.88	5.01
Coniferous - Open	16.20	16.64
Coniferous - Sparse	8.22	8.44
Broadleaf - Dense	1.15	1.18
Broadleaf - Open	1.55	1.59
Broadleaf - Sparse	0.49	0.51
Mixedwood - Dense	0.70	0.72
Mixedwood - Open	2.37	2.44
Mixedwood - Sparse	0.21	0.21
	97.32	

\* These #'s represent land cover types below treeline

Summary Statistics	Area (Mha)
Non-Vegetated	31.36
Vegetated Non-Forested	26.29
Vegetated Forested	39.67

