

Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex (forest phase, ABF)



The Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex (forest phase) map class (ABF) is the forest phase of three compositionally similar map classes that are mapped separately because of their different physiognomic characteristics. ABF has a forest appearance with a somewhat closed-canopy and a tree height that averages around 50 - 60 feet (16 - 20 m). ABF is dominated by aspen species (either trembling or bigtooth) and to some extent, red maple. Birches are often present.

ABF has a light yellow to pink deciduous tree signature with a somewhat smooth texture. The canopy was just beginning to leaf out at the time of the photography and thus is variable in color.

ABF occurs at low elevations and at all aspects. It is mostly found within the 1947 fire area.

The ABF map class represents one NVCS association: [Early Successional Woodland/Forest](#). This association has three physiognomic subtypes that blend into each other with all intermediate variations present. At the time of mapping, ABF was considered a distinct vegetation type from ABW and ABS. Nevertheless, it was a difficult type to map because all three phases blend into one another. In addition, ABF grades into ROW and OPF map classes when oak becomes dominant, and into MDF when beech becomes dominant. It also grades into SFM when spruce reaches >25%.

Polygons: 172, Hectares: 1,184, Average size (h): 7

Accuracy Assessment Results

The ABF map class was assessed with the two other map class phases within the complex (ABW and ABS) because the three map classes share the same vegetation community.

Producers' accuracy: 68% (Confidence interval 58% - 78%)

Users' accuracy: 86% (Confidence interval 78% - 94%)

Errors in **producers' accuracy** are associated with map classes Beech - Birch - Maple Forest (MDF, 7 errors), Spruce - Fir Forest (mixed phase, SFM, 5 errors), White Pine - Hardwood Forest (WPM, 1 error), the Mixed Conifer Woodland (MCW, 1 error), White Cedar Woodland (WCW, 1 error), Red Oak Woodland (ROW, 2 errors), Red Maple - Hardwood Swamp (MAS, 2 errors), Conifer Swamp Woodland (spruce-mixed or white cedar phases, CSW or WCS, 1 error), and Blueberry Bald - Summit Shrubland Complex (BBSS, 1 error).

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Accuracy Assessment Results, cont.

Errors in users' accuracy are associated with Spruce - Fir Forest (conifer phase, SF, 1 error), Oak - Pine Forest (OPF, 4 errors), White Pine - Hardwood Mix (WPM, 1 error), Red Maple - Hardwood Swamp (MAS, 1 error), Blueberry Bald - Summit Shrubland Complex (BBSS, 1 error), and Sparsely Vegetated Talus map class (SVT, 1 error).

Special Notes:

Spring photography often created difficulties in confidently separating ABF from MDF. Stands assessed as MDF and incorrectly mapped as ABF were stands where birch co-dominated, or where beech was proportionally higher than mapper realized. Birch, which is often a component in both map classes, resembles beech in color but has less of beech's fluffy character. In addition, two MDT slopes, which are wooded, were mistaken for forest because of photo angle, which obscured mapper's ability to see the woodland character.