The 8 most important Alpine forest communities

In the below shown list you can find the most important characteristics of the 8 forest communities you created in the animation above. If you read the list, you will find at least one very important difference between every community and any other one concerning their individual site requirements. With this list you have all necessary information to make a forecast, which forest community will occur on a given site, e.g. on a subalpine site with dry and shallow soil conditions on dolomitic rocks in the continental Lower Engadine near the forest limit (Answer: Erico-Pinetum montanae).
For more detailed information about these forest communities have a look to the pdf-files below.

	Tree species combination	**Altitudinal level**	**Occurrence up to the forest limit**	**Frost resistance**	**Climate region (areal)**	**Soil conditions**
Abieti-Fagetum	MCD	M and HM	No	Low	O	M
Erico-Pinetum sylvestris	SC	M and HM	No	Medium	C	D or A or L
Piceo-Adenostyletum	SC	S	Yes	Medium	O	M
Homogyno-Piceetum	SC	S	Yes	Medium	O and C	A
Larici-Piceetum	MC	S	Yes	Medium	C	D and A
Erico-Pinetum montanae	SC	S	Yes	High	C	D and L
Larici-Pinetum cembrae	MC	S	Yes	High	C	A
Junipero-Laricetum	SC	S	Yes	High	I	A
Meaning of the characters and contractions	**SC:** Single species coniferous forest **MC:** Mixed coniferous forest **MCD:** Mixed coniferous and deciduous trees forest	**M:** montane **HM:** high-montane **S:** subalpine		**Low:** down to ca. -20°C in winter **Medium:** down to ca. -40°C in winter **High:** down to more than -40°C in winter	**O:** regions with oceanic climate (Northern Prealps) **C:** regions with continental climate (e.g. Engadine) **I:** regions with Insubric climate (Southern Alps)	**M:** moderate, lightly moistured soils **D:** dry, shallow, or sandy soils **A:** acid soils **L:** lime-rich soils