

An inventory of the forest resources of the Province was completed in 1956 as part of the conservation plan. On the basis of this inventory and other information, working plans with annual allowable cuts on a sustained-yield basis have been brought into operation in the more accessible areas.

Fire protection, as another part of the conservation plan, is one of the most important activities of the Forest Service. Fires are detected by air patrol, lookout tower and road patrol and rapid communication is maintained within the Service by radio and telephone. The Air Service also transports men and equipment to fires in areas beyond the reach of roads. While the main air base is at Lac du Bonnet, summer air bases are maintained at The Pas, Norway House, and Thicket Portage. The total area under fire protection is about 97,000 sq. miles.

Regeneration of the forest is mainly dependent on natural means although 2,800,000 trees were planted during the past five years as part of the Federal-Provincial Agreement. The Pineland Forest Nursery is operated at a point near Hadashville to supply planting stock for denuded areas of Crown land and to furnish farmers with shelterbelt and woodlot seedlings.

The Province has no forestry research organization but co-operates with several Federal services which maintain two research areas.

**Saskatchewan.**—The forest area in Saskatchewan, excluding water, is 120,345 sq. miles or 54.7 p.c. of the land area of the Province. The provincial forests, which account for 92 p.c. of the total forest land, are administered by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Natural Resources under the Forest Act of 1931. It is the responsibility of the Forestry Branch to devise policy that will regulate all phases of forest activity so that the people of Saskatchewan may benefit from this resource in perpetuity. Cutting timber on Crown land is the exclusive right of a Crown corporation. The annual cut in each region is limited to 5 p.c. of the estimated stand of merchantable spruce.

The policy determined by the five divisions of the Forestry Branch—Administration, Inventory, Management, Silviculture and Research—is carried out on a regional basis under the supervision of a regional superintendent who is directly responsible to the Regional Administration Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. This Branch implements the policies conceived by program branches such as the Forestry Branch. It is, however, the responsibility of the Forestry Branch to provide liaison between the Administration and the regions for implementation of new forest practices and procedures and to assess their results.

The Department of Natural Resources Conservation Branch distributes information covering all aspects of the Department's resources management programs. A large part of the Branch's work, particularly during the summer, is devoted to publicizing the activities of the Province's forest management program. The Conservation Branch operates film and lecture tours, distributes pamphlets and provides training and assistance for field staff to make everyone aware of the great value of the provincial forests and of the need for their wise use and protection.

The detection, suppression and prevention of forest fires is the responsibility of the Fire Control Division of the Regional Administration Branch of the Department. The Division maintains a network of 80 lookout towers equipped with two-way radios. In periods of high hazard, four aircraft are kept on constant patrol over areas not under tower surveillance.

To aid conservation, the great expanse of forest area has been divided into smaller, more accessible units and a system of roads and fireguards has been developed. This facilitates movement of fire fighting personnel and allows the caching of fire fighting tools at strategic locations in the forests as well as at conservation officers' headquarters. Stand-by crews are ready to move quickly and heavy equipment is available when needed. Saskatchewan has taken an interesting step in the field of fire suppression by establishing a 'smokejumper' organization. This group of 16 fire fighters, organized in 1948, is maintained primarily to parachute on fires in remote areas and to combat the blaze until other personnel can reach it.