

The Department of Natural Resources, although it does not maintain a staff of forest biologists, co-operates fully with Federal authorities in investigating and controlling forest damage resulting from insects and disease.

A new research division has been organized to investigate various subjects and to establish new procedures and policies regarding forest practices. The Division is currently conducting cull studies in pulpwood stands, black and white spruce regeneration studies, and the assessment of results obtained from the mechanical thinning of jack pine stands.

Alberta.—The 151,278 sq. miles of provincial forests are administered by the Forests and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests in Edmonton. The Division is composed of five forestry Branches under a Director of Forestry: Administration, Forest Protection, Forest Management, Forest Surveys, and Radio. A sixth Branch deals with fish and game regulations.

The Administration Branch supervises all branches, maintaining general control over revenue and expenditures, and dealing with personnel. It conducts a Forestry Training School which offers in-service training for Forest Officers and other employees.

Protection of the forests is the charge of the Forest Protection Branch and all field personnel. For ease of administration, the forested area has been divided into seven Divisions, each responsible for the forest within its boundary. These Divisions are in turn composed of Ranger Districts in which all activities are supervised by the district forest officer responsible to his divisional superintendent. The divisional staffs include an assistant superintendent, chief ranger, radio operator and seasonal help such as look-out-men, stand-by fire fighting crews and labourers. These employees are responsible for fire prevention, detection and suppression as well as the supervision of logging and milling operations, timber cruising, and construction and maintenance of forestry projects.

Timber matters are dealt with by the Forest Management Branch. These include setting the standard of timber utilization, supervising the cruising and selling of timber, setting and supervising methods of cutting, ensuring efficient operation of mills, collection of Crown dues, and implementation of forest management plans. Much of the field work in connection with these duties is accomplished through the divisional staffs.

The Forest Surveys Branch is the technical forestry branch whose main charges include forest management planning, the forest inventory, and forest cover map-making for timber sale and fire damage evaluation purposes. Temporary cutting control plans have been completed for those areas south of the 57th parallel, and management plans are being prepared for the Slave Lake region. All timber will eventually be disposed of according to management plan under a system of sustained yield.

Development and maintenance of communications is the function of the Radio Branch. Central stations are maintained at Edmonton and Calgary with smaller stations located at divisional headquarters, lookout towers and Ranger Districts.

Conservation of 9,000 sq. miles of forest comprising the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve is administered by a joint provincial-federal agency, the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board with offices in Calgary. The area is composed of three 'forests' which are subdivided into Ranger Districts. The Superintendent in charge of each forest is responsible to the administrative officer in Calgary whose decisions are based on policies formed by the Board which comprises one federal and two provincial members. This Reserve is important as it includes the headwaters of the main prairie river system.

Research in general is carried out by the Forestry Branch of the Federal Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources (which maintains the Kananaskis Experiment Station) and by the Science Service of the Federal Department of Agriculture.

British Columbia.—The productive forest land of British Columbia in 1956 was inventoried at 123,176 sq. miles and in addition there were 18,538 sq. miles of forest land classed as "not satisfactorily restocked". Immature timber occurred on 59,848 sq. miles and 63,328 sq. miles carried matured timber with a total volume of 133,000,000,000 cu. feet.