

Of the 123,176 sq. miles, 113,836 are owned by the Province, 8,563 are under private ownership and 777 sq. miles belong to the Government of Canada in National Parks and other tenures.

For administrative purposes, the Province is divided into five Forest Districts with regional headquarters at Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Kamloops and Nelson. Further decentralization of authority is effected by subdivision of the Forest Districts into Ranger Districts. There are approximately 25 Ranger Districts in each Forest District. Twelve directional, servicing, or policy-forming divisions constitute the head office of the Forest Service in Victoria.

Vigorous efforts are being made to bring British Columbia's forest resources under sustained-yield management and the forest industries are making definite progress toward total utilization of their raw materials. The problem is urgent despite the fact that, with a present annual cut of approximately 1,100,000,000 cu. feet, the total inventory would appear sufficient to support present needs in perpetuity. Over half of the present cut comes from the Coast (Wet Belt) forests which also comprise the majority of the 12,321 sq. miles privately owned, leased or licensed. This area is being overcut at the present time, whereas large areas of northern forest land remain untouched.

Several systems of timber disposal are in effect. The most publicized is the Forest Management Licence which constitutes a contract between the Government and a company or individual whereby the latter agrees to manage, protect, and harvest an area of forest land for the best possible return, in exchange for the right to the timber crop on the area in perpetuity. Provincial Forests, Public Working Circles, and Sustained Yield Units are the governmental equivalent of the Management Licence with the timber, when it is ready for cutting, being disposed of by public auction. Management, silviculture, road-building and protection on such areas are the responsibility of the Forest Service. Other tenures of lesser importance are Tree Farms, Farm Woodlot Licences, and Timber Sales.

Protection of the forest, particularly from fire, is still a major problem although the public is becoming more cautious. Improved fire fighting techniques, the use of aircraft for patrol and transportation, employment of helicopters, and a gradually expanding system of lookouts are steadily cutting down fire losses. Close liaison with the Science Service of the Federal Department of Agriculture, which maintains laboratories in Vernon and Victoria, provides information about insect and fungal enemies of the forest.

British Columbia's present research policy is to establish regional centres in association with District Headquarters. Close association is maintained with the District Forester and his staff although the regional research centres are supervised directly from Victoria. Since each Forest District is mainly concerned with one of the major forest regions characterizing the Province, the regional research program within a District gives priority to studies in forest types dominant in that Forest District.

The policy of the Research Division is to undertake investigations as required by the British Columbia Forest Service in its administration and management of the forest resources of the Province. More specifically, the research policy may be briefly defined as follows:—

(1) Investigation of silvicultural problems arising from the utilization of forest resources. These existing problems are recognized in specific forest types or regions and are a cause of present concern.

(2) Studies in anticipation of silvicultural problems, or in anticipation of a demand for specific silvicultural information, the need for which can be predicted from the general trend of intensive forest practice, and which require long-term investigations.

(3) Short-term investigations, generally of an expedient nature, dealing with silvicultural or management problems, for other Forest Service divisions or districts.

(4) Sustained studies for other Forest Service divisions in fields other than silviculture.

(5) Demonstration on a practical scale of the application of research findings for the benefit of government, industrial and private foresters, such demonstrations to be on experiment stations or other Crown lands reserved for the purpose.

The British Columbia Research Council has performed some short-range studies of specific problems, as has the University of British Columbia.