

Forest Reserve, which is an important recreational area, is also supervised by a Forester. Each Forest District is subdivided into Forest Ranger Districts of which there are 40, each in charge of a Forest Ranger.

The cutting of mature timber is governed by timber sale, licensed timber berth, pulpwood lease, or timber permit. Timber sales are disposed of by public auction and cover periods of from one to seven years; timber berths cover certain areas granted before 1930, the date of the transfer of the natural resources from the Federal Government to the province; pulpwood leases are granted over an area of 2,748 sq. miles; and timber permits are granted to settlers and small operators at appraised rates for a period of one year or less.

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, also 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 transports men and equipment to fires in areas beyond the reach of roads. The main air base is at Lac du Bonnet and 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 4,000,000 trees were planted during the past five years as part of the Federal-Provincial Agreement (see p. 513). 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 shelter-belt and woodlot seedlings.

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

The Conservation Branch of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources distributes information on all aspects of the Department's resource management programs. A large part of the Branch work, particularly during the summer, is devoted to publicizing the activities of the provincial forest management program. Film and lecture tours are conducted, pamphlets distributed and training and assistance for field staff provided, all with the objective of making the public aware of the great value of the provincial forests and of the need for their wise use and protection.

The Department of Mines and Natural Resources co-operates fully with federal authorities in investigating and controlling forest damage resulting from insects and diseases.

Saskatchewan.—The forests of Saskatchewan, including watered areas, are located mainly in the northern half of the province and cover 147,360 sq. miles or 58 p.c. of the total area of Saskatchewan. Provincial forests constitute approximately 92 p.c. of all forest land in the province and are managed and developed by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Forestry Branch, consisting of six divisions—Administration, Fire Control, Forest Management, Forest Research, Inventory, and Silviculture—is responsible for developing and evaluating forest policies and management programs based on the findings of inventory and research. The responsibility for carrying out such policies and programs is borne by the Regional Administration Branch. For purposes of resource administration the province is divided into five regions—each of which is under the supervision of a regional superintendent. The regions are broken down into conservation officer districts which vary in size according to the resource base and the population to be served. Close liaison is maintained between the Forestry Branch and the Regional Administration Branch.