

A major responsibility of the Forestry Branch is the development of techniques in the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires. A network of 70 lookout towers equipped with two-way radios is maintained throughout the province and is supplemented by three aircraft on regular patrol duty during the high-hazard periods. A group of smoke-jumpers, trained to parachute on remote fires, is in constant readiness during the fire season and takes immediate suppression action which it maintains until relieved by overland crews. Northern Saskatchewan's communication system, with more than 875 two-way radio sets in operation in towers, vehicles, aircraft and forest camps, plays a vital role in the detection and suppression of forest fires. These activities have been assisted recently by the use of helicopters and aircraft equipped for water dropping.

Alberta.—The 157,595 sq. miles of provincial forest in Alberta are administered by the Alberta Forest Service of the Department of Lands and Forests at Edmonton. The Service is composed of five branches under a Director of Forestry—Administration, Forest Protection, Forest Management, Forest Surveys and Planning and Forestry Training.

For ease of administration the forest area has been divided into nine Divisions, each responsible for the forest within its boundaries. These Divisions are composed of Ranger Districts in which all activities are supervised by the district forest officer responsible to his divisional superintendent. The divisional staffs include: forest superintendent, assistant forest superintendent, divisional forester, chief ranger, mechanical foreman, carpenter foreman, equipment operators, scalers, land-use officers, radio operators, clerks, stenographers, and seasonal help such as standby fire crews, lookout men, general labourers and construction crews. Some Divisions have minimum security crews that are employed in forest management, protection and construction projects.

The Administration Branch supervises all branches, maintains general control over revenue and expenditure, maintains the equipment inventory and deals with personnel.

The Forest Protection Branch has charge of all phases of protection including prevention, detection, suppression and use of forest and prairie fires. The Branch also plans, supervises and executes the construction and maintenance of the road and building programs and supervises the radio communication facilities.

The functions of the Forest Management Branch include the acceptance and approval of management and annual operating plans prepared for leased and licensed Crown lands, implementation of management plans prepared by the Department, supervision of proper land-use practices and the disposal of Crown timber. This extends to all phases including the processing of timber applications, selection of timber to be sold, the cruising of merchantable timber, inspections of cutting areas to ensure proper logging and utilization practices, scaling of forest products, collection of dues and fees and the reforestation programs for areas denuded by cutting and fire.

The Forest Surveys and Planning Branch maintains the provincial forest inventory and prepares and maintains detailed inventories by management units; prepares long- and short-term management and protection plans; provides timber application forest-type maps; conducts other work pertaining to photogrammetry and forest-cover maps; develops and supervises recreational area plans; provides regulation of geophysical activities in the forest area; and provides technical drafting and mapping services to the Forest Service and the general public.

The Forestry Training Branch prepares training material and conducts training programs for Departmental personnel and other persons concerned with activities of fire control, forest management, forest protection and conservation. The Branch also organizes and supervises the activities of the Junior Forest Warden Clubs.

Two divisions and part of a third division are included in the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve. This area is administered by the Alberta Forest Service but decisions of the Director of Forestry are based on policies of wise watershed regulation formed by the